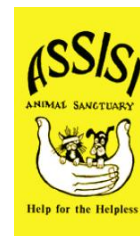


1



Guidance Sheet

Are you really ready for a Dog?

Dogs are wonderful animals. They make loyal and affectionate companions. In turn, however, you need to be able to give them the time and commitment they need. Dogs are highly social animals and are very dependent on their owners. They can be demanding pets to care for. You need to be very clear of the responsibility of what lies ahead and the financial, emotional and time commitments that are involved.

Please be realistic, and if you can't say yes to the following questions, be prepared to reconsider your decision or wait until the time and circumstances are better:

1 Will the dog fit in with your lifestyle?

If you have a busy active lifestyle you need to be prepared to make some sacrifices. If you aren't an active person and don't have the time to walk everyday at least twice then there simply isn't a dog to suit you. Don't get a dog in the hope that it will encourage you to get fit - you can't cancel this commitment in the same way that you can cancel a gym membership... All breeds require to be walked for both their mental and physical wellbeing at least twice a day for varied lengths of time and in different areas to provide them with the stimulation they need.

If you are not able to exercise the dog yourself during the day ask a friend, neighbour or family to help you out. But you need to be sure they can commit, and not just agree without realising how it will impact on their life for a long time to come.

2 Are you fully prepared for the amount of disruption and inconvenience?

You will need to be flexible and adaptable; every aspect of your life will now have to be fitted around caring for your dog. These are just some of the things that you may no longer be able to do:

Q: Can you go straight out for a meal after work with friends?

A: No. The dog needs to be walked and fed. Plus a dog should never be left for prolonged periods of time. Routine is everything to a dog.

Q: What about a weekend away? Who will look after the dog overnight?

A: You'll need to arrange someone to do this or you can't go.

Q: What about your fortnights summer holiday?

A: The cost of pet sitters and boarding kennels will add extra expense to your summer holidays

Q: What about a lie in on a Sunday morning?

A: No, sorry. The dog needs to be walked and fed at the usual time – your dog doesn't know or care that it's the weekend. Its business as usual for them (and therefore for you too...)

Q: Can you just kick off your shoes when you come home?

A: Not if you have a chewer....you won't be able to leave things lying around if you don't want them chewed.

3 Do you have the right qualities to be a good dog owner?

Love is obviously a prime requirement but it's not enough.

You also need to have patience, understanding, common sense, a responsible attitude and, very importantly, the ability to hold your temper when it's being pushed to the limit!

Dogs don't understand English...! – you will have to gain the ability to communicate with them in a way that they understand.

4 Can you afford the expense?

You will need to:

- Dog proof your home and garden
- Buy food, treats, a collar, lead and harness, brush and comb, a bed, poo bags...

And that's before he sets foot across your door. Then there's the cost of:

- Vaccinations and yearly boosters
- Flea/worming treatments x 4 annually
- Pet insurance
- Vet bills
- Training classes
- Kennel fees if you are going to board them when you are away

Do you have the finances to meet the initial and ongoing costs? If you are on a low budget, uncertain income, changing lifestyle or work hours then it might be best to wait until your life is more stable.

5. Is *everyone* in the family as keen to get the dog?

While you may be able to cope with the extra demands on your time you will need the co-operation and support of the rest of the family. A dog will soon sense if someone is not keen to have them around and it will unsettle him and may make his behaviour change.

A dog needs consistency and if everyone in the household is not applying the same rules and routine this can also unsettle a dog and make training impossible.

6. Do you have or are you thinking of having children?

You need to be sure that your children are old enough to understand the needs of a dog.

Puppies chew and mouth during teething and can, and will, use whatever is close at hand as a teething ring. We have had puppies returned to us for 'biting' which was actually completely normal teething behaviour. Five years old is a good age for a child to be introduced to caring for a puppy, (if the child themselves has been taught good manners).

[Please refer to our Guidance Sheet on Dogs and Children]

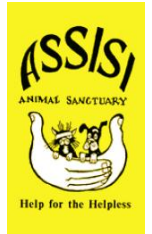
7. Do you have time to train a dog?

Dogs and pups are not self training! That well behaved Retriever up the street will have had months of training to get to that level of obedience. The Andrex puppy TV advert took days to capture not the 20 seconds that we see. The point is that you only get out of a dog what you put in!

This is by no means an exhaustive list, if you haven't answered yes to all of these questions then please be prepared to reconsider. This may not be the best time in your life to get a dog. Think of the dog and be prepared to put its needs before your own. How would you feel if you had to give the dog up 6 months or 2 years down the line?

Ask yourself: 'Are you getting the *right* dog for the *right* reasons at the *right* time in your life?'

2



Guidance Sheet

Separation Anxiety

This advice can be applied to both puppies and also to more anxious older dogs suffering from separation anxiety.

To a new puppy you are mummy. You are the person who looks after him, feeds him and fusses him. You are his protector and the figure of safety and security. So what happens when you have to leave the pup to go out?

The obvious response is that the pup is not going to like it one bit. Not only will they be scared and lonely but the attention will also be gone. Naturally he is going to protest about this in order to try to get you back. This protesting can take the form of barking, howling, crying, toileting indoors through stress, chewing or a combination of all of them.

Solution

Prevention is better than cure, so you need to try to get this right from day one. Get the dog used to being left for short periods of time from the start. Begin with leaving the dog for ten seconds but remaining in sight.

Then build this up to twenty, then thirty and so on. Once you get to a minute without a problem, begin again with the ten second increments but this time going out of sight.

The key here is NOT to make a massive fuss on your return to the dog as this will just add excitement and stress to the situation. Reward a quiet stay with a biscuit silently.

It is important to practice these short separations from the start to get the dog used to being alone. One of the worst mistakes people make is when they take two weeks off work to devote 24/7 care to their new dog, and then disappear back to work suddenly at the end of the period. The dog will struggle to cope with suddenly not having the constant care and attention and will panic at the isolation. It is also important during this training period **not** to constantly pet and fuss the dog as this could lead to an unhealthy co-dependent relationship. Ignoring some of his demands will also get him used to sometimes not getting constant attention from you, as will be the case when you have to leave him.

Once you've mastered leaving him while you're still in the house, the next stage is to start going out. Again start small. Go into the garden for one minute without him. Gradually increase the time you leave him and reward a quiet stay with a biscuit, but no loud praise or attention.

It is really important to never make a fuss when coming or going. The high stress of a big goodbye with lots of soothing will only lead to more anxiety, and an excited hello on your return will just leave him in a state of wild anticipation while you're gone. Over excitement on both sides will only add to the importance and relevance to you going out. Instead walk out and come back in like it's all no big deal.

Remember not to punish any accidents or damage that has happened in your absence. He won't have done this to spite you, and by the time you get home, the dog will have forgotten what he's done and will only associate the telling off with you coming home.

This will in turn lead to a fear of your return which will add to the stress and cause more, not less, chewing and toileting accidents.

A few tips that can help:

- Leave a radio or the television on when you leave to fill the silence and stop the dog listening all day for the sound of your car. It can also sound like company.
- Get the dog used to you putting on shoes and coats so that they do not become a trigger of anxiety to the dog pre-warning him of your impending absence.
- Redirect any chewing by leaving the dog with a suitable chew toy.
- If you work full time hire a pet sitter or walker to take the dog out during the day and to offer some company and stimulation. 8 hours a day on their own is simply too long for most dogs.
- Always walk the dog before you leave to burn off any excess energy and tire him out so hopefully he'll just want to fall asleep.

In the case of adult dogs barking or crying in your absence it could be the case that the dog has become too attached and too dependent on you and, while it is natural for owners to love to be loved by their dogs, it is neither healthy nor good for the dog to be so stressed when their owners are not around. As with puppies it is important during this training period to 'cool off' the relationship somewhat and not offer constant fuss and attention as this will only encourage and reinforce an unhealthy co-dependent relationship.

Remember that dealing with separation anxiety takes time so have patience and be willing and committed to putting in the effort for the health and well-being of your dog.

Please remember that no dog should be left alone for prolonged periods of time. Dogs are highly social animals. If you work full time and cannot make arrangements for someone to walk the dog and give it some company during the day then please think carefully before you commit to getting a dog and be prepared to put the dog's welfare before your desire to have a dog.

Guidance Sheet

Nipping and Biting

Biting and nipping is an instinctive and natural way for a puppy to interact with and communicate with his siblings and his mother.

Biting signifies a number of things, from exerting dominance on more submissive littermates, to hunger, excitement, play or fear. Some puppies simply use their teeth and mouth as a way of exploring what something is. Puppies from the herding group will nip instinctively as part of their breed. (something to bear in mind when considering that cute collie pup...!)

The key thing to remember is never allow your pup to get into the habit of doing something you won't want him to do as an older dog. Start as you mean to go on. Equally important though is to never respond to your pup biting with anger or aggression. This will only reinforce it and the dog will merely see your actions as a challenge. All corrections should be done firmly but calmly. Losing your temper teaches the dog nothing – apart from that you are out of control... This goes completely against the aim of you being seen as the person in control, a firm and calm owner.

Solution

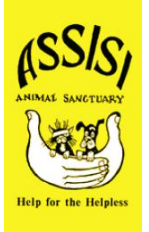
There are a number of ways of correcting this behaviour.

The first is to simply disagree when the pup bites. Issue a firm 'no' – not in an angry tone but instead in a calm, firm one. The second way is to yell loudly 'ouch!' when the puppy bites. He will not want to hurt you and you will often see them frantically licking you after 'to make it better'.

The point has to be that Nipping = End of playtime. If the pup nips, 'yelp' (as his littermate would) and stop play immediately. The pup will soon learn that nipping you too hard stops the fun. Puppies are social animals and want to be part of the group. After you have yelped stop play for a few moments, and once nipping has stopped you can go back to play, if he continues to bite, repeat until he understands that biting means playtime is over.

Biting is a natural instinct, so instead of trying to stop it completely, it should instead be redirected. Make sure puppies have plenty of chews and toys to get their teeth into, especially when they're teething.

4



Guidance Sheet

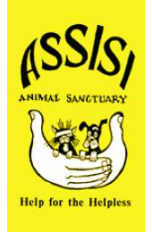
Chewing

As with biting, chewing cannot, and should not, be stopped completely as it is a natural instinct for dogs, and a necessary part of teething for pups. Therefore it is important to provide plenty of things the dog is allowed to chew, chew toys, rawhide etc.

Addressing chewing takes time and effort. The pup won't learn by himself what he's not allowed to chew. Provide chewing objects for your pup and praise him when he chews these. If you see him about to chew something else, give a calm 'no' and redirect him to his own chews. If you need to take the pup away from chewing something always give him an alternative and praise him when he chews on his own toys. There are specially designed puppy teething toys that can be filled with treats to keep the pup occupied and get him to associate his toys with rewards. Common sense must also come into play here. If you don't want the pup to chew something move it away. Make sure you hide away any electrical wires or cables out of harm's way.

Always remember that the pup is not chewing your things to be spiteful! Telling him off is not the answer. He simply won't know what he's being told off for unless you literally catch him in the act. Any random reprimands will just lead to stress which equals more chewing. If the pup has something that you don't want him to have, tell him 'no' and swap it with one of his own toys instead. Always offer an alternative for him.

5



Guidance Sheet

Excessive Barking or Whining

Raising the alarm is often something associated with certain breed traits. They are simply telling us that a potential threat is approaching, whilst warning that threat to stay away.

The problem comes when the dog will not stop guarding and barking. If a dog won't stop even when we are present this can suggest that the dog is taking it upon himself to decide who may come and go. Either way, or for whatever reason, excessive barking is a nuisance.

[In the case of dogs barking or crying in your absence work needs to be done to address separation anxiety, which is a totally separate issue, and one that is addressed on a separate guidance sheet].

If a dog barks excitedly and continually it could be a sign that they are anticipating something and are therefore under stimulated. This will often be the case with working and herding breeds with high intelligence, such as Border Collies.

These breeds require much more stimulation both mental and physical than most other breeds (something to be taken into account when choosing a dog)

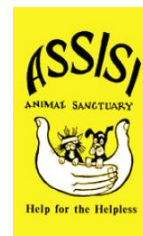
Solutions

You need to offer more exercise and mental challenge. Try enrolling in agility classes or leaving more challenging toys for the dog to work on; a Kong filled with something tasty for the dog to have to work at to get to will keep his brain engaged. Also, try varying your routine by walking somewhere new instead of always taking the same route when out for walks.

Attention seeking barking or whining needs to be addressed by not giving into the demands. If you keep going to the dog, even just to tell him off, you are rewarding the calls for attention. Ignoring the barking for long enough will show the dog that he is wasting his time and energy and actually, attention comes *only* when he is quiet. Make sure that you are not unwittingly rewarding or encouraging barking. You need to re-educate the dog that 'Barking = nothing' and that 'Silence = a treat, reward or attention'.

Make sure that you have the right dog for your lifestyle. If you have to leave the dog on its own for any length of time make sure you have a dog that can adapt to this otherwise you are simply asking for problems.

6



Guidance Sheet

Car Trouble...

Always keep the dog secured when in the car, use a car harness which clips into seat belts or make sure if they are in the boot that they are either in a dog crate or behind a dog guard. This is for both their and your safety!

The key to dealing with an over-excited traveller is to never reward that state of mind. Even if it takes an hour the first time, never let the dog into the car until he's in a calm state of mind (this patience at the start will reap long-term rewards and it is well worth putting in the time at the start)

Never soothe whining as this simply rewards the whining with attention which also tells the dog that he is right to whine and that there is actually something to fear. Disagree with whining with a firm 'no' as soon as it begins.

Solutions

It is a good idea to practice at home when you don't have to be somewhere. If he gets into the car calmly but starts getting over excited at the sound of the door closing, or the engine starting, do not progress with the journey until he's calm again.

Practice at home by simply getting in and out of the car calmly, closing the doors, closing the boot and starting the engine. Don't always end with a journey, as this leads to expectancy, which can be the cause of many issues. If the dog knows that 'car = going to the park every time he gets in' he'll always be in a heightened state.

Sometimes just get in, and then get out again. Other times, when he's calm, progress to a short journey down the road and back.

Upon reaching your destination the same rules apply. The dog cannot get out until he is calm. Be in control at all times and never reward excitement.

If a dog is frightened and won't even get in the car the key is to get him used to it. Make the car a good thing by rewarding him any time he's inside it with a treat, but only when he has calmed down. Be careful not to reward the fear. Never push or bully the dog in, as this will just make things worse and intensify the negative feeling.

Work on small steps such as being near the car, getting in and out, staying calm when the engine starts and not whining when the car moves off. Remember never to soothe as this only adds to the stress. The aim is to work on the dog's confidence with the car until he's happy to jump in and no longer sees the car as a threat.

Much of the above also applies to those dogs that see the car as the end of fun time and refuse to get in. To them the car represents the end of time in the park or a fun activity when they get in to go home. The dog should never be forced, dragged or pushed into the car. Instead produce a favourite treat or toy at this time to get the dog into the car, the dog will then come to view the car as a positive thing at the end of its walk when it then gets its chew toy with treats inside or its favourite toy once inside the car.

This may seem like hard work but let's face it having a dog requires commitment. And this patience will pay off and a bit of hard work at the start will pay dividends long term.

Guidance Sheet

Jumping Up

As with most issues the best way to avoid a dog jumping up is not to allow it from the start. Regardless of how cute the little puppy looks when he dances on his back legs trying to reach you, what you are telling him is “this is ok, regardless of how big you get...”

The problem is that usually people respond to jumping up by offering affection, which rewards it. The act needs to be responded to right from the start by ignoring it, never giving the dog what he wants when he does it, and if necessary, disagreeing with it.

Dogs that jump up are not only annoying, but they can be dangerous. Imagine your full size German Shepherd jumping up to say hi to your 4ft 7 inch Granny.... Also allowing puppies to jump up can put pressure on and damage their developing joints.

Solution

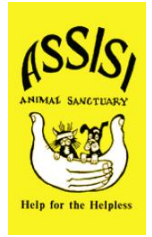
As the dog goes to jump, turn your body away from them. Do not make eye contact or speak to the dog. When the dog's four paws are back on the floor and he is calm, then reward this state with the attention he desires. It won't take long for him to realise that he gets what he's looking for by being calm with all four paws on the floor.

Remember to keep the energy levels calm and don't make the attention too frantic when rewarding him or he's likely to start leaping again. If this does happen, immediately stop, stand up and turn away from him again.

The connection will soon be made that any off the ground activity will result in him being blanked. This must be practised by ALL visitors to your home, or the dog will get mixed messages and not know when it is ok to do it.

If your dog is jumping up at strangers keep your dog on a lead and practice the 'leave' or 'stay down' command. If he makes an attempt to jump when approaching a passerby, issue a firm but calm 'leave' and if he does, reward him with a treat. Keep practising the command and reward his progress. He will soon learn that 'Leave = Reward'. 'Leave' is a good command to teach as it can be used to stop dogs pulling towards other dogs or even picking up and eating things off the ground during walks.

8



Guidance Sheet

Begging

A dog that is rewarded once will develop a habit almost instantly where food rewards are concerned. They will not remember the nine times out of ten where it did not pay off, only the one time in ten that it did!

Solution

Use the sit and stay commands to keep him away from the table and on his own bed. When you've all finished eating he can be rewarded for staying away. If the dog is aggressive or whines when food is around, place him in another room or outside while you eat. Don't put him anywhere he can still see you eating. Don't allow him in until the table is cleared. (Please refer to the food aggression guidance sheet if your dog is food aggressive). You can then start to work with him to get him to be able to be in the same room as you while you eat without whining. Again the key is to disagree with the whining. Whining means he is removed from the room, calmly and firmly, never in anger, and staying quiet means he is rewarded (NEVER reward with food from your table or you are never going to solve the problem and will in fact make it worse)

A useful command to learn and practice is a command such as 'away' and use a hand gesture to signal that he needs to move back. Reward him when he moves away. Once he is familiar with this command, introduce it at meal times if he gets too close.

Guidance Sheet

Food Aggression

The goal here is to teach the dog that, rather than be you being perceived as a threat to his valuable food supply, instead good things happen when you come near the bowl.

The safe, easy, tried and tested approach to dealing with food aggression is as follows:

You will need two dog bowls, not just one.

First Stage of Process:

- Place the dog's bowl on a counter out of his reach.
- Ask the dog to sit. Wait until the dog is looking at you, not the bowl.
- Put the *empty* bowl down on the floor. The dog will go to the bowl and look to you wondering where the food is.
- Immediately drop a piece of food into the empty bowl. Do not stare at, bend over or loom over the dog when you are doing this. Give him some space.
- Wait until he eats that piece of food before dropping another into the bowl.
- Repeat this process until he has eaten his full meal.
- Wait for the dog to finish and move away from the bowl of his own accord. When he does, offer him a treat.
- Only when the dog is a safe distance away from his empty bowl should you move to pick it up. The dog will be happily eating his treat at this stage.
- In this way by offering something good in return for giving up his empty bowl to you the dog associates this action with good things.
- Gradually over a number of feeding sessions move your hand slightly closer to the bowl before dropping the food into it. Always be aware of your dog's reaction! Any sign of aggression; such as 'growling' or 'freezing', move back to the distance you were before, and don't move to decrease this distance again until you are completely sure that the dog is not reacting negatively to you being at your current distance from his bowl.
- You have to be consistent with this and apply it to every meal time if the dog is to learn

Once you are dropping food into the bowl from close to it you can move onto the next stage.

Second Stage

- Start alternately between dropping food in and hand feeding him.
- Next increase the amount of food you place in the bowl, so that he still has some food to eat as your hand places more in the bowl. Every now and again, put something really tasty into the bowl, like chicken or beef.
- In this way, your hand coming to the bowl is soon seen as a very good thing, and not a bad thing. This process may take several feeding times.
- Always move at your dog's pace! Never move on from one stage until the dog is calm and relaxed with what you are doing. Trying to rush this process will only make the problem worse!

Third Stage

- Partially fill one bowl. Place the bowl on the floor.
- As he starts to eat, place a second bowl with something even better than his food in it about ten feet away (something like beef, sausage or chicken are all good for this).
- As he starts to eat from the second bowl, go back to the first bowl and add special treats.
- Continue switching bowls until he has finished his meal, as you move to lift his bowls give him a treat and praise and then take the bowls away.

Over a few weeks, you can gradually move the two bowls closer together as you feed him. You need to watch the dog's reactions carefully to determine how quickly you can merge the two bowls together. This whole approach builds positive associations and increases trust with you and other people at feeding time, making feeding time fun and exciting not tense and upsetting. He is learning that by giving up a resource he is rewarded with something even better.

Food is the most valuable resource there is to a dog which is why many dogs will be protective, possessive and even aggressive if they perceive a threat to it. The important thing to remember is that food aggression issues can be corrected with patience and a consistent approach. The dog will come to understand that you are not a threat to its food but a provider of its food.

Children should be taught never to try to take food away from a dog. In a dog's mind once it has a piece of food it now owns it, if a child drops a piece of food and the dog gets it it should be allowed to keep it; unless it is dangerous to the dog – for example chocolate is poisonous to a dog.

Keep chocolate, raisins, grapes and macadamia nuts out of a dog's reach – they are all poisonous to a dog!

Guidance Sheet

Dog to Dog Aggression

If your dog is showing aggression towards other dogs it is important that you are always in control of the situation. If your dog is known to be aggressive towards other dogs then do not let him run free off the lead anywhere where he is likely to encounter another dog.

Safety is paramount – for you, your dog and other members of the public. If your dog attacks another dog and the other dog's owner tries to intervene to save their dog the likelihood is that they will get injured in the process and you are the one who will be liable for this. Consider using a muzzle on your dog if he is dog aggressive when he is out on a walk.

There can be many reasons why a dog is aggressive to another dog and finding the dog's trigger will help you understand, manage and retrain the dog.

Some of the main reasons for dog to dog aggression are:

- Fear
- Frustration
- Stress
- Territorial - over their environment or their owner
- Competition between same sex dogs
- A previous incident or attack by another dog

Prior to retraining a bond between owner and dog is an essential and basic control exercise need to be in place.

Time spent on this will be beneficial in allowing a dog to understand what is required of it, as the owner, whilst retraining, will need to ask the dog to obey certain commands.

Teach basic commands such as 'Leave' and 'Sit' and use these in the dog's everyday life. Check that the dog's basic welfare needs are being met – that daily exercise levels are good, that your dog is on the correct diet and that you are feeding him a good quality food and that his bed is in a place where he can get peace and quiet to rest and sleep.

Re-training

The owner must remain calm at all times and not give the dog any verbal or body language that there is a problem.

- Take the dog out as normal for its walk. Give the dog a treat whenever another dog is seen in the distance. In this way the dog will gradually come to associate the sight of another dog with a positive reward, a treat.

- A dog has its own circle of comfort and space and the distance at which the dog can tolerate another dog will soon become clear. This is the distance at which you start the training, with the objective of decreasing the distance over time. Always use treats to confirm even the smallest good behaviours.
- Do not ask the dog to lie down as this is too vulnerable a position. Ask for a 'Sit' only if the dog is comfortable and relaxed enough to do this. Redirect the dog's attention onto the handler using treats.
- When appropriate, i.e., when the dog is not reacting, walk behind a 'safe' dog. (A safe dog is one who is completely relaxed around other dogs and will not react aggressively or fearfully).
- Always take this at your own dogs pace, do not try to rush this process as this will only make the problem worse.
- Then progress to walking in front of the safe dog.
- Next stage is to walk alongside the other dog – with the handlers in between the two dogs.
- The two dogs should be on leads at all times.
- Only if everything is going well at this stage should you progress onto walking directly beside a safe dog, but keep moving at all times. A stationary aggressive dog can often react if it feels vulnerable and unable to run away because it is on a lead.
- If the dog reacts at any time during the retraining then you have progressed too close and too fast. Take it back a few stages.
- If the dog at any time looks away, looks at the handler, goes behind the handler or gives any signal that it is avoiding the other dog and does not want to react to it praise immediately – this is your dog actively avoiding any confrontation and is to be praised for this.
- Introduce the command 'Leave' as appropriate during training.
- The Final Stage is to allow safe dogs off the lead while your dog remains walking on the lead next to its handler. This allows the dog to get used to other dogs moving around it without posing any threat to it. Remember to always praise your dog for not reacting adversely to this. The key is to praise the behaviour you want to encourage.
- Use whatever is of highest value to the dog; praise from you, treats, a ball etc. If at any time the dog starts to react to the other dogs the use of the command 'Leave' in a firm calm tone of voice should be enough to bring his attention back onto you.
- **Never lose your temper with your dog** – this teaches him nothing, apart from the fact that his owner (who should be in control of every situation) has lost control. This will only serve to make the dog unsure and fearful and could easily trigger aggression as a result.

This training needs to be practised regularly if you are to succeed.

Results can vary enormously depending on the individual dog, from total success with the previously aggressive dog off the lead around other dogs, to only allowing the dog off the lead whilst wearing a muzzle.

Retraining dog to dog aggression can take a long time, from 3-6 months in some cases. Patience and consistency is essential.

Guidance Sheet

Crate/Cage Training

An indoor kennel should ideally only be used as a safe place where the adult dog can go, somewhere that is their own space, where they will not be disturbed and can rest – with the door **permanently open**

We do not recommend ever shutting a puppy or dog in an indoor kennel for long periods of time.

What is an indoor kennel?

There are several different types of indoor kennel, the most common being one that looks like a cage with one or two doors on the side and/or end. This type is made of wire mesh and folds down for easy storage when not in use. There are also fabric versions available.

- When you choose your dog's kennel it needs to be big enough for them to be able to comfortably sit in, stand up in and turn around in. They must also be able to lie flat on their side and stretch their legs out without touching the sides. Remember to allow room for how much your puppy may grow.

How can I make it somewhere that my dog will want to go?

The kennel should be a place where your dog can feel happy and relaxed; somewhere they will want to go. You need to take the time to set it up so that it will be cosy and comfortable for them.

- Start by putting the kennel in a part of the home where the dog can see you and still be in your company. You can move it into their bed area for them to sleep in later if you need to.
- To help keep out draughts try to place it in a corner and cover the back of it and maybe the sides of it with blankets as well to make it more den like.
- Put comfortable bedding inside.
- The dog will need to have access to water, so make sure that its water bowl is nearby.

It is important that you get the dog used to their kennel very gradually - never force the dog to go into it. If you just shove them in and close the door you'll frighten them and they won't want to go into it again.

- Put some treats in the kennel to tempt the dog inside.
- If your dog has bedding that they have been using up until now put that in their kennel along with one of their favourite toys. Give them lots of praise and a treat whenever you see them going into the kennel.
- Only when they are completely relaxed inside the kennel close the door for a few moments and then open it again. This should only be for seconds to start with. Build this up very gradually. This should eventually allow you to shut the dog in if you need to **for very short periods of time**.

Puppies tend to get used to an indoor kennel very quickly, especially if you use it when they need to eat or sleep. It can be particularly useful at night time, especially if you plan to have the puppy in the bedroom with you.

Older dogs will usually take longer to get used to an indoor kennel and will need more patience to train them to accept it but many get used to it with time (and lots of treats!).

When should we use the indoor kennel?

As well as being a safe and secure place for your dog to 'chill out' in, it can also help you to keep your dog safe for short periods of time if needed. For example:

- If you have a new puppy and an older dog in your home, you can put the puppy in the indoor kennel to sleep or when the older dog is being fed to give the older dog some peace and quiet away from the new arrival.
- Puppies or dogs should never be left alone with young children. If you can't be there to supervise them then the dog should be put out of harm's way in his kennel.
- Puppies need a lot of rest – but often don't know it. For over excited puppies that need some 'time-out' the indoor kennel can be a quiet, restful place without distractions for the pup to relax in.
- If you are busy around the house, cooking for example, then your puppy can be kept safely out of harm's way in their kennel.
- You can also use the indoor kennel when the dog is travelling in your car as a safe resting place.

You must **NEVER** put your dog into the indoor kennel to punish or to keep him away from the rest of the family.

You should **NEVER** keep your dog in the indoor kennel all day. Although some dogs in this situation may appear to accept the kennel; in reality they are simply 'shutting down' – something that is highly detrimental to their welfare. Use of indoor kennels in this way is a serious welfare issue.

Please use any indoor kennel responsibly. Dogs are highly social animals and do not do well when kept alone or confined.

Remember that the indoor kennel must be a place where your dog feels happy, safe, secure and comfortable at all times. The door should be left open so that your dog can choose when he uses it.

Guidance Sheet

House Training

Start as you mean to go on - take your new puppy into the garden immediately on arrival home, stay with them until they relieve themselves then give lots of praise.

Never scold your puppy for peeing in the wrong place. The puppy has to go to the toilet and it is up to you to show it where to go. House training is not a problem as long as you take the time to be there for your pup or dog. Puppies learn by association, this means that if you are not around to show them the right place to go they will become house trained to another area, which could be any area of your floor...

You need to understand that a very young puppy is too small to physically control their bladder or bowels. Just as with human babies puppies have to practice strengthening their muscles as they grow. If you get angry or try to hurry the process you will only create more problems in the long run. If your puppy or dog becomes frightened of your reaction when you return from leaving them too long they will quickly learn to hide when they need to toilet and ultimately your relationship with the dog will suffer.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your pup is taken to the chosen toilet area which is usually in the garden. If the puppy wets in the house you have to understand that they did not do it on purpose – it is up to you to take your pup out regularly enough and be able to read the signs that they need to go out – it is not the pup's fault for not being able to hold on.

Remember at that age a puppy simply does not have enough control over their bladder and bowels to be able to hold on.

Your puppy will need to be taken outside:

- First thing in the morning
- At least once every hour
- After every meal
- After having a drink of water
- After waking up from a sleep
- After playing
- After any excitement.

Recognising the signs that your pup want to 'go' will soon become familiar to you, sniffing the ground while slowly circling is the most obvious.

Encouraging your pup by rewarding them when they do go will help them to grow in confidence and speed things up. Always go outside with them in the early stages and give them lots of praise. If your pup is not interested in going to the toilet at that time, take them back in after a few minutes and try again later.

As you wait start to introduce your 'toilet word', whatever that may be 'Go Pee' or 'Be Quick' all serve the same purpose to encourage the pup. When your pup starts to go in front of you, again use your 'toilet word' so that he comes to associate it with the act of peeing or pooing. And remember to give them lots of praise.

It is a good idea to put the puppy's bed in an easy cleaned area, such as the kitchen until they are fully house trained. The pup will not be able to hold on throughout the night so they will need room to move away from their bed to relieve themselves. This will come to a natural end as their muscles strengthen and mature - remember they will not want to soil their bedroom area.

There will always be accidents but using these methods should ensure that your puppy/dog will be housetrained in a couple of weeks.

Guidance Sheet

Children and Dogs

Dogs can make a wonderful addition to a family, but it is important to find the right dog, for the right home, at the right time in that family's lives.

Bringing any animal into your family is a massive commitment of your time, energy and money

If there are children in the home (or if there may be in the near future) there are additional factors to take into consideration.

What Breed of Dog?

Different breeds of dogs have different breed traits. The amounts of exercise and mental stimulation that dogs require can vary vastly between breeds. Taking the time to research the breed you are thinking of will make sure that you get the right dog for you and your family.

Take into account the Dogs Temperament

At Assisi Animal Sanctuary we temperament assess all of our animals to assess whether they are going to suit a family with children and we have a recommended age group set against each of our animals. Please ask a member of our dog staff for further temperament information on any dog you are interested in.

Thinking of a Puppy?

Please do not rush into getting a puppy. It is all too easy to fall in love with that cute puppy without considering the time and commitment that will be required in looking after a puppy.

You have to be sure that you can offer that puppy a home for the rest of its life.

Please ask yourself "Am I sure that I can commit to looking after this dog for the rest of its life" (the average dog will live to 12 years + and smaller breeds often live much longer than this)

Puppies are **not** self training....

Puppies nip and chew on things as part of their teething and puppy teeth are very sharp!

Teething is a necessary and completely natural instinct for the puppy. It can be 'redirected' off you and your furniture onto suitable puppy chew toys with time and patience but please be aware your furniture may take a battering in the meantime!

Anything the pup can fit into its mouth is fair game – this can include potentially dangerous items in the household or even a child's hand. A puppy's natural instinct is to chew and mouth during teething, it is their way of exploring the world around them, and they will chew and bite whatever is to hand, including

you! We have had puppies returned to us for 'biting' which was actually completely normal teething behaviour.

Five years old is a good age for a child to be introduced to caring for a puppy, (if the child themselves have been taught good manners).

Puppies need to be housetrained, lead trained, socialised and be taught basic obedience if you are to have a trouble free family pet. Socialisation from an early age is very important for a dog to know how to properly interact with children when it is older. Take your puppy to a good puppy socialisation class.

Having a dog in a home with children will mean that it is important to have a well trained dog. Training can be a time consuming process so make sure you are prepared for this commitment.

Regardless of how old the dog is or long you have had it if there are children in the household they must be supervised when the dog is present.

There is always the possibility that a toy may go too close to a dog's bed or a food bowl and it is not fair to put either the child or the dog in that position.

What age are your children?

The ages of any children living in, or visiting, the household is an important factor to take into account when deciding to home a dog.

Younger children will not recognise the warning signs of stress in a dog and the dog will eventually become defensive if these warnings aren't acknowledged. Most dog bites occur in the home and involve the family pet. The majority of these incidents involve children being nipped or bitten. Very young children can be frightening for dogs as they can be unsteady on their feet, make sudden movements or sudden loud noises and can be unintentionally too rough with a dog.

It is vital to educate children how to behave correctly around a dog *before* bringing one into the home. They must be taught to respect the dog as a living being with emotions and feelings. Children should be taught not to go near a dog when it is eating, sleeping and most importantly '*when you say so*'. Teach children never to pursue a dog. A dog backing away is distancing itself from an uncomfortable situation. If a dog wants to play – it will come to you. It is highly recommended that if you already have children that you should not even consider getting a dog until they are over 5 years old (at least). It is simply unfair to the dog or your children in the longer term to enter into the decision to re-home a dog without fully thinking it through.

If you have to return the dog to us not only will the dog will suffer unnecessarily through the stress of leaving the home but your children will also suffer from the loss of their pet.

Warning Signs given by a Dog

- Looking away, walking away, ignoring or avoiding you when you try to greet it - This simply means that the dog does not want to meet or greet you at this particular moment.
Please respect this and do not continue to force yourself on to the dog. Allow the dog to distance himself from you; he is far more likely to approach you if you give him some space.

- **Freezing** – when a dog suddenly becomes very still and statue-like it is a very clear warning sign. This is often accompanied by a glassy eyed stare; this stare will often not be directly at you but at a point off to the side. Do NOT approach or try to touch this dog. The next stage if be a snap if the dog continues to feel threatened.
- **Stiffly held tail or a slowly wagging stiff tail** – a wagging tail is not always a good sign. In the same way as with the freeze do not try to pet this dog. This dog is showing obvious signs of stress and discomfort with the situation.
- **Growling** – this might seem like a very obvious sign but this is the dog warning you not to continue with whatever you are doing.
- Prior to growling the dog will probably have been exhibiting more subtle signs of warning you such as freezing; growling is if these signs have been ignored. The next stage could easily be a snap or a bite. The important thing to remember is that a dog does not want to bite and will only do so if it feels it has no choice left. It is up to us to be able to interpret the signs before the dog feels pushed to do this.

Be alert for these signals and teach your children – don't put yourself or your children in the position where a dog has to make itself any clearer...!

To stay safe children should not approach a dog when it:

- Is eating
- Has a toy
- Is sleeping
- Is in bed, hiding under something like a chair or table (never try to pull a dog out of his bed!)
- Is sick or injured
- Is trying to move away or back away from them
- Has puppies.

Small children should never ever be left alone with any dog, no matter how reliable the dog has been before. Telling a toddler to stay away from the dog isn't enough – young children don't recognise when they may be in trouble, it is up to adults to make sure that they are safe.

Guidance Sheet

A New Baby and the Family Dog

Preparing your pet for the new arrival:

Begin to prepare your dog as soon as you are aware that there is going to be a new baby in the house. The more time you spend on training your dog and helping the dog to adjust to the changes that are coming the easier the whole process will be.

- Do not leave this preparation until the new baby arrives, as it is important that your dog associates the new baby with as few disruptions and changes to their routine as possible.

Things to do in the months leading up to the baby's arrival:

- Make sure that the dog has a basic understanding of good behaviour. Brush up on their training so that they will lie quietly for short periods, won't jump up, can walk on the lead without pulling and come when called. This will make both your lives much easier.
- If your dog has any behaviour problems make sure that these are solved before your baby arrives.
- Make sure that your dog is healthy and is up to date with their worming tablets and vaccinations.
- If your dog is an 'only' pet it is quite likely that they are used to having your full attention whenever they want it. As there will be times when you'll be busy with the new baby you need to start to get your dog used to being alone in a safe area with their bed and a tasty chew for short periods of time every day.
- If you are planning to keep your dog out of certain rooms or areas of the house after the baby arrives then start doing this as soon as possible. Ideally they should not be allowed in the baby's bedroom.
- Teach your dog to walk gently next to the pram.
- Bring new items of furniture such as playpens, carry cots and highchairs into the house so that your dog can get used to them.
- Try to teach your dog the difference between their toys and those that will belong to the baby.
- Try to get a tape recording of baby noises and play it in areas that the baby is going to be most often so that your dog can get used to these 'strange' sounds.
- Develop a routine that you intend to follow when the new baby arrives and stick to it. This will help your dog cope with the changes in the home.
- If the expectant mother is the one who has previously done most of the interacting, dog walking and feeding of the dog it'll help the dog adjust to having less time and attention from her in the future if the partner starts taking over most of these duties before the baby is born.

When the baby has arrived:

- Try not to make a big deal with your dog about the arrival of the new baby. Teach him how to approach the baby properly and gently. Allow the dog to make safe initial investigations and approaches.
- Help your dog to see the baby as a nice thing to be around. Give your dog treats and lots of praise when he behaves well around the baby.
- Do not place the baby on the floor with your dog and never hit or shout at him for approaching the baby in the wrong way. Gently show the dog what you wish him to do and reward him when he gets it right.
- Make sure that your dog has enough exercise and things to do – a bored dog with too much energy can get up to all sorts of mischief while you are busy with your new baby.
- If you have worries about your dog's behaviour after the baby has arrived consult your vet as soon as possible who should be able to refer you to a qualified animal behaviourist.

Remember NEVER leave any baby or child alone with any dog – no matter how trustworthy you think they are.

Guidance Sheet

Advice on Collies

Collies are highly intelligent dogs; which require enormous amounts of mental and physical stimulation. These dogs have been bred specifically for their strong herding and working instincts. If they do not have a suitable outlet for these instincts they often develop problem behaviours. These behaviours can include chasing, nipping, destructive behaviour and sometimes without the correct home environment the dog can become so frustrated that it can become aggressive.

The Border Collie as a breed is a demanding, energetic and highly sensitive dog whose psychology and instincts must be properly understood and handled if you are to successfully re-home them.

Some Border Collies, or Collie crosses, are always going to be more difficult or trickier pets than others because of the way they were bred or raised in puppyhood. In recent years there has been a massive flood of Collies into the pet sector from backgrounds that do not equip them well for life in domestic households. They may have come from farming or working stock.

These dogs can have nervous or volatile temperaments, and exceedingly high levels of working instinct. Pet owners need to fully appreciate what they may be inheriting in a dog with this sort of background and inborn nature before they commit to re-homing them.

Understanding Collie Psychology

What Collies crave is order, structure and occupation in their lives. If they do not have good leadership and direction from an experienced owner plus sufficient daily physical *and mental* stimulation they can become unmanageable.

A large number of Collies become 'problems' because owners do not appreciate the exact strength or nature of their inborn working instinct – for example to chase, herd or nip.

Because of their speed, agility and their need to herd Collies are not ideal for households with young children as they can become over excited easily, which can trigger their chase instinct. Chasing can progress to nipping once the dog catches up with his chase target, especially if it happens to be noisy and highly animated, for instance, small screaming children...

Just because your home is ideal for an average family dog it may not be so for a Collie.

If you are thinking of adopting one of these dogs you should consider the following very carefully:

Collie Checklist for potential Re-homers:

- **How much experience have you had with Collies?**
 - Remember there is a big difference between many purpose-bred working type Collies and Collie crosses. If you have not had a dog before then you should be prepared to consider getting a dog which will be less demanding
- **What are your reasons for choosing a Collie?**
 - The *only* really good reason for having a Collie is that you have enough time, energy and experience to know that you can provide for all of its needs
- **How much time have you got for the dog?**
 - Collies demand not just time, but *quality* time. Long walks are not enough to keep Collies happy. These dogs need training every day and activities which challenge them physically and mentally
- **Have you got young children or are you considering a family?**
 - Collie types are not ideal for young children. They can react very quickly, become excitable and resort to herding behaviour very easily
- **Do you have a lifestyle suited to keeping a Collie?**
 - You need to have a very active lifestyle to even consider keeping a Collie. They are well suited to people who are involved in outdoor activities.
- **Are you prepared to become involved in dog activities such as agility and flyball?**
 - Many Collie owners find that the best way to provide for their dog's needs is to join a dog sporting activity
- **Are you prepared to enrol in a good dog training class?**
 - Collies need lots of training. This must be done without force or use of rough handling, and be very motivational. A good training class will help you to understand the needs of your dog and give you new ideas to keep him interested. [Refer to the Assisi Guidance Sheet on Choosing a Training Class]

If having carefully considered all of the above questions you decide that you would be able to offer a Collie or Collie cross the perfect home then please speak to one of our staff members about the dog you are considering re-homing.

Collies are beautiful, highly intelligent, active and loyal dogs but they are not for everyone. However if you live a very active lifestyle, have plenty of time to train them, are willing to put in the time and commitment that this type of dog will require, and you want a dog that will keep you challenged then a Collie or Collie cross might be just the dog for you.

Guidance Sheet

Choosing a Dog Training Class

10 Handy Hints

- **Start early** – it pays to start training and socialisation classes as early as you can. This will help you build a bond between you and your dog as well as helping you to understand your dog and the reasons behind its behaviour.
- **Quality** – Look for the quality of training rather than the nearest facility. Make sure that the instructors are fully qualified.
- **Information** – You can find out about local classes from your vet, good local pet shops and by word of mouth.
- **Check first** – Visit the club or training class before you enrol. You should see friendly faces and happy relaxed dogs, *not* lots of shouting and the use of rough handling or choke chains! If you are not happy with the approach of the class trust your instinct and do not put yourself or your dog through what could ultimately be a negative experience, take the time to find the right class. Training should be fun for you and your dog.
- **Have patience** – there are no short cuts. Length of training varies with the age and temperament of the individual dog. You can only establish a routine by constant repetition of selected exercises. Practise what you learn in training classes with your dog at home.
- **Be consistent** – concentrate initially on basic commands like 'sit', 'stay', 'down', 'stand' and 'come'. Use consistent commands and the progressive use of hand signals to improve communication with your dog. Remember dogs don't understand English – no matter how much you repeat yourself or how loud you say it!
- **Develop control** – Training on a lead and the use of a long training lead will help in teaching recall and other commands, and allow the dog to get them right.
- **Motivation** – Dogs need to be motivated and will respond to praise and rewards for success. Always remember to reward even the smallest achievement.
- **Enjoy it!** – Training should be good fun for you and your dog. Be prepared to work hard but above all enjoy it. A properly trained dog is a constant source of pleasure and pride.
- **Vaccinations** – Before going to training classes make sure all your dog's vaccinations are up to date. Your dog, or puppy, will be coming in contact with other dogs and it should be fully vaccinated before attending training and socialisation classes.

Guidance Sheet

Training your dog to come back to you - Recall

Can you let your dog off the lead anywhere and will he come back to you every time you call him?

All dogs enjoy a good run off the lead in a safe place to burn off excess energy, however it is an owner's legal responsibility to ensure that their dog is under control at all times in a public place. So being able to get your dog to come back to you when you call him is very important.

Step by Step Recall Training

Stage One – introducing recall

- With your dog or pup on a lead in the house move quickly backwards saying the dogs name and 'Come'. Reward with treats and lots of praise. Having them on the lead ensures that they cannot fail. Practice in different rooms at different times.
- Practice this daily for short periods of time. Always end training on a high, where the dog has succeeded and been praised.
- Repeat as above in the garden.
- In the garden you can then replace the lead with a long training lead, about 20 feet. (Never attach these leads to any collar that could tighten around the dog's neck, use a normal flat collar or attach it to the dogs harness).
- Hold the distant end of the long lead, leave the line loose and with treats in your pocket, wait until the dogs attention is elsewhere.
- Call the dogs name and 'Come' and when he does come to you ask for a 'Sit'. This ensures they will not shoot past you.
- Reward with treats and lots of praise and allow the dog to become distracted again and move off if they want to.
- If the dog does not respond to your call the VERY FIRST TIME then tug quickly on the line and *immediately* release the pressure. Repeat as necessary. As soon as the dog looks at you or turns towards you, encourage them with lots of praise. Allow them to come to you without you having to reel them in.
- The recall now consists of a sequence: **dog's name, come, sit, treat, praise.**
- Practice daily.

Stage Two – coming when he can't see you

- Make it fun for the dog and they will learn quicker.
- Practice by calling the dog from another room in the house to their dinner bowl – this means a big reward for coming to you and guaranteed success. Work up from this.
- When they are coming to you every time you call, start calling from the garden as well.
- Your dog should be having good fun by now trying to find you when you call them. Once they are coming to you every time as soon as you call, you can move onto the next stage.

Stage Three – practice recall outside

- Make it easy for yourself and the dog by finding an area that is as quiet as possible. If other dogs are running about it will be very hard for your dog to concentrate.
- At first keep the dog on the extending lead so that they can't get away or out of sight. Let them go to the end of the lead and enjoy sniffing around.
- When you are ready, call your dog to you and wait. Do not pull them to you – they must come to you out of choice.
- When they do, give them their reward (use a high value treat; sausage, cheese etc), give them lots of praise and then let them go off sniffing again.
- Repeat this several times during the walk so that the dog learns that coming to you will not automatically mean the end of their walk.

Final Stage - practice

- When your dog is coming to you every time when called on the long lead, you can try letting them off the lead completely.
- The first time that you do this try to make sure that it is in a quiet area so that they don't completely forget the training at the first sight of another dog.
- You can develop practice with the long training lead. This time attach the lead to the dog's collar but allow it to trail behind the dog on the ground. You will only pick up the lead if the dog does not come at the first time of asking.
- Build up the level of distractions slowly so that you can make sure that the dog sticks to his training. If you suddenly introduce lots of distractions around the dog it is unfair to them to expect them not to revert to old habits.
- Practice, Practice, Practice - Taking the time, putting in the effort and patience to train recall should mean that you have a dog that is under control - off lead and with no line attached the dog comes back first time every time.
- Let him have a little play with other dogs if they are friendly with them. Call your dog back after a few minutes; they should come to you if you have trained them well.
- Treats on the return should gradually be phased out – but only when a solid recall has been achieved. And remember to still praise every time they come back to you.

You should still treat the dog randomly on return. This maintains the dog's interest in you. Remember to practice regularly to maintain this recall.

- Try to have fun with your dog on your walks by taking their favourite toys and playing games, getting them to come to you and then letting them go off again to play.
- Walks are one of your dog's daily highlights – involve yourself actively and your dog will want to be with you.

The following points will assist in training a successful recall:

- Call your dog's name followed by the recall command 'Come'. Stick to the one command; do not use different words as this will only confuse the dog.
- Call them with a pleasant voice, in a happy tone – never over loud or cross.
- *Always* praise them for coming - no matter how long it takes or how annoyed you are.
- Give him a high value treat on his return, every time, such as a piece of sausage, cheese or chicken. Use a small piece of food so that he is keen to get more next time.
- Some dogs may prefer a game with a toy or reward for coming back – use whatever is your dog's favourite reward.
- Do not put them on the lead and go home. From the dogs point of view it signals that the fun is over so they will be reluctant to return to you again. Simply put the lead on and walk for a few minutes and then let them off the lead once again.
- When you call your dog they must return to you every time otherwise you are teaching them to ignore you. Have patience – remember no matter how long it takes for them to come back to you in the early stages reward them when they do. Coming back to you should be a positive thing for the dog; only in this way will they do it more frequently.
- Ideally one person needs to train the recall until it is successful. Other family members can then get involved using the same word and technique.
- Only progress to the next level of recall training when you have achieved *100% success* at each stage.
- Allow the dog time to learn, don't rush it.

Guidance Sheet

What is a Puppy Farm?

A 'puppy farm' is a large scale breeding operation that produces large numbers of puppies for profit. The puppy farmer keeps the dogs and pups in shockingly poor and inhumane conditions. A 'backyard breeder' is a smaller scale of breeding facility but conditions for the dogs are often similar to those on puppy farms. Puppy farms and backyard breeders thrive because they exist out of the public eye, often in rural and remote locations.

Puppy farms use the internet and newspaper ads to sell directly to the public. Often these breeders will have multiple listings for various breeds in the newspapers and internet sites; they are in it only for profit and to supply the demand for the most popular breeds.

Thousands of dogs suffer in puppy farms in this country. The breeding dams (the mothers) often spend their whole lives in small pens or dark sheds churning out litter after litter with little or no exercise, natural light or even fresh air. They freeze in winter and swelter in the summer.

These dogs never get out of their prisons. They are bred over and over again until they are no longer needed. The only way to stop this

misery is to eliminate the demand for puppies by refusing to buy puppies from a puppy farm or backyard breeder.

Some of the well documented problems of puppy farms include: over-breeding, in-breeding, minimal to no veterinary care, poor quality of food and shelter, lack of socialisation with humans, overcrowded cages, and the killing of unwanted animals.

So why should you care whether the puppy you buy comes from a place like this?

The money you pay for that cute puppy goes right back to the puppy farm owner who will use it to buy and mistreat more dogs.

Many times people buy puppy farmed dogs without realising. Some of the oldest tricks in the book include:

- Offering to meet you somewhere to hand over the puppy
- Moving the litter in question into a separate viewing area so that everything appears to be okay

The sight of a sickly or frightened looking puppy often tugs at the heart strings and people will hand over their cash to 'rescue' the puppy from the situation, but the *only* way to rescue dogs from this plight is to stop the puppy farm trade.

To the unwitting consumer this situation frequently means buying a puppy that can have a whole range of issues ranging from health problems and complications due to poor breeding and the unsanitary inhumane conditions that the puppies and their mother are kept in, to behavioural problems due to the lack of socialisation.

Please help stop this cruel and unnecessary trade in dogs by never buying from a Puppy Farm.