

## Considerations for Getting a New Dog

1. Most all puppies are cute, so don't get a new dog, just because it's a cute puppy
2. If you are considering a purebred dog, consider what this dog has been bred to do. Border collies are bred for herding and may be considered "high energy", chows are bred for guarding instincts and need careful attention from those who do not know the breed well.
3. Consider grooming requirements; dogs that don't shed (ie, poodles), require regular grooming.
4. Don't buy a puppy or dog because you feel sorry for it. "Rescuing" a puppy from a cage makes that cage available for another pup to be sold.
5. Be wary of the rescue dog that has been returned for placement multiple times. Although some of these dogs can make great pets, consider the prior history (doesn't like other dogs, doesn't like men, barks when left alone etc.)
6. Keep in mind that very few people that consider "just looking" at a dog, or litter, rarely come home without an animal. If there is any cause for concern or reason of doubt – STOP! Sleep on it, get another opinion, etc., especially if you suspect anything other than 100% healthy.
7. It is NOT normal for puppies or dogs to cough, sneeze, limp, have loose stools, skin lesions etc. If you are paying for a pet, it should be healthy. Do not consider a discounted price because of an animal's health.
8. The internet has created huge opportunities to buy/sell anything, including pets. There are both reputable and non-reputable breeders on the internet.
9. If you are buying from a breeder, you should be able to see one of the parents.
10. New Hampshire law requires that all dogs transferred to a new owner MUST be at least 8 weeks old and be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian that has examined the dog.

## Terminology

Purebred – of a specific or selected genetic background to perpetuate a breed standard

Breeders – generally limit their breeding/selling to a single breed of dog

- often show their animals competitively and aim to provide puppies that represent the breed standard
- can often be very particular about where their puppies are placed (they are apt to have more concern for a good home, rather than a quick buck)
- will often have done health screening for potential problems of their particular breed

Breed Rescues – generally comprised of volunteers committed to a specific breed, often placing animals that have become available due to a change in the owners circumstances

Non-Breed Rescues – generally comprised of a network of individuals that act much like a shelter, fostering animals from a variety of backgrounds, until a suitable home is identified

Pet shops – retail pet sales with a storefront location

- puppies are generally obtained from “wholesale breeders” or kennels (sometimes referred to as “puppy mills”)

Puppy Brokers – individuals who buy and sell puppies for profit.

- generally operate out of their home
- may have multiple breeds available
- often the parents of the puppies are not on the premises