



How to choose the right dog breed for your family

A puppy's face staring up at you with a cute, questioning look is hard to resist. But asking yourself these 10 questions first can help you find the dog breed that is the best fit for your family and your lifestyle.

Download or print these questions and fill them out with your family or partner. Answering these questions together will allow you to honestly discuss how your preferences and lifestyle may impact your choice of dog.

1. HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE FOR TRAINING A NEW DOG?

TIP: The answer might suggest that a rescue dog (that's already well-trained) might suit best.

2. COULD I FEED, WALK AND PLAY WITH A DOG ON A REGULAR BASIS?

Be realistic here and think about all the other things that will be competing for your time and attention.

3. HOW MUCH OF MY BUDGET CAN I ALLOCATE TO DOG-RELATED EXPENSES?

With food, grooming, vet expenses and insurance, the average cost of owning a pet adds up to \$114 per month.¹



4. IS ANYONE IN THE FAMILY ALLERGIC TO DOGS?

Some breeds are more prone to causing allergic reactions than others. Poodles, Schnauzers and other hypoallergenic breeds should move to the top of your list if allergies are an issue.

5. WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

While your growing family may all pitch in to help now, what happens if you're left with an empty nest (and are keen to hit the road) in five or 10 years time? Will the dog breed you have in mind enjoy going along for the ride?

¹Our Real Love of Pets – Real Insurance



6. IS THIS THE DOG YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE ALWAYS DREAMED OF?

Are you dreaming of sitting in front of a warm fire with a loveable ball of fluff nearby for company? Or do you dream of running free with your dog every day? Find a breed that is happy to live your dreams with you and slot into family life.

7. DO I GET LOTS OF VISITORS AND OTHER PEOPLE CALLING BY?

If you like to welcome plenty of visitors or get regular deliveries, you won't want a dog breed that's known as a substitute for a security system.

8. IS THIS DOG'S HEALTH GOING TO BE A FUTURE PROBLEM?

Nobody wants to go through the emotional pain of buying a dog that might have minor or even significant health issues due to their particular breed. Instead, choose a breed that's known for its relatively healthy history.

9. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE REALITIES OF OWNING A DOG?

Who is going to walk the dog? Will you be the one stuck picking up dog poo? What happens to the dog when you go on holiday?

10. HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURS?

If you have neighbours that are close by, you might want to consider how they'll feel about your new addition. If you live in an apartment for example, you'll also need to consider whether the strata rules will allow for a dog.

While there are many popular dog breeds out there to choose from, asking these questions will help you find the one that'll be top dog in your house.

Real Pet Insurance can help with your pet insurance needs so you're covered in the event of a pet emergency. Visit realinsurance.com.au/pet-insurance to learn more.

