

How to Select a Puppy That's Right for You

How to pick a puppy that is compatible with your home and family.

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With all this help, you're likely to find a new friend. You've done the research, did the tests and are ready to take the plunge. Buy the dog. Take it to a veterinarian for a once-over. Then take it home to name, nurture and love. You'll need to begin house training immediately, and you should consider starting light obedience training. Most of all, spend time enjoying your new pet. The time you invest now will reap you dividends as it ages.

Once you're at home sitting with a puppy in your lap, you'll wonder how you ever managed without such a loving friend. New dog owner Patty Goebner of Lower Gwynedd, Pa., said she made the right decision in buying Ranger, now an 8-month-old yellow Labrador Retriever.

She fell for his soulful eyes and goofy grin, but in reality she and husband Mike watched a multitude of videos, read books, saw a veterinarian, visited several breeders and looked at many pups.

"I just adore him. He's the greatest dog," Goebner said.

And, of course, he is.

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