Dogs are as much a part of the American landscape as baseball and apple pies. But any decision to add a canine companion to the family must be carefully researched before a successful adoption can occur.

facts

- scientific name: Canis lupus familiaris
- average adult size: depends on breed
- average life span: 6 to 16 years with proper care, depending on breed
- diet: omnivore

Before deciding to purchase a dog, consider adoption. Your local Petco store partners will be able to provide you with additional information.

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.
If you notice any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.
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Labrador and Golden Retrievers and Cocker Spaniels  
- bred to help hunters find, flush and retrieve birds.  
Tendency toward independent thought, high energy.

**Hounds**  
- Includes Afghans, Beagles, Dachshunds and Greyhounds  
- bred for hunting. Use scent or sight to track and chase prey.  
Independent, very focused when tracking.

**Working dogs**  
- Includes Boxers, Dobermans and Rottweilers  
- bred to work, many excel at police and protection work; others  
originally used to hunt large prey such as wolves and lions.  
A well-bred and well-socialized working dog can make a wonderful, loving companion.

**Terriers**  
- Includes Scottish, West Highland White and Bull Terriers  
- bred to chase animals into the burrow and flush them out. Work  
independently, can be quite stubborn for training.

**Toys**  
- Includes Toy Poodles, Chihuahuas and Pekingnese  
- bred primarily to be wonderful companions and watchdogs.  
Can be rather vocal.

**Non-sporting**  
- Includes Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Dalmations and Poodles  
- miscellaneous group, with a large variety of personalities.  
Research each breed individually.

**Herding dogs**  
- Includes Collies, German Shepherds  
Border Collies, Australian Shepherds and Shetland Sheepdogs  
- bred for working closely with humans to herd and protect livestock. Very  
trainable. Need lots of exercise and a clearly defined job to  
keep their minds busy.

**grooming & hygiene**

For information about bathing, brushing, nail clipping and toothbrushing, reference the “Grooming Your Dog” Care Sheet.

Many Petco locations offer grooming services. Grooming needs vary by breed; ask your Petco stylist about your dog’s needs.

**signs of a healthy animal**

- Active and responsive
- Eats and drinks regularly
- Clean fur
- Walks normally
- Clear eyes and nose

**vaccination info**

Your puppy requires a number of vaccinations including:

- **8 weeks**  
  First series (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus)

- **9-11 weeks**  
  Second series (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus)

- **12+ weeks**  
  Final series (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus)  
  Rabies (required at 16 weeks and then annually)  
  Distemper (annually)

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**common health issues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Issue</th>
<th>Symptoms or Causes</th>
<th>Suggested Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>Loose stools caused by poor diet, stress, unclean housing or other illness.</td>
<td>Consult with a veterinarian to determine cause and treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mites, fleas, ticks</td>
<td>External parasites cause itching, loss of hair, certain diseases.</td>
<td>Use products specially designed for dogs. Consult a veterinarian.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
shopping list for needed supplies

- Advanced, natural or essential dog food
- Kennel, crate or dog house
- Food and water bowls
- Training treats
- Toys and chews
- Grooming supplies
- Collar and leash
- Flea and tick preventive
- Bed or kennel mat
- ID tag
- Book on dog care and training

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco’s library of books on dogs and our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all dogs are potential carriers of infectious diseases, always wash your hands before and after handling your dog or your dog’s accessories to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or adopting a dog or caring for a dog and should consider not having a dog as a pet.

Go to cdc.gov/healthypets and petco.com/caresheet for more information about dogs and disease.