

Purchasing the RIGHT puppy for YOU

Getting a dog: Before you get a pet, be sure you have the time and space for one. A pet, especially dogs, need attention to be happy and content. Whether you expect your pet to be an inside dog or an outside dog, the animal will need to be able to play and exercise on a regular basis. If you do not have a yard of your own, you will need to find a place the dog can enjoy on a regular basis, such as the local park. All dogs should get regular vaccinations to protect them from getting diseases, but this is especially important if the dog will be leaving the protection of your own yard.



Should you get a PUPPY? Puppies require a lot of time and patience. If you do not have both of these qualities maybe you should consider adopting an adult. Many breeders offer their “retired” breeding dogs for adoption to a good home. Another great resource for Adult dogs is the Miniature Schnauzer Rescue.

What is the right BREED for you? A puppy is a lifelong commitment, so be sure you are getting exactly what you want in a pet. Miniature Schnauzers are wonderful companions. They are very intelligent and loving. They also make excellent watchdogs. Schnauzers are very trainable and each one is unique. They are similar to having a child. Each one has a personality unlike any other. Schnauzers make great inside dogs. Schnauzers will thrive in apartment life as long as you can provide ample time outdoors. You may have heard that Schnauzers do not shed and

wonder if that is TRUE. The answer is YES. Schnauzers do not loose their hair like most dogs; therefore, you do not have the problem of having dog hair all over your belongings: your couch, your floor, your clothes, etc.

What about Grooming? Schnauzers DO require grooming on a regular basis. It is best to bathe and brush your schnauzer about once a week to keep him/her looking nice. In addition, the schnauzer will need to be clipped every 6-8 weeks. This can be done with a professional or if you are skilled, you can do it yourself. Most people take their pet to a grooming salon so they can get the works done: hair clipped in the standard Schnauzer pattern, teeth brushed, nails clipped and anal glands expressed. Grooming costs between \$30-\$45 per dog depending on which salon you choose. This may seem like an expensive reality, but in truth it is only every two months so it is not really a chore at all. The most important factor is to pick a groomer and be consistent. The dog must build trust with the person so it is best to find not only someone you trust with your precious baby, but one that the baby trusts as well.

Male vs. Female: Most people want a female because they believe that females make a better house pet than males. Actually, both make great pets depending on what you are looking for in a dog. Most people are concerned about adopting a male because he will “mark” the items in their home. Males only mark their territory if they are unaltered and another male is around. Neutered males rarely mark their territory, especially if they are neutered before 5 months of age. In fact, if they are neutered early, they may never even hike their leg at all. They will urinate like a female in the squatting position. Females on the other hand, have a set of issues of their own, like coming into “heat”. If you get a female and do not have her spayed before 7 months of age, she will begin her cycle soon thereafter. Females come “into season” every six months (twice a year). During this time she will have a bloody discharge that becomes a nightmare if she is a “house dog”. In addition, the neighborhood males will be attracted to your doorstep by the scent she gives off. By the way, it costs less to “fix” a male dog than it costs for a female. Many people also believe that males are too aggressive. Really, like their human counterparts, female canines are also moody creatures. Some days you are their favorite attraction and on other days she would rather you leave her alone. Males, on the other hand, are always starved for interaction from their human friends. Both genders may display aggression to other dogs. This is known as the “alpha” personality. Some animals behave this way not matter their gender.

