**Considerations for Choosing the Right Puppy**

**Family**

Do you have small children? Teenagers? Do you have a house full of people, or do you live alone?

Keep the size and makeup of your family in mind when choosing a puppy. You'll want to make sure your puppy is comfortable around his or her new housemates, no matter who they are.

**Home Size**

Big dogs need a lot of space. If you have a smaller home, consider a smaller breed that will be comfortable with limited space.

**Time at Work**

Puppies need near-constant supervision early in life, and some will grow up to be dogs that need attention during the day. Will your work schedule accommodate Fido's bathroom breaks?

**Commitment to Exercise**

Puppies and dogs need exercise daily, but the amount varies by breed and size. Make sure you give your pup some time to stretch his legs outside every day.

**Cost**

Can you afford to properly care for your dog? The cost of food, veterinary visits, grooming and boarding can add up. The average monthly cost can be anywhere from $90-$290.

**Source**

Adopting a puppy from a shelter can be an excellent choice. You may also consider purchasing a puppy from a responsible breeder, which can be a good choice if you know a particular breed will be a good fit for your home.

Adopting from a puppy mill is never a good idea. These dogs are often mistreated and may have serious health problems.

Source: [http://dogs.about.com/od/becomingadogowner/a/costofdogs.htm](http://dogs.about.com/od/becomingadogowner/a/costofdogs.htm)