



The Responsible Dog Owner



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Dog Information Series



What is a responsible dog owner?

A responsible dog owner is a person who before purchasing a puppy asks himself the following important questions:-

HAVE I GOT THE TIME?

Most dogs require 40 minutes a day walking, time spent playing, visits to the vets for check ups and grooming, whether short or long coated. Bedding must be washed regularly. Obedience and toilet training is a must.

CAN I AFFORD IT?

It is estimated that a medium sized dog will cost £3,000 per year to keep. This includes, food, Vets bills, inoculations, flea and worming preparations and poop-scoops. Neutering to prevent an unwanted litter should also be considered.

IS MY HOME SUITABLE?

The size of house is important when deciding the type of breed. Small breeds can live quite happily in a smaller property. Larger breeds such as Rottweilers, Dobermans, German Shepherds clearly will not.

A garden is essential for all types of dog. Freedom to play with its own toys prevents boredom and a safe corner with its own bed and private space is also needed.

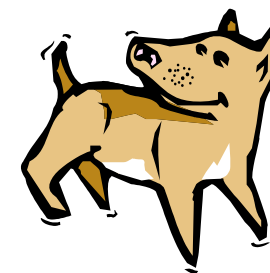
A dog will make a mess. The family must be willing to accept accidents and muddy paws and be willing to help teach the dog right from wrong in a controlled and kind manner.

AM I PREPARED TO 'CLEAN UP' AFTER IT?

Current local dog byelaws in parks and open spaces require owners to remove dog faeces and place it in bins provided. Street footpaths and verges will be included soon also. It is therefore important to use a poop-scoop when out walking the dog.

New owners must be prepared to do this at all times. Many people are now training their dogs to 'go at home' which is acceptable and much easier for the dog owner as well.

If you can answer YES to these four questions, then you should make a good owner and have a dog that is socially acceptable.



Should you require further information on this subject, please contact the Dog Warden or a local Veterinary Surgery.