

Guide to choosing, buying & owning a

DOG



DOGS.IE

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INTRODUCTION

So you're thinking about bringing a new four-legged friend into your home and we can imagine just how thrilled you are.

It's one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences and the first time you bring a puppy or new dog home is always so much fun. It's also one of the most memorable occasions too.

But as you'll soon discover, those first few weeks can be a little confusing as your furry friend settles into their new environment and you're faced with questions you don't know the answers to.

Questions like...

Where should my dog sleep 🛏 ?

What food should I buy 🦴 ?

Is it right that my puppy wants to chew EVERYTHING in sight 🧦 👟 📖 👕 ?

If you're new to dog ownership or haven't had a dog in your home for quite some time, then you'll definitely recognise these questions.

And you'll also know that winging it simply doesn't work.

Besides, you really want to do this right because you



CHRIS ENSMINGER / UNSPLASH

understand that taking a dog into your home is a major commitment that could last for the next ten years or even more.

Look, we totally get it.

We've been there before and completely understand your fears, worries, and confusion.

Since 2008, dogs.ie has been helping buyers and breeders in Ireland and we've learned a whole lot about the care and training of puppies and older dogs during that time.

So we decided to create a comprehensive guide to dog

ownership that would answer all of those questions that keep you (and your puppy) awake at night.

A one-stop resource that will get you through those first few months of ownership and help make your first doggy-owner relationship an unforgettable experience — for all the right reasons!

So if you're ready to take the first step, let's get started.

Paul Savage



Founder

www.dogs.ie

Feedback ? if you have feedback about this ebook please share it with our support staff who've written this over the last few months, please reach out to us at **support@dogs.ie**

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WHY DO YOU WANT A DOG? 🐕

It might seem like an odd question to ask because after all, **why does anyone want a dog?** They're great companions, fun to be around, and bring a whole lot of happiness to any household. All of these are absolutely true and it wouldn't be hard for us to add another ten reasons why you should get a dog.

But the truth is that many new dog owners don't fully think through the responsibilities of dog ownership before making the decision to bring a pooch into their home — and we totally get that. The whole 'fun and happiness' aspect of getting a dog is so exciting that we often ignore everything else.

Unfortunately, this is one mistake that leads to many poor dogs ending up in shelters as their new owners simply can't manage.

Of course, no one wants



SAMUEL GIRVEN / UNSPLASH

that to happen and that's why it's super important to sit down and ask yourself (and any affected family members) the simple question — **why do I want a dog?**



MICHEL GROLET / UNSPLASH

Are you looking for some companionship?

Do you want a buddy to join you on your daily walks?

Do you already have a dog that needs company?

Do you need a dog to help protect your home?

Take the time to really think this through and be completely honest with yourself about your reasons and whether or not those reasons are good enough to warrant bringing a dog into your home.

If you have already owned a dog before, then making this decision shouldn't be too difficult. However, if this is your first time, you might want to read on before you start looking at puppies.

DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR A DOG? 🕒

Dog ownership is a huge time commitment that simply cannot be underestimated.

Daily walks, feeding, toilet runs, and vet visits all add up over the course of a day, month, and year.

In fact, exercise alone will take up anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours of your day depending on the size and breed of your dog.

But it's not just about the core responsibilities for ensuring your dog stays healthy. You also need to keep in mind that if you don't have time for your dog, then they'll no doubt feel



lonely and may even suffer from depression. Unfortunately this is more common than you think.

That's because many people are still under the misguided impression that there's no problem leaving a dog at home for prolonged periods once there's plenty of water available. This simply isn't true.

Dogs are **social animals**. They love to be around other animals and people, particularly their owner so if you're extremely busy at work and spend very little time at home, then perhaps a dog is not for you.

Even if you can spend enough time at home each day, there's also the issue of travel. Do you travel for work regularly or take multiple holidays each year?

While you can certainly bring your dog to the local kennels while you're away, they'll still miss you. And besides, kennelling your dog can be quite expensive which brings us to our next point.

CAN YOU AFFORD A DOG?



There's so much more to consider than the price you pay the breeder or the adoption fee for the shelter. And unfortunately, we're not just talking about food.

Here's a brief rundown of the type of costs associated with dog ownership.

Breeder/adoption fees

You'll need to pay the breeder or pay an adoption fee. Breeder prices can vary a great deal so we can't even give you a ballpark figure. Adoption fees though are usually set at around the €150 mark.

Microchipping

By law, the breeder [must microchip any puppy before it reaches 12 weeks](#) or before it leaves its place of birth. You shouldn't have to cover this cost as most breeders simply incorporate it into their fees.

Vaccinations

Breeders will often take a puppy to the vet for their first shots but any later vaccinations or follow-up shots are your responsibility. Make sure to get a certificate of vaccination if this is the case.

If you need to get your dog vaccinated yourself, you can expect to pay from €75 to €100 for the entire course.



BERKAY GUMUSTEKIN / UNSPLASH

Dog licence

This is another [legal requirement for every dog owner](#). Dog licences cost €20 annually or you can buy a lifetime licence for €140.

You can apply for a licence through your local post office or at [licences.ie](https://www.dogs.ie/licences).

Bed or crate

A dedicated sleeping area is an absolute must for any dog so you'll need to invest in a solid crate or bed. You can go for a

budget saver from around €30 but if you want something that will last, then expect to pay north of €100.

Collars/leads/toys

While a good collar may only cost around €20, when you buy a few toys and a lead, it all starts to add up. Set aside €100 for these costs. You may not spend it all but then again, you just might.



MATHEW COULTON / UNSPLASH

Ongoing costs

At this point you've already spent a tidy sum, but believe it or not, we're just getting started. There are several ongoing costs that you must also budget for that include:

- Pet insurance — €150 to €300 per year
- Food — €250 to €750 per year
- Medical expenses/vet visits — €200 to €300 per year
- Boarding/doggy daycare — €10 to €25 per day
- Grooming — €25 to €70+ per visit
- Dog walking — €10 to €25 per walk

As you can see, taking care of a dog can be an expensive business. And it's absolutely crucial for the health and wellbeing of your dog that you can afford to provide them with the right care.

So take some time to really think about the costs involved before making a decision.

IS YOUR HOME READY FOR A DOG?

There's no doubt about it — bringing a dog into your home is a huge deal. In fact, aside from bringing a child into your home, it's one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make. And yes, we really mean that. Remember, this is a living being that will be in your care for the next decade or more.

But before we discuss what you can do to prep your house for the big homecoming, let's talk about size.

Size matters

As you can guess, the larger the dog, the more space you require. This is why smaller breeds are often popular with people that live in cities or in built-up suburban areas while larger breeds are more suited to living in the countryside or suburban areas with easy access to open spaces.

Of course, common sense tells you that a Great Dane doesn't belong in a high-rise apartment, but what about a spaniel or a boxer? Can they live in a smaller house or apartment with no garden?

This is why you'll need to take a very close look at the breed that you are interested in. You'll need to take energy levels

and exercise requirements into account and then decide if a breed is suited to your current home.

For example, a boxer is a high-energy dog that needs a lot of exercise every day. They may not cope very well in a smaller home so country homes or suburban homes with gardens and easy access to walking routes would be a better fit.

On the other hand, a Yorkshire Terrier, although somewhat energetic, requires much less daily exercise and so would thrive in an apartment once they get their daily walk of about 15-20 minutes.

Once you have chosen a suitable breed, then we can start looking at making those preparations.

In the home

Here are a few tips so your new arrival will settle in quickly.

Delegate responsibilities

If more than one person will be taking care of your new dog, then it's a good idea to set aside some time to talk about who is responsible for what. Of course, this isn't set in stone and things may change but at the beginning it's a good idea that everyone has one task they are responsible for.

Who will handle feeding? Who will go for walks? What about toilet training or any other training?



OLIVIA HUTCHERSON / UNSPLASH

Talking about this with your family or housemates beforehand will ensure there's a regime and structure that your new dog will understand.

Buy everything first

Don't wait for the last minute. Buy everything you think you will need beforehand.

These include:

- Toys
- Bowls
- Bed/crate
- Collar/lead
- Food

Make a list and go through it as soon as possible.

Puppy-proof your home

It might be a good idea to do this no matter how old your new dog is because even older dogs like to chew shoes and stick their noses into places they shouldn't.

You'll want to do the following:

- Keep all electrical leads out of reach or taped down
- Store all small items out of reach
- Chemicals should be securely stored (maybe even with child locks)
- Any pest traps should be out of reach
- Keep all medication in a secure storage cabinet
- Keep toilet lids closed
- Check if any of your houseplants are poisonous to dogs

That last item on the list is one that very few people are blissfully unaware of but a poisonous plant could have

serious consequences if your puppy or dog decides to chew on it.





BRINA BLUM / UNSPLASH

The most common plants that are poisonous to dogs are:

- Peace lily
- Oleander

- ZZ plants
- Snake plant
- Sago palm
- Lilies
- Areca palm
- Weeping fig
- Tomato plant
- Aloe Vera
- Tulips

It's worth bearing these plants in mind when prepping your garden too which brings us to our next point.

In the garden

It's not enough to just open the door and let your bundle of fur run wild. You'll need to make a few preparations before you even consider that.

Fencing

You might think you have a great fence but do you really? Spend a little time checking every inch of your fence because if there's a hole or broken section anywhere, your new dog will find it no matter how small it is.

You'll also want to bear in mind that if your fence should be suitable for your choice of breed. The spacing in your fence shouldn't be so large that a small dog can slip right through nor should your fence be so low that a larger breed can hop

right over it. And remember, dogs are pretty good at jumping.

Gates

Again, you'll want to double check your gate to make sure that your new dog can't slip under it or squeeze between the pillar post and the gate. You may even need to get a roll of fencing and cover your gate because in most cases, smaller breeds can easily slip through a gate.

Now, this may not happen, but if you have a particularly clever dog, they may just figure out how to unlatch that gate. So make sure you have a bolt or latch that no dog can open.

Water

Standing water is full of all kinds of germs that could give your dog a dodgy tummy. So put away any buckets and cover anything that tends to collect rainfall.

If you have a water feature such as a pond, you might want to consider covering it with a sturdy wire frame so your new dog won't fall in or drink the water.

Plants

As we mentioned in the previous section, some plants can be toxic for a dog and you know how they just love to chew on things when you're not looking!

Check our list above and make sure that if you have any of the plants listed they are in an area where your dog cannot reach them, ideally a greenhouse.



Bear in mind too that acorns and chestnuts are dangerous for a dog when eaten.

It's also a good idea to remove any thorny plants or bushes from your garden. Although these types of bushes are sometimes used to stop animals from entering a garden, if your pooch decides they want out, they could do themselves a lot of damage by struggling through a thorny bush.

Flower beds

Okay, so we're not suggesting that you get rid of all of your flower beds but you will need to keep an eye on them. Exposed soil draws an inquisitive dog like moth to a flame. At some point (usually when you're not looking) they'll decide that they'd really like to know what's under all of that soil. A good solution would be to cover your exposed soil areas with decorative gravel. Digging through stones isn't quite as much fun as soil.

You might also want to create a slight border or barrier that separates your flowerbed areas from the grass or pathways. Of course, your dog can simply step over it but having that low barrier in place will make it a little more awkward for them to use a flower bed as an impromptu toilet area. The final option to protect those beds and keep your dog out of them is to use raised flower beds. It will take a little work but this is one of the best long-term solutions to dogs digging in beds.

PUPPY ALTERNATIVES? 🤔

The majority of people that want a dog think that a puppy is the best option. After all, you can train the puppy so it understands how to behave in your home and you get to bond and grow together.

But those who are new to dog ownership may not realise that bringing a puppy into your home requires a lot of hard work and patience. With a puppy, you're also making a long-term commitment to raise and care for the puppy throughout its lifetime which will most likely be **well over a decade**.

It's certainly a major commitment and one that you really need to take some time to consider. Of course, this is true for any dog you bring into your home but particularly for puppies who rely on you during their development.

So what are the alternatives to puppy ownership?

Fostering

Take a look online and you'll likely find dozens of animal shelters within a few hours drive of your home. As much as we hate to admit it, the truth is that no matter where you are in the world, dog abandonment is still a huge problem.

Dog shelters are often overcrowded and short on staff so they're more than willing to work with anyone who wants to volunteer their time.

Now, you may not have the time to volunteer but you can certainly take the dogs for a walk or better yet, provide a safe and stable environment where a puppy or older dog can spend some time away from the shelter.

Aside from the fact that you're offering the shelter some much needed assistance, you'll also get a chance to see what it feels like to live with and be responsible for a dog.

Fostering is a short-term commitment until the shelter can re-home the dog with a new owner, so while it is an alternative to puppy ownership, it may not give you the opportunity to bond with a dog.

That said, there are many people who have fostered dogs only to find that they want to adopt them.

And that brings us to our next suggestion.

Adopting an older dog

Like we said, the puppies get all the attention. Even at the shelters, when potential adopters arrive, it's sometimes hard for them to look past the puppies that have been recently abandoned.

Yet, the majority of abandoned dogs in those shelters are often, in fact, fully grown or senior dogs.

The common misconception is that older dogs in a shelter must have come from a place of neglect. People believe that they were likely mistreated and abused and so might have some emotional or temperament issues. And that means that they will require special care and training.

However, while it's true that some dogs may have a disturbing past, that's not necessarily true for all senior dogs. And even if it is true, a poor start in life doesn't mean that a senior dog won't be the greatest companion you've ever had.



The benefits of adopting an older dog

- Possibly house trained
- Likely to be leash trained
- Often more placid in nature
- Less likely to chew your shoes (although not guaranteed)
- Require less full-time attention
- Usually already socialised (instant companion)
- Still open to training

Despite what you may have heard about old dogs and new tricks, the truth is that dogs can be trained at any age. So even if a senior dog has no house training and doesn't really like walking on a leash, you can train them.

In fact, in some cases a senior dog may be easier to train as they're not the limitless bundles of energy that puppies are. But perhaps the biggest benefit of them all is that when you adopt a senior dog, you're giving them a second chance at life. You won't just be their new owner, you'll be their hero. And that's a bond that truly cannot be broken.

So before you call your local breeder, think about all the options open to you.

It could be that fostering a dog from a shelter or adopting a senior dog is just right for you.

BEFORE YOU BUY OR ADOPT

Hopefully, after reading all of our earlier advice and doing your research, you're still eager to bring a dog into your home. If that's the case, then we're delighted that you're ready to become a proud dog owner.

But unfortunately, you're not finished doing your homework just yet!

Yes, we have a few more things for you to consider now that you've decided that dog ownership is for you.

CHOOSING A BREED

This is perhaps your most important decision once you have decided to bring a dog into your home, but it's the one that many people get so very wrong.

A poor choice of breed can result in your dog not getting the right care, exercise, or social activity required for that particular breed. And that is what often leads to dog abandonment.

For example, imagine choosing a Dalmatian based solely on how much you love that old Disney movie. Then 6 months in

you start to realise that this breed is hyperactive and sheds their hair all year long.



Now, we're not picking on Dalmatians — they are actually a wonderful family dog — but the truth is that every breed will have physical or emotional characteristics that may require specific care and attention.

It's incredibly important to understand what those characteristics are so you can decide whether or not you can provide the right care for this dog.

It's also crucial that you bear in mind the size of your chosen breed when fully grown. Ask your local

shelter how many dogs are abandoned each year because the owners didn't realise just how big they'd get and you will be truly shocked at the figures.

ALORA GRIFFITHS / UNSPLASH

The problem is that puppies look so incredibly cute that it's hard to imagine just how big they can get. But in six short months that little fur-ball curled up in your arms could be too big and heavy to sit on your lap never mind curl up in your arms.

So as hard as it is to do so, try to ignore the cuteness of a puppy and think of its size and weight when fully grown. With all of this in mind, here are some suggestions based on a breed's suitability for a certain environment.

Good for families

This means a dog that is good with kids, can accept being played with, and that doesn't get too jealous when kids are getting their parents' attention.

- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Bulldog
- Pug
- Boston Terrier
- Beagle
- Alaskan Malamute
- Labrador Retriever
- Golden Retriever
- Irish Setter
- French Bulldog
- Bichon Frise
- Poodle

- Vizsla
- Cocker Spaniel
- Brussels Griffon
- Newfoundland
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
- Collie



MELISSA KEIZER ON UNSPLASH

Good for homes with multiple pets

These are the dog breeds that are most likely to socialise well with other pets such as cats and other dogs. However, take care — just because a breed is on this list doesn't mean that they'll love your cat.

- Border Terrier

- Australian Shepherd
- Beagle
- Boston Terrier
- Collie
- (Cardigan / Pembroke) Corgi
- Curly-coated Retriever
- Cardigan Welsh Corgi
- German Shepherd
- English Springer Spaniel
- Irish Setter
- Golden Retriever
- Labrador Retriever
- Poodle
- Pug
- Redbone Coonhound
- Shetland Sheepdog
- Portuguese Water Dog
- Silky Terrier

Good for active owners

And by active we mean you're out walking or running pretty much every day of the week.

- Pembroke Welsh Corgi
- Portuguese Water Dog
- German Shorthaired Pointers
- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Tibetan Terrier
- Lagotto Romagnolo

- Shetland Sheepdog
- Dalmatian
- Vizsla
- Doberman Pinscher
- Australian Cattle Dog
- Jack Russell Terrier
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Rat terrier
- Australian Shepherd
- Weimaraner
- Siberian Husky
- Labrador Retriever
- Border Collie

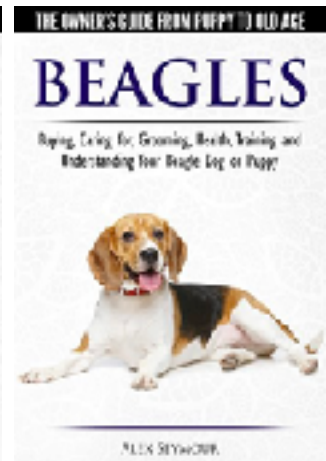
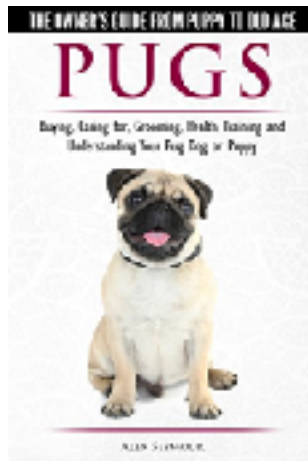
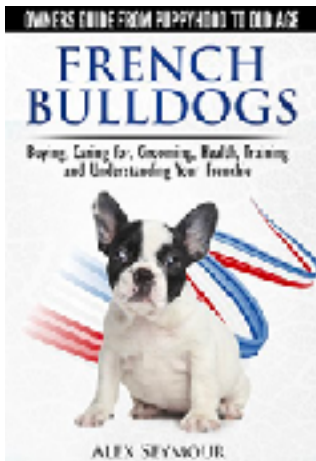
Good for small homes/apartments

As you can guess, this list is mainly smaller breeds of dog that require little exercise although there are one or two larger dogs that enjoy lounging around. These dogs are also suitable for older owners who may not be able to get out and about as much.

- Bichon Frise
- Boston Terrier
- Pug
- Shih Tzu
- French Bulldog
- Greyhound
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- Bulldog



- Havanese
- Biewer Terrier
- Maltese
- German Spitz
- Bedlington Terrier
- Italian Greyhound
- Chinese Crested
- Yorkshire Terrier
- Basenji



Tip: A dedicated book about your breed is a great idea both to learn some breed history, tips training them and to learn some general breed information.

Good for allergies

These dogs shed very little hair and so many are considered hypoallergenic. However, this doesn't mean they have very little hair. Some are quite hairy and still require a lot of grooming.

- Tibetan Terrier
- Maltese Terrier
- Brussels Griffon
- Shih Tzu
- Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier
- Portuguese Water Dog
- Basenji
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Australian Silky Terrier
- Schnauzer
- Border Terrier
- Yorkshire Terrier
- Labradoodle
- Cairn terrier
- Irish Water Spaniel
- Scottish Terrier
- Chinese Crested
- Havanese
- Kerry Blue Terrier
- Bichon Frise
- West Highland White Terrier
- Poodle



JAMES LACY ON UNSPLASH

THE LEGAL SIDE OF DOG OWNERSHIP



Thankfully, the days of unlicensed dog ownership are long gone. Now, it's a legal requirement to register your dog with the local authorities. And that means microchipping and licensing your dog.

Why do we need dog licences and microchips?

While some people may think that licences are a quick money grab by the government, they're actually there for a very good reason.

As dog ownership numbers increase, so to do cases of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

Now, before we go any further let's just make one thing clear — dog abandonment is a very real possibility for many new dog owners. As we mentioned previously, some people don't do their research and may end up with a breed that they simply cannot manage.

Then there are others who may not have realised that their new dog needs a lot more care and attention than they are able to provide.

This is why we'll never stop reminding people to do their research before they buy or adopt a dog. In many cases, dog abandonment is preventable just by doing a little homework before making that commitment.

Of course, there are also dog owners who have no option but to bring their dog to a shelter. This could be due to an unavoidable change in living arrangements or financial difficulties. Our heart goes out to those people and their dogs.



JORDON CONNER / UNSPLASH

Unfortunately, there are also those who abuse and neglect their dogs, and even those who steal dogs from gardens and homes.

Licences and microchips are there so that every dog in the country can be traced back to its original owner. The hope is that with systems like this in place, those who intentionally abandon or harm their dogs will be deterred from doing so.

Just remember that a microchip and licence is there to protect

your dog.

Read the current microchipping legislation here — [Irish Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015](#)

Read the current dog licensing legislation here — [Control of Dogs Act 1986](#)

Legal requirements

When buying or adopting a dog you need to make sure that you understand the rules and regulations regarding the movement of dogs.

Puppies cannot be sold if younger than 8 weeks

No exceptions whatsoever. Puppies any younger than eight weeks **MUST NOT** be sold.

All dogs must be microchipped before being sold

That means that it's often the breeder's responsibility to make sure that the puppy or dog has been microchipped and any change of ownership recorded.

All puppies must be microchipped by the age of 12 weeks
This is an absolute must regardless of whether or not the puppy is to be sold or is staying in its place of birth.

All dogs must have a microchip certificate

These are printed certificates that provide all dog and owner information. A digital copy is not acceptable.

There are four databases that hold all microchipping records in Ireland:

- [Animark](#)
- [Fido](#)
- [Irish Kennel Club](#)

- Microdog ID Ltd (Irish Coursing Club)

All dogs over four months must have a licence

Again, there are **no exceptions** to this rule.

Dog adverts must have complete information

Any advert for the sale of a puppy or dog must have the dog's date of birth, country or origin, and microchip number. If these details are missing, ask the seller to provide them.

Question : Is ear cropping legal?

No, ear cropping has been deemed illegal under the “Animal Health and Welfare Regulations 2019” Act in Ireland. This unnecessary practice is purely done for aesthetic purposes and serves no purpose.

Note: It may be possible to import a dog that has had this procedure where it was legal. Just because you see a dog with cropped ears on the street, doesn't mean it has been done illegally.

Question : Is tail docking / dew claw removal legal?

Yes, but only under certain circumstances. As outlined in “Prohibition on Tail Docking (Dogs) Regulations 2014” Act in Ireland, Pointers, Spaniels and Terrier puppies may have their tails docked and / or dew claws removed before the age of 8 days old. It is **prohibited for all other breeds**.

The procedure must be carried out by a veterinarian or a veterinary nurse and will come with a certificate that it was done in accordance with the laws. This certificate is to stay with each pup for its lifetime. It can be produced as evidence of the dog being legally docked and its dew claws removed if the owner is ever questioned.

THINGS TO ASK YOUR BREEDER

If you have decided to buy your dog from a breeder, then there are a few things that you'll want to ask them before making a decision.

Q: What experience do they have?

Not everyone who sells puppies is an experienced breeder so there's no harm in asking what their experience is. Generally speaking, it's better that you buy from an experienced breeder as they will have a better understanding of the breed and how to provide the right care for your new dog.

Q: Can you tour the premises?

This will give you an idea of how the dogs are cared for. Puppies that come from a clean and stable environment are much less likely to have health or temperament issues.

Note: Many breeders may not be able to show you their full breeding facilities due to concerns over infection for young puppies. Young puppies have little or no immunity and many of these viruses can be spread through the air.

Q: Have both parents been tested for congenital diseases?

This might seem like an odd one but some breeds do have a history of specific diseases and it's a good idea to know that both parents are healthy.

Q: Where have the puppies been reared?

Have they spent all their time outdoors in an agricultural environment or were they in the breeder's home? You'll need to know how much handling the puppies have had.

**What kind of social interaction have the puppies had?**

Have they been isolated from other litter members or have they had a chance to learn to interact?

Q: Have the puppies started their house training?

Probably not, but it doesn't hurt to ask.

Q: How are the puppies fed?

Were they trough-fed or did they get an individual bowl? This is important for your own training later.

Q: What food are they fed? 🍲

It helps if you can stick to the same food before gradually moving them onto another type.

Q: What vaccinations have they had?

Depending on their age, puppies at the breeder may have had their first shots. You'll need to get a vaccination certificate that you can then give to your vet.

Q: Are the puppies microchipped yet?

Even if they're not yet chipped, they must be before they leave their place of birth. If they are not chipped yet, ask the breeder when is the process scheduled for.

All ads have to contain the microchip number of the puppies being sold, and these microchips have to be registered to someone. The first registered owner is the breeder.

Q: What are the characteristics of this breed?

An obvious enough one but it's surprising how many new owners forget to ask in all the excitement. Ask about energy levels, temperament, size, and any possible health issues.

TYPES OF BREEDERS

Not so long ago, anyone could breed their dogs without restrictions. This meant that the puppy industry was full of less-than-reputable breeders that gave honest animal-loving breeders a bad name.

Thankfully, Animal Health and Welfare (Sale or Supply of Pet Regulations) 2019 put a lot of the poorly managed breeders out of business.

So let's take a look at three types of breeders you may encounter in your search for a new dog.

1) Private individuals (one-off breeders)

Anyone that sells five or less puppies in a calendar year is a private individual according to law. They do not need to register as a breeder.

They can not sell their pups before they are eight weeks old and they are responsible for microchipping. They must also maintain certain standards of care for the animals but they are not subject to inspection by local authorities.

2) Registered Sellers of Pets

According to the 2019 laws that we mentioned earlier, anyone who sells six or more puppies in a calendar year must register as a breeder. Failure to register could result in legal proceedings.

They must maintain full records of all animals on their premises while meeting standards of care.

Registration is a relatively simple process that requires them to fill out [a pet sales registration form](#).

Registered breeders must have all their dogs microchipped by 12 weeks of age and they are fully responsible for the process if dogs are sold before then.

Once again, they are not allowed to sell pups under 8 weeks of age.

3) Dog Breeding Establishments

[The Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010](#) tells us that any property with six or more female dogs that are capable of breeding is considered a dog breeding establishment.

These premises are much more strictly regulated and must adhere to extremely specific requirements with regards to maintaining records and standards of care.

All dogs on the premises must receive daily health checks and dogs over the age of 12 weeks **MUST** be microchipped even if they are not for sale.

Dog breeding establishments will also have a certain number of staff members depending on the number of dogs in their care. They also have limits about how many times a bitch can be bred from (6) and how many litters a single dog can have in a 36 month window (3 litters).

Who you decide to buy your dog from is entirely up to you but no matter what approach you take, it is essential that you make sure that the breeder/seller is taking good care of their dogs and pups.

If you have any worries about a breeder or the animals in their care, don't hesitate to contact the local authorities to let them know about your concerns.



SOPHIA KUNKEL / UNSPLASH

DOG NUTRITION

Food, glorious food — we all love it and so too does your dog. In fact, no matter what you put in front of them, chances are they'll wolf it down.

But that's a problem.

You see there are many things that a dog isn't supposed to eat, and no, we're not talking about your shoes or the remote control. We're talking about actual foods that you may love but that can be extremely harmful to your pooch.

So before we jump into the ins and outs of dog feeding, let's go through the things that your dog cannot eat.

Foods you should never feed your dog

We've done our best to include all the things that we are aware of that can be dangerous for dogs to eat, and it's a pretty long list. Some of the items you may have heard of while others are ingredients that you should look out for in processed foods.

Alcohol

We shouldn't have to say it but giving a dog alcohol isn't a good idea. vomiting , diarrhoea, loss of coordination — imagine how your dog would feel if it knew that you intentionally gave it something that affected it in this way.

Apple Seeds

Apple seeds casings contain amygdalin which releases cyanide when ingested. Sounds scary, right? Fortunately, this only happens if large amounts are eaten. Nevertheless, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Avocado

Persin is a toxin found in avocados that can cause diarrhoea and vomiting. This is found in the pit but too much of the fruit itself can also be dangerous for your dog.

Candy or Chewing Gum

They usually have lots of sugar which isn't good for your dog, but they can also contain xylitol which is extremely harmful to your dog's liver.

Cat Food

When your dog steals your cat's food they're running the risk of an upset stomach and potentially pancreatitis. Cat is designed for a cat's digestive system and not a dog's so it has higher fats and proteins. So move the cat's dish!

Chocolate

We all love a chocolate treat but it's very bad for your dog. Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine which may cause your dog's heart rate to speed up significantly and can also lead to vomiting and diarrhoea.

So anything that is chocolate flavoured or that contains cocoa powder is to be avoided.

Coffee and tea ☕

Pretty obvious since we just mentioned how bad caffeine is, right?

Cooked Bones 🍖

Sounds like a strange one but cooked bones are a real choking hazard for dogs. This is because the bones can splinter easily and get lodged in your dog's throat. Raw bones are better but you should always keep an eye on your dog when they have a bone.

Corn On The Cob 🌽

Another one that is a potential choking hazard is corn on the cob. Your dog can eat a little corn without any problems, but give them a cob and they'll likely want to swallow the whole thing.



Fat Trimmings

Fat trimmings aren't good for you and they certainly aren't good for your dog. Any fatty foods (like cat food) can lead to pancreatitis.

Garlic

Incredibly, garlic can lower a dog's red blood count if too much is eaten. This can lead to anaemia which is certainly not a good thing.

Grapes & Raisins

Even the smallest handful of raisins or a few grapes can cause your dog to vomit and become ill. They are extremely bad for their kidneys and potentially life threatening.

Hops

Another reason not to give your dog beer! Hops can be toxic for a dog and can cause vomiting and fever. So don't take a chance.

Human Vitamins

Vitamins for humans should only be taken by humans. They often have the recommended daily allowance for you and this could be far too much for your dog. Iron supplements are the most harmful as they can cause iron toxicity in your dog.

Too much liver

Liver isn't too bad for your dog in small amounts. However, too much can have adverse effects on a puppy's muscle and bone growth due to the high vitamin A content.

Macadamia Nuts

Macadamia nuts can be lethal even if your dog only eats one or two. If your dog has muscle shakes or vomiting after eating a macadamia nut then it's time to get to the vet.

Milk & Dairy Products

Like liver, milk and dairy products aren't too bad but if your dog eats too much they can cause diarrhoea and even trigger allergies.

Onions & Chives

Onions contain disulphides and sulfoxides which can damage red blood cells and have a serious effect on your dog's health. Dry, cooked, raw, or even as powder in other foods — no matter what form it takes, onions should be avoided.

Persimmon, Peaches & Plum Pits

Seeds or pits from these fruits can cause intestinal problems and that's before we even mention the whole plum and peach pit cyanide thing.

Raw Meat & Fish

Raw fish can contain parasites that are harmful to your dog. Raw meat can be okay but you must be absolutely certain

that the meat is uncontaminated. As you know, raw meat can contain bacteria so perhaps it's best to avoid it if possible.

Rhubarb & Tomato Leaves

You probably wouldn't give these to your dog anyway but if you grow these plants in your garden be careful. The leaves contain oxalates which are not good for your dog and can cause vomiting, lethargy, and you guessed it, diarrhoea.

Too much salt

Too much salt is bad for us but it's even worse for your dog who can't absorb it as quickly as you can.

Too much sugar

Like salt, this is more of a health thing than a danger. Don't give your dog too many sugary things or they may just get bad teeth and possibly even diabetes.

Xylitol

Xylitol can be found in a lot of foods and it can be highly toxic for your dog. We recommend reading the ingredients for any baked or preserved goods before allowing your dog to have a bite.



HOW TO FEED A NEW PUPPY

Before we start talking about

feeding your

new puppy, it's important that you know what to feed them. Ideally, the breeder will have told you exactly what food the puppy has been eating and possibly even given you enough for the first few days at home.

However, if you're unsure about the food or you simply don't know what to do, then your best bet is to call your vet and ask for their opinion. They should be able to tell you exactly what to buy and how often to feed your puppy.

Once you have the food sorted it's time to create a feeding schedule.

This is an important step in training your puppy to eat at set times and not rely on snacks. As you can imagine, for this reason it's absolutely critical that you stick to it at all times.

In fact, write it on a poster and stick it to the kitchen wall so everyone in the house knows when and how much to feed the new pup.

The feeding schedule will depend on the age of your pup.

From 6-12 weeks

Four times a day at regular intervals — larger breeds can start dry food at 9-10 weeks, smaller breeds should wait until 12-13 weeks.

From 3-6 months

Three times a day.

From 6-12 months

Twice a day but when you make the change depends on the breed. Larger dogs will wait until around the 12 month mark while smaller breeds will change at 7-9 months. Ask your vet or breeder for advice.

From 1 year on

Adult food twice a day. If you think your dog still has some growing to do, then you can stick to the puppy food for a little longer.

How to feed an older/adopted dog

This is relatively straightforward as the shelter or previous owner should be able to tell you an older dog's established eating routine.

Let your dog **stick to the same routine** particularly for the first few weeks in their new home. If you would like to change their food or eating time, then it's best to do this gradually. Like puppies, older dogs will be used to a certain type of food and change to a different food too soon or upsetting their eating routine may knock them off their stride.

Remember slow and steady wins the race.

YOUR FIRST VISIT TO THE VET



One of the first things that you should do when you bring a new puppy or dog into your home is book its first appointment at the local vet.

Choosing a vet

Now, while all vets should, in theory, be both helpful and professional, it might be a good idea to ask some local dog owners for their opinion. After all, this is the person that will be responsible for your dog's yearly health checks and who will provide care in an emergency.

This is an incredibly important decision so take your time with it.



According to the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) (AMVA) the veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) is the foundation for quality healthcare. The idea is that your vet will get to know your dog so well that they can recognise any potential health issues immediately and provide the very best care.

So yes, it's a very big deal to make the right choice.

When to book your visit

Adopted dogs

If you have adopted a dog from a shelter, then it's a good idea to get to the vet as soon as possible. While shelters will examine all the dogs in their care, adopted dogs may have underlying issues that have gone unnoticed. They also may have been inadvertently exposed to potential health hazards at the shelter so a health check as soon as possible is for the best.

Purchased puppies

Important: Your vet should scan your puppy to confirm that the microchip scanned matches the number on the microchip certificate you received from the breeder.

Puppies or dogs that come from breeders can be given a few days in their new home to settle before their first visit to the vet.

It may be part of your contract that you need to visit a vet before with a certain number of days.

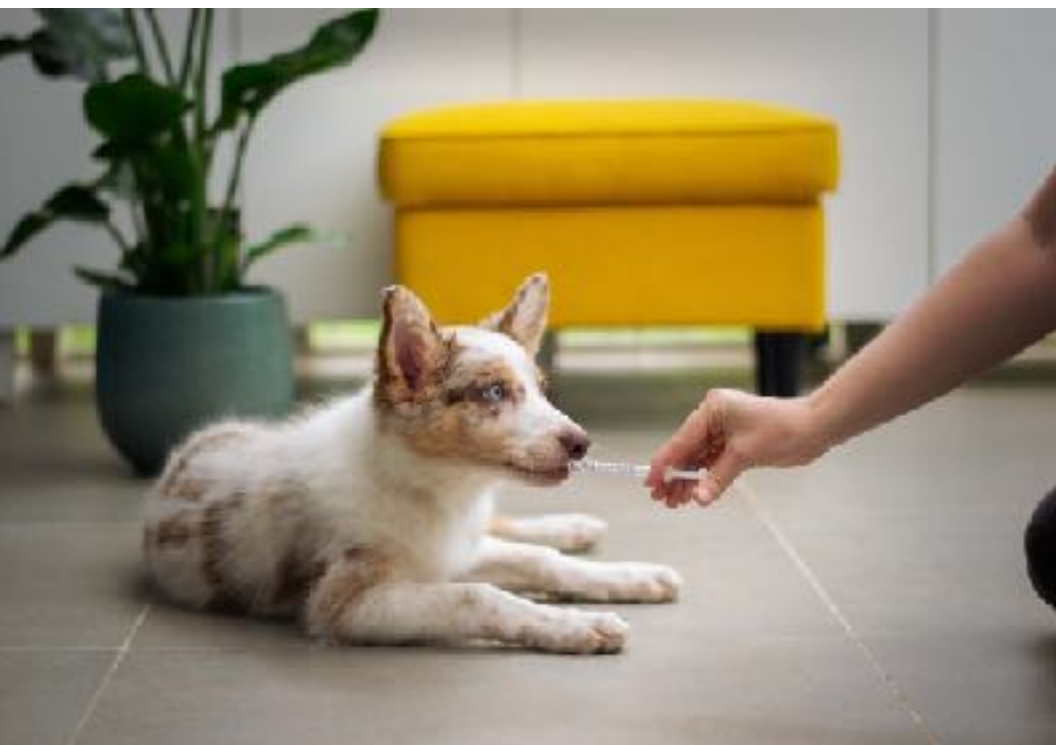
What happens at the vet

The full works — a nose to tail examination that will give the vet an accurate overview of your dog's current state of health.

So what does that include?

The vet will:

- Weigh your puppy/dog
- Check the heart and lungs with a stethoscope
- Check your dog's temperature (this is done rectally so don't be shocked!)
- Check eyes, nose, ears, feet, and genitals
- Check teeth and mouth
- Check your dog's skin and coat
- Palpate (touch) abdomen
- Check lymph nodes for swelling
- Check faeces for worms (ask when booking if you should bring a sample)
- Answer your questions in relation to health, feeding, and training
- Discuss future care including spaying/neutering
- Explain the use of any medication prescribed during the visit



A VERSCHUEREN / UNSPLASH

- Give your puppy any vaccinations that may be due (this may not happen on first visit)

Remember to bring all your documentation with you to the vet. This includes your certificate of vaccination and your microchip certificate.

You should also discuss with your vet about spaying or neutering your dog. There are a few schools of thought around the optimum time to perform this operation, your vet can help you pick an optional time for the dog.

When to take your dog to the vet

Your vet will tell you during the first visit when to make an appointment for your puppy or dog's next vaccination, and will also discuss flea / tick plans.

If you're lucky, any visits after that will be for yearly checkups only.

One thing we must make absolutely clear is that those annual checkups are hugely important. No matter how healthy you think your dog is, you simply must take them in for that checkup once a year.

This gives the vet a chance to spot any potential health problems and deal with them before they become a major concern.

But aside from those annual checkups, when should you take your dog to the vet?

If your dog is showing any of the following symptoms then get to the vet asap.

Vomiting or diarrhoea

Your dog will vomit or get a case of the runs from time to time — this is absolutely normal. However, if it's happening several times a day, you need to visit the vet. If your dog is vomiting and has diarrhoea at the same time then call the vet immediately. They may have eaten something that is toxic to them.

Not eating

A loss of appetite should be a cause for concern as most dogs love to eat. If your dog ignores their food for the entire day, then off to the vet you go.

Drinking too much water

You should have a good idea of how much water your dog likes to drink during a day. If your dog seems to have an unquenchable thirst, then it could be a sign of a problem with their kidneys.

Watery discharge from eyes

It may not even be all that watery. If you notice your dog has some stuff oozing from one or both eyes, this could be a sign of infection.

Needs to pee a lot

Dogs will pee when given the chance, but if your dog is asking to go out a lot more frequently, this could be a sign of a urinary infection. This is especially true if their pee is often only a little dribble. These types of infections can only be treated with antibiotics so a trip to the vet is unavoidable.

Bad behaviour or change in moods

Unexpected bad or moody behaviour could be a sign that your dog is uncomfortable or in pain. If your dog is very irritable, don't try to determine the cause of the pain by yourself.

If your dog is experiencing another issue and you're not sure what to do, just give your vet a call and ask for their advice.

Note : Take a look at the deductible amount on any claim, you may have to pay the first €100 - €500 of a vet bill. Insurance plans with lower deductibles are generally more expensive.



VICTOR GRABARCZYK / UNSPLASH

DO I NEED PET INSURANCE? 🙋



KARSTEN WINEGEART ON UNSPLASH

Hopefully your dog's healthcare costs will amount to no more than the cost of your annual checkups. However, it's best to expect the unexpected. An emergency medical procedure could be extremely expensive and if you can't afford it, you may be faced with the awful decision to have your dog put to sleep.

That's why **we always recommend taking out health insurance for your dog.**

Health insurance plans can cover accidents only or cover any health issues your dog may develop.

Premiums for cover can cost anywhere from €8 to around €23 per month. If you pay yearly, then those premiums will come down a little. Prices can increase for dogs as they age.

If you can afford it, then we highly recommend taking out a policy.

Better to be safe than sorry, right?

If you can't afford insurance, it may be better to reconsider purchasing a dog.



Some insurance policies will only cover the first year of treatment for certain conditions, so do read fine print carefully.

TRAINING YOUR DOG

Every new puppy or dog needs some basic training and while it might seem like a somewhat daunting prospect, it's not as difficult as it might seem. We'd even go so far as to say that aside from cuddles, training your new dog to follow simple commands is one of the most rewarding aspects of dog ownership.

For the purpose of this guide we're only going to talk about **basic** training. This includes **house training**, following some **simple commands**, and **walking on a leash**.

While you can train your dog in many more ways, any pooch that can master these three will be a dream to handle. Now, before we go any further, it's important to note that all your training methods should be reward-based. This could be through the use of treats or simply by giving your dog or puppy lots of love and attention every time they perform well.

Now, let's start with perhaps the most important training of all — house training.

House training

House training your puppy or an adopted older dog should be your first priority as soon as they enter your home. Not only is it good for your own sanity (no one likes to wake up to stinky 'surprises') but it's also good for your dog. This is because a

dog that knows where and when they can ‘go’ will settle into the home and your routine much more easily.

Unfortunately, it’s also the type of training that often causes the most frustration as puppies, in particular, often find it difficult to control their bladders.

So what are the options?



Well, you have two approaches to choose from:

Puppy pads/paper training

The idea behind puppy pads is to give your dog a designated area inside the home where they know they are allowed to pee or poop.

Puppy pads are scented to encourage use and they are incredibly useful for dog owners who live in apartments or

houses with no garden.

However, some experts believe that this training method can confuse a dog especially if your long-term goal is to encourage the habit of going outside.

Crate/confined training

This is a very common method for new puppies that works on the long-held belief that a dog will never pee or poop where it sleeps.

This type of training works for the most part and some owners have found it even works in smaller rooms.

The success of this method relies a great deal on the length of time your new dog is confined to its crate. Leave it too long and your puppy simply won't be able to hold it in and you may have a bed to wash instead of a puppy pad to roll up and drop in the bin.

There are pros and cons to using either method and your choice depends on your circumstances. But whatever



CHARLESDELUVIO / UNSPLASH

method you go with, there are a few things that you must bear in mind.

Consistency is key

As with all aspects of dog training, consistency is the key to success.

You need to:

Create a routine

Dogs are creatures of habit and if you can create a routine where your new puppy or dog knows exactly when it is time to pee or poop, then you'll have a much easier life and a happier dog.

So from the moment you bring your dog into the home, try to follow the same routine each and every day.

Remember that your dog's ability to control its bladder will depend on its age. Generally speaking, a puppy can hold their bladder for one hour for every month of their age. You would only use this rule of thumb for young puppies though as dogs should never have to control their bladder for longer than a few hours at a time.

Stick to a rigid feeding schedule

Feeding time should always be at the same time each and every day.

That means no snacks or treats until they are properly house trained. This allows you to avoid accidents as most dogs will need to go anywhere from 5-30 minutes after they have been fed.

You might also want to limit their water intake too. Let them drink, but don't let them have an endless supply of water just while you're training.

Use the same toilet spot

This is very important as it creates that sense of routine we mentioned earlier. For dogs that are going outside, taking them to the same spot every time encourages them to only pee or poop in that spot. They also know what is expected of them once they arrive at that spot.

Reward good behaviour immediately

This might be a tough one if you're using puppy pads as you won't always be there to see your dog or puppy doing their business. But if you are present or have them out on the leash, give them immediate praise once they've finished. Remember though, you should only reward a dog immediately after otherwise they'll have no idea what you're rewarding them for.

Figure out your dog's 'toilet signs'

Most dogs will have something that they always do just before they're ready to pee or poop. It could be walking around in circles, scratching at the floor, or grumbling/whining. Whatever it is your dog does before toilet time, it's

your job to figure out that telltale sign and keep an eye out for it.

This way, as soon as your dog or puppy starts to show signs of wanting to pee or poop, you can lead them outside or put them on their puppy pad.

Cut down on water at bedtime

While we certainly don't want your dog or puppy to go thirsty, there's also no need for them to drink gallons of water right before bedtime. This is just asking for trouble and there's no way they'll be able to hold it in all night.

So, don't allow your dog to have any water for two hours before bedtime. That way when they go out for their final toilet trip, they'll likely have an empty bladder.

Now, don't worry, this will do your pooch no harm at all as they can drink as much as they like during the day.

Make use of the crate

If you need to step out or do something that takes all of your attention, just let your dog take a little nap in their crate. Like we mentioned before, your dog will never soil its own bed. However, make sure to take them outside for a quick pee first and don't do this too often. The crate is really only for sleeping in so you don't want your dog in there all day. There will be plenty of accidents
And we really mean that. Accidents will most certainly happen, but hey, they're just accidents. Just like a toddler

takes time to learn to use the potty so too does your dog need a little patience as they learn to hold their bladder. So when the inevitable accidents occur, just clean up and move on.

As with all dog training, once you take a positive approach, your puppy or dog will soon understand what is required of them and before you know it, they'll be asking to go out.



KYLIE MACKIE / UNSPLASH

Basic commands

It might be hard to believe but dogs actually thrive in a structured environment. For the most part, those that have been trained at an early age enjoy following commands and making their owners happy. Of course, there are exceptions to the rule and no two dogs are entirely the same. Even so, if you start your training as soon as your new puppy or older dog enters the

home, you shouldn't have too many problems.

When it comes to commands, there's no need to overload your dog with too much information. With this in mind, we're going to go through the **5 basic commands** that you can use in practically any situation.

But before we start, it's important that you settle on a word for each command and stick to that word through the training. If the command is 'sit', don't say 'sit down' or 'down'. You can change the command words to whatever you prefer but once you have chosen a word, stick with it.

1) Sit Command

This is the first and easiest command to teach either a young puppy or an older adopted dog. It's also the one command that can be used to take control of any situation — once your dog sits, everything else is easy to control.

To master this command, all you need are some treats and a little patience.

The technique is straightforward enough:

1. Hold a treat in your hand and place your hand just a little above your dog's nose.
2. Move the treat back so that when your dog lifts their head, they naturally lower their backside.
3. The very second their backside hits the floor, say 'sit' and give them the treat.
4. Repeat a few times until your dog sits on command and you don't need to move the treat.

Simple, right? Honestly, you'll be very surprised at how quickly any dog can master this one.

Once they have mastered this command with treats, try doing it a few times using praise and a hug as the reward.

Eventually, they'll do it without any need for a reward but no matter how well trained your dog is, it's always a good idea to give praise **every time** they follow a command.

2) Look Command

This might seem like a bit of an odd one to new dog owners, but this is a very good command to have in your pocket when training your dog further commands or how to walk on a leash.

Thankfully, it's another easy one especially if your dog has already mastered the 'sit' command.

The technique is simple but a little strange:

1. Ask your dog to sit and you then sit directly in front of them (no hugs or touching!)
2. Hold a treat between your eyes (we told you it was strange).
3. As soon as your dog looks at the treat or looks you in the eye say 'look'.
4. Try to hold eye contact for a second or two and then give them the treat.

5. Repeat but each time sit a little bit further away from your dog eventually removing the treat from between your eyes.

The goal is to get to the other side of the room and have your dog follow the command without hesitation.

3) Come Command

Any dog owner who has enjoyed the 'pleasure' of chasing their dog through a busy park will understand the value of this command. They'll also know that having a dog that will come on command is also extremely important for their own safety.

Unlike the other commands on this list, you'll need to leash train your puppy or dog before attempting this one.

The method is as follows:

1. Put on your dog's collar and leash and have them sit.
2. Get down to their eye level and pull gently on the lead while saying 'come'.
3. Reward them with a treat or praise as soon as they come.
4. Repeat with the leash a few times.
5. Remove the leash and put more distance between yourself and your dog.
6. Lengthen the distance each time until you can command your dog from across the garden or down the hallway.

One thing we'll say here is that you should resist the temptation to clap your hands, whistle, or slap your legs



TADEUSZ LAKOTA / UNSPLASH

when using this command. Stick to using the command word only as anything else will only confuse your dog as you may not do the same thing each time.

Like we said earlier, this command is great for keeping your dog safe when out in public so take the time to really master it.

4) Stay Command

The fourth command on our list is a good one for keeping your dog under control when you need to answer the door or if you need to step outside and leave the door open.

It's very similar to the sit command and if your dog has mastered that one, then this command will be a piece of cake.

This is what you do:

1. Ask your dog to sit.
2. Put your hand up with the palm facing your dog.
3. Say the command 'stay' while moving backwards.
4. Once you have moved back a few feet, ask your dog to come and give them a reward.
5. Repeat, putting more distance between yourself and your dog each time.

Eventually, you should be able to say the command and then turn your back and walk away. This one is a little tougher but still not as difficult as you'd expect.

5) Leave it Command

This is a surprisingly handy command especially if your dog loves to get into things or chew up your favourite socks. It's also useful if you're in the habit of leaving food on the countertop or if you have another pet with its own bowl.

It's also a great command for walks in the park when your dog may find something that could be a danger if they pick it up — think of all those plants we mentioned earlier that are toxic to your dog.

We've deliberately left this one to the end as it's the most difficult command to teach and will require you to have patience by the bucketload.

The method goes like this:

1. Get two treats and hold one in your closed fist.
2. Let your dog make a fuss over it and sniff at it but don't give it to them.
3. The second they leave it alone, say the command 'leave it' and give them the treat from your other hand. **DO NOT** give them the one in your closed fist.
4. This may take some time as you'll need to be patient and let your dog stop making a fuss over your closed first in their own time.
5. Next you'll place the treat on the ground with your hand over it.
6. Follow the same process as before and **NEVER** let your dog get the treat under your hand.
7. Then you'll try the same process again but with your hand hovering over the treat. This is when it gets really tough as your dog may not understand what is expected of them right away.
8. Eventually, you'll be able to place a treat on the floor, say the command 'leave it' and your dog will obey.

The key here is that your dog will never get that treat that they must leave. They must understand that once you say 'leave it' they cannot touch it under any circumstances.

This will take you quite some time but once your dog gets it, you'll have a perfectly trained pet that you can take anywhere.

Leash training

Even if you're lucky enough to have adopted an older dog that has already been trained to walk on a leash, we still recommend that you read this section. Old dogs can still learn new tricks you know.

Terrible puns aside, when you bring a new dog (young or old) into your home, it pays to spend some time working on leash training. After all, you want to be in complete control



FRANKIE LU / UNSPLASH

whether you're on a busy street or a quiet stretch of beach. Unfortunately, walking by your side is often the very last thing that your new friend wants to do.

That said, even the most stubborn of pooches can be trained by following these simple steps. And believe us, we've met some very stubborn puppies in our time!

But before we pick up that leash, let's talk about your new dog's collar.

Getting used to wearing a collar

Older adopted dogs will no doubt be used to the collar, but younger pups will most likely HATE it. And to be honest, we can understand why — who doesn't like their freedom?

So with this in mind, it's a good idea to introduce your puppy to a collar as soon as possible. Of course, you may want to let them get used to their new surroundings first, but once they are comfortable in their new home, get the collar out. When your puppy sees their new collar, it should be a happy and pleasant experience. So **don't put it on the first time.**



TAYLOR KOPEL / UNSPLASH

Show it to them, give them a hug, or perhaps even a treat. Let them have a sniff at it, but don't let them bite it or play with it. Then put it away.

You should repeat this process a few times over the next few days until you feel that you may be able to try putting it on. Just remember to be very gentle and make a fuss over your puppy so they understand that what's happening is a good thing.

When you manage to get your puppy's collar on, stay with them and keep them distracted from the collar. As soon as your puppy becomes agitated and tries to remove the collar or paw at it, **take it off immediately**.

Keep doing this every day and each time, leave the collar on for longer. Eventually, your puppy will get used to the collar and forget that you have put it on. It will take some time, but we all know that patience is key when it comes to any kind of dog training, right?

One last thing to note — as your puppy probably enjoys exploring, you might want to keep on them to make sure the collar doesn't snag on anything and cause them to choke.

Choose a command

Remember all those commands we talked about previously? Well, they'll come in handy now. But even if you haven't taught your dog any commands yet, it's time to choose one

word that you will use to stop your dog from pulling at the lead.

It really doesn't matter what word you choose, but you must remain consistent. So **choose a word and stick with it.**

Introducing the leash

You're going to do this much in the same way that you introduced the collar. That means showing your dog the leash and making it a pleasant experience.

Show them the leash, let them take a sniff, but never let them play with it.

Make a fuss over how great they are and pop the leash on for a few seconds. There's no need to pull or even walk anywhere. Just pop it on and then take it off.

Like the collar, you'll do this several times a day over the next few days, each time leaving the leash on for a little longer. Eventually, you should be able to put the leash on and walk across the room or even down the hallway without too much fuss.

The most important thing to remember here is that you don't pull the leash at all.

The idea is to get your new dog used to having the leash there and doing it in a safe environment where no one can get hurt.

Each time the leash goes taught, you should try to encourage your dog to come back closer to you. Whether that's by calling them and making a fuss or by giving a treat is entirely up to you.



TAMAS PAP / UNSPLASH

This will teach your dog that when the leash goes taught, they should always try to come back to you. In other words, the best place to be when on the leash is right by your side.

Sounds great and very simple, right? Well, it usually is when you're in the house, but outside is another matter. So take plenty of time practicing indoors, you'll thank us for it later.

Going outside for the first time

Okay, so hopefully, you have the basics down and your new dog or puppy doesn't pull and twist about the second you put the leash on. If they still do, then don't take them outside. Spend more time practicing indoors, they eventually get it.

When you decide to venture outside, it's very important that you do so in a controlled environment with limited distractions. That means an enclosed garden or a quiet park with little chance of meeting other people or dogs.

Once again, this is supposed to be a fun experience for your new dog so make a fuss and play with them a little. You want them to think that being on the leash is when the good times happen.

Younger puppies may feel anxious about being outside and may not want to move at all. If this happens, then ask someone to come with you and try to entice your puppy along with treats.

Now, you may be tempted to stick to a straight line route out into the garden and back again, but you have to realise that there are so many smells and other exciting things for a dog outdoors. So take a route that lets your dog see a few different things and have a little sniff around the garden. Let

them satisfy their curiosity just a little and they'll be much more manageable when you try your commands.

Once you feel that your dog is comfortable on the lead in this controlled environment, it's time to really see how much progress you've both made.

It's time to head for the dog park or a busy park with lots of pedestrian traffic.

Now, we're not going to lie — your dog will likely feel a little overwhelmed by all the sights, sounds, and smells so don't be too upset if things don't go too well. After all, this is their first time on the lead with so many distractions.

But trust us, while your patience will be tested, stick to the plan and your dog will slowly but surely settle down on the leash. We're not going to lie, it may take quite a few walks for you to notice a difference, but it will happen.

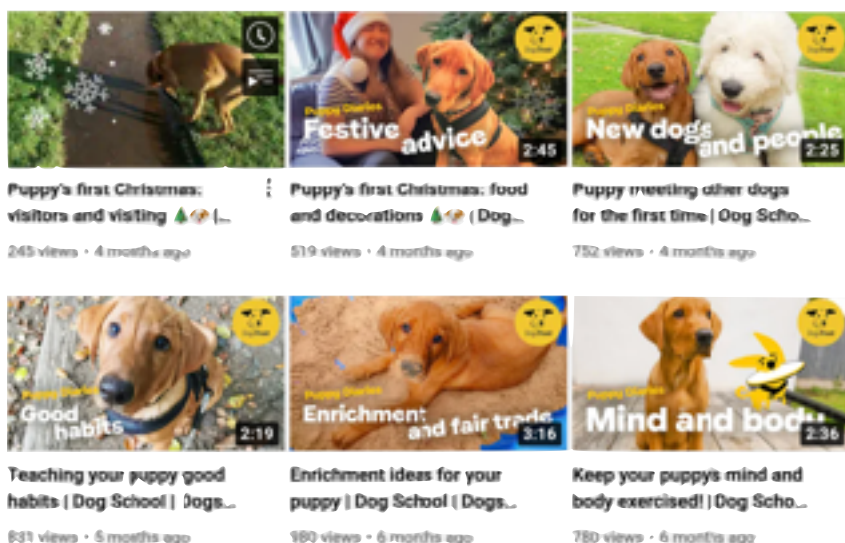
All you need is a little patience (and some treats).

Other Training Resources

There are hundreds of YouTube channels about training your dog, here are some that we enjoyed:

1) DogsTrust Dog School - has a series of short videos on general dog advice and tips for training your puppy

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DogsTrustDogSchool/videos>



2) Donna Hill

<https://www.youtube.com/user/supernaturalbc2009/videos>

3) Training Positive

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TrainingPositive/videos>

4) Wikipedia Dogs Portal

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Dogs>

BREEDING YOUR DOG

At some point in the future, you may decide that you'd like to breed your dog. If that's the case, then you'll need to take a little time to consider the effort and dedication required to breed and take care of a new litter of puppies.

You'll also need to be mindful of the legal requirements associated with breeding and whether or not it's the right decision for you, your family, and most importantly, your dog.

Is it legal to breed your dog?

If you're thinking about breeding your dog at all, then it's extremely important that you understand the current laws and regulations relating to the breeding of animals for your country or state of residence.

While most countries will allow an owner to breed their dog, there are specific limitations or requirements that may differ.

Ireland

The [Animal Health and Welfare Regulations of 2019](#) state that while anyone can breed a dog, puppy sales are limited to five per year. Anyone that sells more than five puppies a year **MUST** register as a breeder.

The UK (England, Scotland, Wales)

The [United Kingdom's breeding laws](#) for England, Scotland and Wales are a little different. They state that if you breed five litters a year and sell ANY puppies, you must register as a licenced dog breeder.

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland's Dog Breeding Regulations](#) state that anyone who has three breeding bitches or who intends to breed three or more litters a year must register as a dog breeding business.

The United States

In the USA, [dog breeding is regulated at Federal level](#) but states will also have their own regulations. The federal law requires that any person that sells puppies must be USDA-licenced if they have four or more breeding bitches.

However, we can't stress enough the importance of checking the laws and regulations at state level before breeding your dog.

Remember too that your country or state of residence may also have rules and regulations relating to the sale of pups. For example, in Ireland it is illegal to sell pups that are younger than eight weeks old. It is also the sole responsibility of the seller to ensure that all pups are microchipped before leaving their place of birth or by the time they reach 12 weeks of age.

So like we said earlier, check your local dog breeding legislation before making any decision on breeding your dog.



ELENA MOZHILO / UNSPLASH

Should you breed your dog?

This is a polarising question if ever there was one.

Many people feel that dog owners should refrain from breeding and leave it to the professionals who run dog breeding establishments. They maintain that there are already enough dogs and puppies looking for homes without adding to a saturated market.

However, there are also those who argue that there's nothing wrong with breeding your dog particularly if you're planning to sell to friends or family members or if you plan to keep the pups yourself.

One thing we are sure of though is that you should never breed your dog just to make some cash on the side. It's just not right.

Ultimately, it's your decision.

Becoming a registered breeder

In most countries, private individuals do not need to register before breeding up to a specific number of puppies/litters in a calendar year.

However, once those limits are reached, it's usually a legal requirement to register as a breeder.

In most cases, this is a simple and straightforward process that involves filling in a form and sending it off to your local authorities.

Ireland

Registration is a relatively simple process that requires breeders to fill out [a pet sales registration form](#).

United Kingdom

Prospective breeders need to contact their local council in order to register.

United States

While dog breeding is regulated at federal level, prospective breeders must contact their local animal control authorities in order to register.

A typical gestation period for a dog is about 63 days or 9 weeks, there is a lot of mind that goes into taking care of your pregnant puppy, before, during and after. Before you start you should make sure your dog is healthy.

Health & Genetics

Health checks and DNA screenings can help ensure your in top condition. These tests should be done for both the sire and the dam.

Health tests look at general health of your dog, e.g. eye test, heart function, hip scores and knee / patella scores. DNA tests look at genetic issues. Different breeds have different propensities to different genetic disorders.

Age for breeding

It's also recommend that dogs are fully mature before breeding, this generally occurs between 12-18 months in dogs.

Deciding to breed your dog or dogs as a business is a **huge undertaking** and one that you'll need to take your time to consider before making a final decision. It's also an undertaking that you will need further information on that we haven't outlined in this ebook.

If this is something that you are seriously interested in, then we'd advise you to contact your vet or local kennel club and ask for some advice.

CHECKLIST – BUYING A DOG

We have a checklist of things to remember when you go to purchase a dog. You are going to be excited about your new family member coming home, and you might forget some important things.

As always: Seeing the microchip certificate and checking the sellers details are important.

General Items	✓
Signed contract by both parties	
Seller & Purchaser IDs exchanged	
Purchaser proof of address shown	
Microchip certificate exchanged & signed over / transferred (IMPORTANT)	
Vet vaccination certificate and details of next required vaccination.	
Familiar puppy toy / blanket	
Details of current food / diet	
Other items	
For the new owners	

Food & water bowls	
Food & treats	
Collar	
Leash	
Dog tag with name & phone number	
Dog carrier / Dog crate	
Dog bed	
Dog toys	
Puppy pads	
Poop bags	

CHECKLIST – CONTRACT

A contract when buying a dog is always a good idea. Some breeders have them available, but you can also bring your own.

An example contract that you can use as a starting point here www.dogs.ie/contract

Contracts are designed to protect the buyer and the seller in the unlikely event when things go wrong. It's also a great way to capture everyone's details, so you have them for your records.

INFO – RESTRICTED BREEDS



Ireland

Certain breeds have additional legal requirements. The Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 (S.I. No. 442 of 1998), states for these certain breeds:

- All these dogs need to be muzzled in public.
- These dogs must be on a short, less than 2 meters (6.5 feet), lead. The leash must be 'sufficiently strong' or it needs to be a chain.
- Dogs must wear a collar at all times with the owners information on it. This information should include owners name & address.

- These dogs can only be lead by people over the age of 16

Restricted breed list

Restricted dog breeds in Ireland

- American Pit Bull Terrier
- English Bull Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Bull Mastiff
- Doberman Pinscher
- Rottweiler
- German Shepherd (Alsatian)
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Japanese Akita
- Japanese Tosa
- Ban dog – a so called ban-dog is a cross of any of the above breeds mentioned or any strain of the above dogs listed

If your dog's breed is on this list, or if they are a mix with one of these breeds mentioned, they are considered to be on the restricted list.

INFO – NEUTERING / SPAYING

There are a few different trains of thoughts about when to neuter your dog, and you are going to get competing information when you start to do your search. **Our recommendation is to have your pet neutered**, especially females, and especially before they have their first litter.

Neutering / Spaying- what's the difference ?

Ovariohysterectomy, or the typical “**spay**”: the ovaries, fallopian tubes and the uterus are removed from a female dog. This makes her unable to reproduce and eliminates her heat cycles and breeding instinct-related behaviour.

Orchiectomy, or the typical “**neuter**”: both testes are removed from a male dog. This makes him unable to reproduce and reduces or eliminates male breeding behaviours.

Some owners say things like “**she's such a lovely dog, we'd love to have a litter from her**” , “**he / she would be a great a mammy / daddy**”, generally these are not enough reasons to want to breed a dog. A lot of time and work goes into breeding. There are the expenses to think about, such as DNA / Health checks, regular checkups while the bitch is pregnant, delivery costs, microchipping and vaccinations, just to name a few.

When to neuter / spay

This is going to be one, where it's best to **ask your vet**. There is some thoughts about what's called "Prepubertal **gonadectomy**" or early stage neutering e.g. before the dog hits puberty, e.g before 6 months. And then there are the other trains of thoughts to allow your dog hit sexual maturity 12-18 months.



There have been competing studies about the benefits to the dog about when you do it, if at all. Being a responsible dog owner, you need to decide if, how and when you will do this, we do strongly encourage you to do get it done and to play your part in helping to avoid any unwanted pregnancies.

Guide to researching, buying & owning a

DOG



DOGS.IE

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INFO – MICROCHIPS

Microchips are the best way to make sure your dog is returned to you in the case it's lost or stolen. Microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and are inert. They are implanted between your dogs' shoulder blades.



When they are scanned by a RFID reader, it reads the 15 digits number from the chip. A lookup of this 15 digit will connect your details to the dog.

Microchips should only be implanted by trained professionals, and you should never implant your own puppy.

Microchip registration

The second part, and just as important, is the registering of the microchip on a database.

In Ireland all microchips have to be on one of IKC, ICC, Fido or Animark.

Microchip certificates

You will be issued a microchip certificate to prove you are the owner, and to enable you to transfer ownership in the case your dogs ownership changes. Here are some examples of certs.

DOG MICROCHIPPING CERTIFICATE

Based on accordance with Directive 609/11 with the microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015
The details on pet not on this certificate are done at the request owner of this dog as stored by Fido.

Issuing Authority:



Microchipping Number: 1220488012345

FIN: BTMS Use the PIN to verify the dog



This dog's ownership has been verified by the issuing authority and the data is correct. However, please note that the data is not on this certificate and is done at the request owner of this dog as stored by Fido.

Pet Details		Implanter Details	
Chipmark:	RadioTag	Date of Imposition:	17th 10/2015
Date of Birth:	1 Aug 1990	11C or Implanter:	(Pre-Regulations Implanter)
Breed:	Labrador	11C or Receiver:	fx2015ah
Owner:	GD098		
Registration no.:	...		
Gender:	Female		

Address where normally kept:

Any House
Any Street
Any Town
P00000

Owner Details:

Name: PETER JAMES
Address: Any House
Any Street
Any Town
P00000

If a microchip is implanted with an optional paper insert, it should be used to enter the microchip number and the owner's PIN (printed above).



ISSUANCE DATE: 17/10/2015

Fido.ie (left),
Animark (below)



Animark.ie
Microchips & Database

For microchipping,
Fido.ie has been used as the base

ANIMARK.ie
Microchips & Database

email: info@animark.ie
60 Foster Avenue, Ballynash, Co. Dublin,
E01 5LNP IRE

Agreement under EU and
Irish Regulations of Pet
Regulations 2015 in
Dept. of Agriculture, Food
and the Marine



CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

10. (1) A person shall not have a dog implanted with a microchip unless the person acquiring the service has produced for inspection an accepted form of identification and a valid ID, issued within the previous three months, giving the person's address.

MICROCHIP NUMBER: 123456789012345	PET NAME: Rover
DATE OF IMPOSITION: 08/06/2021	DATE OF BIRTH/AGE: 07/07/2021
BREED: Cocker	COLOUR: Black
ADDRESS OF PREMISES WHERE PET IS NORMALLY KEPT:	SEX: Female
My house, My Street, My County	
NAME OF OWNER: Paul Savage	EMAIL: info@dogs.ie
ADDRESS (if different from above):	
My house, My Street, My County	
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 087123567	
IDENTITY OF PERSON WHO MICROCHIPS AND REGISTERS THE PET:	
My VET	
UNIQUE IDENTIFYING NUMBER: XYZ	

IMPLANTER INFORMATION:

☒ Animark (Verified) Animark

OWNER AUTHORIZATION:

I, the owner of the above dog, agree to the microchipping of this dog and to the use of the microchip number for the purpose of any relevant law and to the registration of the dog in the database.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP APPLICATION FORM - FEE €10

7. (1) A person shall not sell or supply a dog unless the person acquiring the pet has produced for inspection an accepted form of

FURTHER READING

This guide is meant to be an introduction to owning a dog. As you can imagine dogs come in all shapes and sizes and they all have their own different their mannerisms and idiosyncrasies.

We recommend talking to your local vet about buying a dog, and / or the local kennel club. It also makes sense to buy a book or two about the breed you intend to buy, your local library may have some books you can borrow too. Books on specific breeds can give more in-depth view, history of the breed and further tips. We'd recommend investing in some of these as well.



LYDIA TORREY / UNSPLASH

ABOUT DOGS.IE 🐕

Founded in 2008, dogs.ie has helped thousands of dogs find new homes in Ireland. dogs.ie is a classified ads website that lists dogs for sale and dogs for stud in Ireland. Every month of 1/4 million people visit our site.

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