

Thinking of buying a dog or puppy?

A dog is a commitment for the next 10-15 years.

Did you know:

- The cost of care, vet bills and pet insurance could total more than £10,000 over a dog's life!
- A dog needs at least 1-2hrs of exercise and mental stimulation everyday. Do you have the time?
- Under the **Animal Welfare Act 2006** a pet owner has a legal duty to ensure the welfare of his animal(s). A pet's welfare needs include:
 - A proper diet
 - Somewhere suitable to live
 - Any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
 - Allowing animals to express normal behaviour
 - Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease
- If you live in Wales, please refer to the Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs by visiting:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/pets/codesofpractice/?lang=en>

If you decide to buy a dog or puppy we would always recommend the following:

- Please consider contacting your local animal rescue/rehoming centre. There are thousands of healthy, loving animals all over the UK who are waiting for a home.
- Consider purchasing from a Kennel Club Accredited Breeder. The Kennel Club can also direct you to breed rescue organisations.
- Research before you buy. Different breeds have different needs and temperaments. Be sure that the dog you are interested in is suitable for your lifestyle and environment.
- When buying a puppy, you should see the puppy with its mother and check that the facilities are clean and the litter appears alert and healthy. You should be able to handle the puppies freely under supervision. Make sure your puppy is old enough to leave its mother – at least 8 weeks old.
- If your chosen dog does not originate from the place of purchase, ask where it came from and try to obtain its previous history.
- Always ask for a copy of its medical records, including vaccination certificate and records of worming and flea treatment. For pedigree puppies, ensure that Kennel Club registration papers and the parents' hereditary disease screening certificates, where appropriate, are in order.

- If you require advice, your local veterinary practice should be able to advise you. Advice is also available from:

Blue Cross: 01993 822651

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: 020 7622 3626

Dogs Trust: 020 7837 0006

Kennel Club: 0870 6066750

The Mayhew Animal Home: 020 8968 2348

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999

Wood Green Animal Shelters: 08701 904090

