

Dog Training by PJ

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Choosing the Best Dog for Your Family

So you've decided to adopt a dog for your household. A few quick tips before you bring home that new bundle of "fur."

1. Make sure you're ready to get a dog really
2. Decide what size; activity level best fits your personality
3. Decide what dog best fits your living arrangements
4. Consider size, length of hair, exercise requirements
5. Do you have children or planning children?
6. Do you have other animals, cat, dog, horse, hamster, etc?
7. Make sure you can afford it:
 - veterinarian care
 - training classes
 - Grooming & boarding
 - Expense of leashes, collars, beds, dog house, etc.
3. Prepare yourself for training and adjustment periods for the entire family
4. Be sure to train your new family member - it will help you teach and bond with your new dog

Now how to pick from all the great dogs at the shelter?

1. Carry a note pad and pen to write notes about the dog and kennel ID
2. Once you've decided on the size, hair length, and activity level requirements—look for dogs that match your needs
3. Ask the volunteers for information (often times they know "something about the dog")
4. Visit with your chosen dogs in the visiting areas - keep notes
5. Think of temperament:
 - Rowdy or laid back
 - Cower at your touch or jumps on you
 - Consider temperament for lifestyle too - is your house active or quite
6. Be sure you are ready to take home the dog