



Finding Your Perfect Dog

There are many great places to adopt a dog from, ranging from reputable breeders to rescue groups to local shelters, that make finding a perfect dog quite easy. Finding *your* perfect dog, however, one that will be compatible with your family, home and lifestyle over the next 10 – 15 years of his or her life, will require significantly more consideration than a quick trip to the pound or a read through of the local classifieds.

Before beginning your search, decide what type of dog you are looking for. Make a list of all the qualities your perfect dog would have, from physical to behavioural. Include things like how big you want your full grown dog to be, what breed(s) including breed mixes you are willing to consider and how much grooming you are prepared to do or pay a groomer to do for you. Also include things like the energy level and level of sociability with other dogs, animals or people you'd like him to have and whether there are specific activities you'd like to be able to participate in with him. Consider how much time you have day to day to spend training, socializing and exercising your new dog, especially if it is a high energy breed or young puppy you want.

Once you have completed your list, discuss it with the breeders or rescue organizations which have dogs you are considering adopting from. Meet and spend time with as many dogs as you can, but be willing to wait as long as it takes if the one you are looking for doesn't show up right away.

In the end, taking the time to really narrow your search will help bring you closer to having the dog you always dreamed of. The next step now is just waiting until that perfect dog shows up!