

DOGS' LIFE™

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YOUR DOG IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A PET™



Puppy Selection Basics

By Sarah Wilson
GreatPets.com

In many cases, the breeder will pick a puppy for you. This is usually fine. After all, she knows them best. Occasionally, though, the breeder may be making her choice based on which puppy is not a good show prospect rather than which one is a good companion prospect. How can you tell? First ask her why she picked this pup for you. If she talks about the temperament being perfect for your needs, that is good. If she talks about his tail set being a little low and his front being a bit east-west (don't worry what that means, for your purposes it means she isn't thinking about his temperament first) that is not a good sign. He may still be a terrific pup for you, but you'll need to do a little testing first.

Before we discuss resources for puppy testing, let's talk about the common ways people pick pups. Here are the top three pups people select: First: The adorable one with the cute face, markings, ears...? Second: That quiet one looking so sad in the corner. Third: The bold one who is growling while he is tugging on my shoelaces - he seems to have picked me!

All those puppies are appealing but each is the wrong choice. Do not select by color or markings. Sure, those are easy to get attached to, but they aren't the least bit relevant in your day-to-day life with your dog. If it comes down to two equally good pups, then by all means indulge your whimsy. But it is the last thing - not the first thing - you indulge.

How about that "sad" one in the corner? Another poor choice. A companion puppy destined for your home should

From the EDITOR:

"No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich."

- Louis Sabin

be happy, relaxed and confident. Withdrawn pups may have a hard time handling stress, be genetically suspicious of people or not be feeling well. Any one of those things is a bad sign. Skip that pup.

The bold one gnawing on your arm - isn't he perfect? Yes, for a competition home that wants an energetic and assertive dog. Raised improperly, this pup may mature into aggression. Leave him to the people who have the experience, time, energy and training skills to direct this puppy toward acceptable behavior.

Where is your pup?

He may not stick out because he is a middle of the road guy. He isn't climbing up your chest or hiding under the chair. He comes over happily when you clap your hands and praise him, waiting (reasonably) patiently or wandering off when you ignore him.

He is calm and relaxed. He is friendly but not cloying, playful but not wild. He may not win your heart the way his more demanding or neurotic siblings do, but he is easier to love in your home. We promise. You'll never be sorry you chose him.



Even if you think you want an active dog, choose a calm puppy. Even the calmest pup is active enough for 95% of American families. 🐾

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On Petfinder.com You Can:

- Search 85,613 adoptable pets. By breed, size, age and location
- Locate shelters and rescue groups currently caring for adoptable pets.
- Browse our resource library and learn more about how to care for your pet.
- Post classified ads for lost or found pets, pets wanted, and pets needing homes.
- Sign up to be a volunteer to help your local shelter or rescue group.

Over 80,000 homeless pets in shelters and rescue groups across the U.S. and Canada have their own home pages, thanks to one of the most unifying initiatives to ever hit animal welfare — Petfinder.com, the oldest and largest searchable directory of adoptable pets on the Web.



From the comfort of their own homes, potential adopters enter their search criteria, such as size, gender, breed and age, and get back a list of adoptable pets ranked in proximity to the searcher's zip code. Updated continuously by the animal welfare volunteers and staff themselves, the Web site gives potential adopters a photograph, a description of the animal and contact information all free of charge.



Over 4,000 shelters and rescue group members also have their own home pages on the site. Many of them attribute over 50% of their adoptions to Petfinder.com. Some have reported that their euthanasia rate dropped significantly within months of joining Petfinder.com. They also report that Petfinder.com adoptions are more successful, with fewer pets returned. This may be because the adopter's choice is more informed.




"Many people find visiting shelters traumatic, especially those who feel guilty when they can't take all the pets home," says Betsy Saul of Tucson, Arizona, who developed the site with her husband, Jared, in 1995 as a New Year's Resolution to help homeless pets. "Petfinder.com allows you to focus your search from home, which makes finding your new best friend much easier." The site went national in August 1998. Petfinder.com, a labor of love for the Sauls, was the first searchable directory for homeless pets.



During its third year, Petfinder.com drew interest from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), which was America's first animal welfare organization. "We recognized the success that Petfinder.com was having saving pets and knew we wanted to be a part of it," says Dr. Larry Hawk, President of the ASPCA.

The ASPCA is now actively involved in helping shelters join Petfinder.com, as well as helping educate shelter personnel once they become members.

In October, Petfinder.com was named one of the top 100 family sites by Family PC magazine.

"The site is a virtual shelter," says Jared Saul. "It is being able to sit down with your family and visit hundreds of shelters, get to know the pets, and not have to drive all around to do it. When someone finally does go to meet a pet because of Petfinder.com, they are more likely to be well suited for each other. What better use of the Web?" 



Invisible Fence BRAND TIPS

1. Frequently check the fit of your dog's Computer Collar.[®] You should be able to fit your finger between your dog's neck and one of the Computer Collar posts. The Computer Collar should be snug and as high up on your dog's neck as possible.
2. Remove your dog's Computer Collar regularly. Neck irritation can develop at any time, but is most likely to take place during warm weather, with thick-coated dogs, during shedding season and any time the Computer Collar is left on for long periods of time.

Lost Dog



Check List

By Peter Eeg, DVM

Many of us at one time or another have experienced that awful feeling in the pit of our stomach when our dog is lost. Here's a list of steps you should follow to help ensure the safe and prompt return of your animal companion.

- ✓ Check with family, friends and neighbors who may have seen your dog or know his last location.
- ✓ Look throughout the inside of your home as well as the outside for favorite hiding places such as under the beds and places where he may be trapped such as behind a closed door, in the garage or shed or even window well. Be sure to check your car too.
- ✓ Report your lost pet to your local shelter or animal control facility. Contact local veterinarian offices.
- ✓ Post flyers that include a photo of your pet, special markings, date and location last seen and several phone numbers where you can be reached. Offer a reward if possible.
- ✓ Place ads in your local papers. Many have lost-and-found sections. Scan those sections to see if anyone found your dog.
- ✓ If your dog packs permanent ID such as a tattoo or microchip and is registered with a nationwide animal recovery system, call for assistance.

It's estimated that over a million companion animals are lost or stolen in the US every year. In addition to the standard ID tag, there's a myriad of products on the market to help you and your friend reunite. Here are a few.

TATTOO – numbers are permanently tattooed on your dog, usually on the inside flap of his ear, thigh or belly.

Tattoo-A-Pet
1-800-TATTOOS
tattoo-a-pet.com

ID Pet
1-800-243-9147

National Dog Registry
800-637-3647

MICROCHIPS – inserted under the skin of your dog for a permanent ID. Veterinarians, animal shelters, etc may carry the scanners that are used to read the information on the microchip.

AVID
(American Veterinary
Identification Devices)
800-336-2843
avidid.com

HomeAgain®
800-252-7894
homeagainid.com

Anitech
905-477-6950
anitech.com

NOSE PRINT – painless, noninvasive and permanent method of recording your dog's identity. A dog's nose print is just like a fingerprint – it's unique to him.

Dognose ID, 1-866-DOGNOSE,
dognoseid.com

VOICE RECORDED ID TAG – Especially suited for people who travel with their pets, this product allows the owner to record a brief message for playback. The message can be easily re-recorded, allowing the owner to provide up to date contact information – even if it's just for the day.

Voicetag, 1-877-860-6227, voicetag.net



Most importantly, when you lose your pet, **DO NOT PANIC**. Use your head and rely on your friends, family, and neighbors for help and reassurance. The more proactive you are before your pet finds a way to lose you the less stress and mental anguish you will suffer when they are lost. My own cat was missing for over six months before our persistence in searching brought him back home safely. 🐾

WEIMARANER

(WHY-mah-rah-ner)



BREED GROUP: Sporting

NICKNAME: NA

ORIGIN: Because of their unique color Weimaraners are sometimes referred to as the "Grey Ghost". This breed is several centuries old. A Weimaraner appears in an early 1600's Van Dyck painting. The Weimaraner gets its name from Weimar, Germany, where in the early 19th century the breed was further developed by Grand Duke Karl August. They were originally used to hunt, track and bring down wolves, deer, wild cats, bear and wild boar. As bigger game became scarce the breed was adapted to hunt smaller game and birds. Having webbed feet he is also a good swimmer. The Weimaraner has also been used as rescue dogs, police dogs and service dogs for the disabled. This dog runs with great speed and has been know to exceed 30 mph (61 km/h). Along with the Whippet it is one of the fastest domesticated animals.

COLOR: All shades of gray

HEIGHT: 21 – 27 inches (53 – 69 cm)

WEIGHT: 45 – 85 pounds (20 – 39 kg)

TEMPERAMENT: Weimaraners make great family pets and are good guardians and watchdogs. They need attention and companionship and if left alone too much they can become destructive. They are usually good with children. Keep in mind they are full of energy and may play too rough for very young children. They can be very protective of their own territory and may be combative with other dogs. Because this breed has a strong prey instinct caution should be exercised with small non-canine animals.

TRAINING: This breed is intelligent and quick to learn but can be very dominant and willful. Beginning at an early age they should have firm, consistent training. They like variety and become bored with repetitive training.

EXERCISE: Since they are powerful working dogs with great stamina they need plenty of exercise and lots of room to run. It is best not to exercise them after meals.

GROOMING: Weimaraners have a smooth, shorthaired coat that requires little grooming. They are average shedders.

POSSIBLE HEALTH CONCERNS: In general they are a hardy breed but they are prone to bloat and hypertropic osteodystrophy (too rapid growth). Some may suffer from hip dysplasia, hemophilia and cancer.

Knowing that your dog is safe and not running loose in the neighborhood is the reassurance the Invisible Fence[®] gives to pet owners. Pets love the freedom it gives them to run and play.



Visit www.invisiblefence.com for information.

ADVANTAGE[®] PET CENSUS SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

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Portrait of a Pet Owner

- More than half of all households (56 percent) are pet owners.
- Dog owners (42 percent) outnumber cat owners (31 percent), and 17 percent of households own both a cat and a dog.
- The majority of the primary pet caregivers are women (58 percent), compared to men (42 percent).
- Women are more likely to own a cat (35 percent) than men (28 percent).
- The West Coast has gone to the dogs as 48 percent of people in the West own dogs, compared to 35 percent of people in the East.
- Nearly an equal amount of people on the East Coast (32 percent) and West Coast (35 percent) own cats.

Proud Pet Parents

- 73 percent of pet owners consider themselves, their spouse or a member of the household to be a "pet parent."
- Women are more likely to consider themselves their pet's parent (73 percent) compared to men (53 percent).



All in the Family

- Nine out of 10 pet owners (93 percent) consider their pet to be a member of the family.
- Households with children are more likely to own a cat or dog (64 percent) compared to households without children (51 percent).

Top Pet-Parent Concerns

- Taking care of their pet's overall health (95 percent).
- Taking care of their pet's comfort and happiness (95 percent).
- Taking their pet to the veterinarian for regular check ups and vaccinations (86 percent).
- Providing their pet with flea control (80 percent).
- Providing their pet with identification (74 percent).
- Dog owners are more concerned with flea control (85 percent) compared to cat owners (77 percent). 🐾

