

The Responsible Dog Owner

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What is a responsible dog owner?

A responsible dog owner is a person who before purchasing a puppy asks himself the following important questions:-

HAVE I GOT THE TIME?

Most dogs require 40 minutes a day walking, time spent playing, visits to the vets for check ups and grooming, whether short or long coated. Bedding must be washed regularly. Obedience and toilet training is a must.

CAN I AFFORD IT?

It is estimated that a medium sized dog will cost £3,000 per year to keep. This includes, food, Vets bills, inoculations, flea and worming preparations and poop-scoops. Neutering to prevent an unwanted litter should also be considered.

IS MY HOME SUITABLE?

The size of house is important when deciding the type of breed. Small breeds can live quite happily in a smaller property. Larger breeds such as Rottweilers, Dobermans and German Shepherds clearly will not.

A garden is essential for all types of dog. Freedom to play with its own toys prevents boredom and a safe corner with it's own bed and private space is also needed.

A dog will make a mess. The family must be willing to accept accidents and muddy paws and be willing to help teach the dog right from wrong in a controlled and kind manner.

AM I PREPARED TO 'CLEAN UP' AFTER IT?

The "Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 requires owners to clean up after their dog if it fouls on designated land, (this is all land that is open to the air and to which the public have access, excluding private land, land used for agriculture and land outside a 40mph speed limit). Being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having the means to clean up, is not an acceptable excuse".

It is therefore important to use a poop-scoop when out walking the dog.

New owners must be prepared to do this at all times. Many people are now training their dogs to 'go at home' which is acceptable and you should still carry poop scoops in case of emergency.

If you can answer YES to these four questions, then you should make a good owner and have a dog that is socially acceptable.



Should you require further information on this subject, please contact a local Veterinary Surgery.