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Detroit Kennel Club

CHECK LIST FOR BUYING A PUPPY

Things to do BEFORE you buy a puppy.

- 1. Decide what kind of dog you want. Consider the following:**
 - a. Size
 - b. Activity level
 - c. Grooming maintenance
 - d. Non allergenic breeds
 - e. Age (Do you want a mature, trained dog or a puppy?)

- 2. Examine Your Lifestyle.**
 - a. Do you live in a condo, apartment, house? (Will your choice of dog dictate/affect your living arrangements?)
 - b. Consider your clothing and home decor
 - c. How often are you home?
 - d. Are you financially prepared for vet bills, food, licenses, grooming, etc.... (The first seven months of dog's life are very crucial for training and temperament.)
 - e. Is the breed meant for you and your family? Is it compatible with other pets?

Services such as puppy/dog daycare, personal trainers and pick-up/drop-off groomers are popping up all over to cater to dog lovers who live alone or have very busy schedules. Check your local Yellow Pages for specialized dog service providers in your area.

- 3. When you have narrowed your choice to just a few breeds, the next step is to learn about them.**
 - a. Read books about the breed; visit your local library
 - b. Obtain educational material from the parent club (available at the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Show)
 - c. Visit the breed information booth at the Detroit Kennel Club Show to locate local breeders
 - d. Visit the breed on its bench at the DKC Dog Show and make appointments with several breeders to visit their kennel and/or look at puppies and parents. Ask questions.
 - e. Ask your veterinary for advice, shopping around and word-of mouth recommendations are excellent sources of quality referrals.
 - f. If you are interested in adopting a mature dog, call the rescue organization that places the breed of your choice into new homes.

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4. Visit kennels and breeders.

- a. Is the kennel clean?
- b. Is it registered with the American Kennel Club?
- c. Is the breeder a member of the local or national breed club. If not, ask why. Breed clubs have an internal policing system, so if the breeder is not a member, it might be a red flag.

5. Start looking at litters.

- a. Mingle with the dogs (buying from a breeder allows you see the parents and to see if the pups have been socialized).
- b. Can you see the mother and father? Review pedigrees? Make sure mother is healthy, well fed and socialized.
- c. Do the puppies have their shots? (Puppies should have four shots by their 16th week.)
- d. How many litters does the breeder have a year? Beware if the breeder always has puppies.
- e. As the breeder for a referral from a person that has purchased a puppy from them in the past.

6. When you're ready to buy, make sure you:

- a. **Avoid spur-of-the-moment purchases.**
- b. Buy only after you have shopped around and buy only from a breeder with whom you have a good rapport.
- c. Buy the pup who is healthy and wants to bond with you. Do not buy a pup because you feel sorry for it!
- d. Make sure you come away with the necessary documents to register the puppy.
- e. Make sure any financial arrangements or agreements with the breeder are in writing.
- f. Have the pup checked by your veterinarian immediately.

7. Enjoy your new friend.

For additional information, call the American Kennel Club (212) 696-8200.

**** NOTE TO THE EDITOR **** FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE DETROIT KENNEL CLUB REGARDING SELECTING A PUPPY OR DOG, PLEASE CALL JENNIFER SCHILP AT (734) 207-2018.