## BUYING A PUPPY?

Bringing a four legged friend home is an exciting time and the start of a new adventure that lasts years beyond the adorable puppy stage. First things first, there are some very important things to consider and be prepared for before you purchase that furry friend.

Here are some things to ask yourself before buying a puppy.

Are you ready to commit to dog for at least 10-15 years? Sure the initial puppy stage is irresistibly adorable but understand it doesn't last forever.

Can I afford a pet? There are more expenses to follow for years to come after the initial purchases. Some costs that will arise over the lifespan of your dog are vaccinations, worming, health checks, vet bills, possible emergency vet bills, training, boarding, toys and bedding, just to name a few.

Do I have time to care for a pet? Caring for a pet takes time each and every day. Exercise, socialisation, grooming, feeding, reward-based training, play time and providing company and attention are all a must for pet ownership.

What breed is right for you? There are many different breeds of dogs, research the traits of the dog that you are interested in to see if their trait will suit you and your lifestyle. There are also helpful quizzes online that can match you up with options for the best breed for you and your lifestyle.

Will a pet fit into my lifestyle? Working hours, a busy social life and taking regular trips away are all factors that need to be carefully considered before purchasing a pet.

Do you live in a suitable environment for a pet? Your home and yard size are important things to consider. Is your yard secure? Also remember if you move you need to be able to take your furry friend with you.

If you think you are ready for a puppy then that's OK. It's better to know beforehand and what to prepare for and don't forget to consider what you need to prepare before bringing your puppy home.

