

# THE SMART PUPPY AND DOG BUYER'S CHECKLIST

Use this handy checklist to help you through the process of finding, bringing home and caring for your new puppy or dog.

## *Being prepared*

- Have you thought about whether you would prefer a puppy or a dog and what is involved with each?
- Do you have time to walk, feed and provide company and attention to a puppy or a dog every day?
- Have you done the sums to work out whether you can afford to care for a dog for the next 15 years?
- Have you checked that you are allowed to have a pet in your home?

## *Type of dog*

- Have you decided what type of dog you want; e.g. small, large, active, quiet?
- Have you looked into the inherited diseases and exaggerated features some breeds can suffer from?
- Do you know about the problems some dogs suffer from as a result of inbreeding?

## *Where to get your dog*

- Have you regularly checked your local RSPCA and [www.adoptapet.com](http://www.adoptapet.com) over time to look for your new best friend?
- If you can't find the right puppy or dog at the RSPCA, have you checked other reputable animal welfare and rescue organisations over time?

*If you can't find the right dog to adopt, then you will need to find a good breeder.*

- Have you made sure you are not getting a puppy from a puppy farm?
- Will the breeder let you visit the place where the puppy was born and meet the mother dog?
- Are you happy with the living conditions they keep their animals in? Is the mother dog (and father dog, if he's around) happy and healthy?
- Have the puppies been health checked by a veterinarian, vaccinated, microchipped, and treated for worms and fleas? Is there documentation to confirm this?
- Is your puppy bred to be a healthy pet, with a suitable temperament and free from known inherited diseases?
- Does the breeder offer to provide on-going support and information after purchase and do they provide a guarantee?

## *Caring for your dog*

- Have you checked that your home is puppy/dog safe?
- Do you have all the equipment you will need like bedding, a lead and collar, food and water bowls?
- Have you found puppy school and dog training classes to go to in your area that use reward-based training?
- Have you found a vet clinic in your area?
- Do you know about desexing, registration and preventative health care?