

Research before you buy....

The absolute most important thing you can do before deciding to purchase a dog is RESEARCH. There is a tremendous amount of information regarding breeds of dog, how to train a dog, how to care for a dog, proper nutrition for dogs, at what age should you get a puppy, and where to purchase your dog from on the internet as well as books at the public library.



There is no ONE way to train a dog, good trainers have a "tool box" of training methods.

There is no ONE good dog food, many commercially prepared dog foods have poor nutritional value, but there are many that are of exceptional quality.

There is no ONE good breed of dog, certain dogs fit into certain life styles better than others.

Trying to find a breeder is a personal decision. Many people believe that you must rescue a dog from a shelter if you really care about dogs. For someone that does not have specific requirements for a dog, this can be a good route to go. However, if you want certain breed characteristics (such as a dog for hunting), you need to find a dog from a breeder who has made an effort to preserve the breed's original purpose. You should also be sure that the breeder has done all available health testing on the parents of the dog.

Websites to begin your research:
www.akc.org
www.ukcdogs.com



DFOW is a volunteer organization.

Members include individual pet owners and breeders, dog clubs, veterinarians, and breed specific rescue volunteers.

DFOW works with elected officials to try to help with laws that make sense and do not cause hardship on responsible dog owners.



DFOW's membership base consists of the most knowledgeable people in Wisconsin in regards to dogs. We can provide elected officials with substantiated materials regarding the proper way to raise dogs; why breed specific legislation, mandatory spay/neuter, and pet limits do not work, and why intrusive laws can actually create public health risks by driving people underground to protect their pets.

The Dog Federation of Wisconsin is registered with the State of Wisconsin for lobbying efforts. Our lobbyist is Gary Goyke.

Please notify DFOW if your community is considering revising their existing animal code.

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Dog Federation of Wisconsin

Educational Series

"So you want to get a dog"

The decision to get a dog is not to be taken lightly.

Even though man's best friend is extremely adaptable to most situations, there are times, especially with busy families, that getting a dog may not be in the dog's best interest.

Please read this brochure before you make a decision to purchase a dog.

Most people love dogs

And would not consider their lives complete without one in their family.



Are you ready for a dog in your family?

The first step in deciding if you are ready for the addition of a dog in your family is to determine the amount of time that you can devote to it. In the beginning, it takes a tremendous amount of time to teach a dog proper behaviors so that they are a joy to live with (instead of a terror). Puppies especially need a lot of training—house breaking and manners to name just two.

Besides the initial cost of purchasing a dog, there are other recurring financial considerations that must be taken into account.

- Food & Treats.
- Collars and other training aids.
- Annual Veterinarian Checkups.
- Preventative medications for heartworm and flea control.
 - Training Classes.
 - Annual local licensing fee.
- Emergency Vet visits & medication.
- Boarding Fees (when you go on vacation and can't take the dog).
 - Grooming Fees.
- Possible rent or homeowners insurance increase.

Cost & time are not the only considerations to adding a dog to your family.

Do you own your home or do you rent? If you rent your home, you need written approval from the landlord before you purchase your dog.

Have you researched your local community animal code?

More and more communities in Wisconsin are enacting "Breed Specific Legislation" BSL for short. This means that certain breeds (or mixed breeds displaying the physical characteristics of a certain type of canine) of dog are automatically considered dangerous. Some communities make you carry additional home owners insurance and demand that you install certain types of fencing or even bar your windows if you own one of the BSL designated breed of dog.

Do you already own more than one animal?

Another problem that dog owners are facing in Wisconsin communities is the enactment of "pet limit laws". These laws dictate how many animals you may have on your property. These arbitrary limits are being introduced in many communities DESPITE EVIDENCE that limit laws do not work and drive normally law abiding individuals underground to protect their pets.

Have you researched the types of dogs that are available?

The most important decision that you will make if you decide to purchase a dog is what kind of breed you should get.

Certain breeds of dog display characteristics of what they were originally bred to do. Herding breeds were developed to herd animals. If you have small children, you may object to the dog herding them.



Many Terrier breeds were developed to go after vermin. Some of these dogs display an independent attitude which is fine if it fits into your lifestyle.



Sight hounds were developed to hunt by sight—they may want to chase any small animal that ventures into your yard.

Many of the sporting dog breeds though developed to hunt with man and normally make great family pets, may need a little too much exercise for a typical family.



Most toy breeds of dog were developed to be "lap dogs". In the 1600's when regular bathing was considered dangerous, English Toy Spaniels were bred to walk beneath the large gowns of royalty to keep the "bugs" off their owners! Almost 400 years later, these dogs still try to walk between their owners feet.