

Are You Ready for a Puppy?

Important things to consider when getting a puppy.

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11. If I am not careful, I can expect my puppy to find and chew:

- a. Expensive things
- b. Brand-new things
- c. Sentimentally irreplaceable things
- d. Dangerous things

All of the above. Puppies have a special knack for getting themselves (and your possessions) into trouble. Give yourself a point no matter what you answered, and 2 points if you knew the answer was all of the above. 12. To guarantee getting a puppy of good quality, its best to:

- a. Buy a dog registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC)
- b. Check the online adoption listings
- c. Contact a rescue group
- d. Go to the animal shelter

This is a trick question. There are no guarantees with any living creature. Great dogs can come from shelters, responsible breeders and rescue groups. However, not every great dog is a great dog for you. Knowing your own needs and abilities will help you make a great decision about whether you should get a puppy, an older dog or perhaps a dog with special needs. Scoring

18 to 20: You rate PPPP (Perfect Prospective Puppy Parent). Time to start researching breeds, and contacting breeders, shelters and rescue organizations.

16 to 17: You rate PPP (Potential Puppy Parent). You're definitely on the right track, but you may need to reconsider your expectations or rearrange your schedule.

14 to 15: You rate PP (Possible Prospect). This is a time to re-think your ability to care for a new puppy, at least until you've finished reading this magazine, and learn more about what goes into puppy care.

Below 14: You rate P (Problematic). Right now, your life is a little too stressful, or you haven't really done enough reading about puppies to be able to realistically fit one into your life at this time.