

How Much is that Doggie in the Window

Does a puppy in a stocking sound like a really cute fun idea? Pets of any kind take work but developing a well mannered, healthy dog takes extra effort. Keep in mind that pets will need your care and attention every day, possibly for years and some can live for decades.

Pets do not make a good impulse buy for anyone, especially children. ‘Oh we’re going to teach Jimmy responsibility’. With few exceptions the parents will do the work and the dog will get less and less attention from the child as he grows up and finds new interests.

It’s also not a good idea to surprise your sweetheart with a pet as a gift regardless of how fuzzy and desirable it seems at the time. You want to make sure they really want and are prepared to have a pet. Generally an adult will want to be a part of any pet selection process.

If you are sincerely interested in getting a dog, do your research and pay careful attention to breed selection to find one that suits your personal lifestyle. Consider adopting a pet from a rescue or shelter; mixed breed and purebred puppies and dogs are available. Alternately, buy a puppy from a qualified breeder. We do not recommend buying animals from pet stores or backyard breeders in any case.

If you need assistance find a professional trainer to educate you regarding breed characteristics and/or what is needed to start you off on the right foot if you are a first time owner.

Regardless of age or breed, plan on formal training for your dog to promote a happy and healthy relationship for life.

Happy Holidays!