DOGGY DAN’S
7 THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE GETTING A CHRISTMAS PUPPY
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There’s nothing more exciting than running down the stairs on Christmas morning and finding a cute puppy sitting amongst the presents.

Not to mention, the first few days with a new puppy is so much fun...the walks, the cuddles, the endless puppy kisses!

But what happens after the excitement fades and the reality of owning a dog hits home?

I personally believe that adopting a dog is one of the most wonderful, rewarding experiences. But, that’s not to say that dog ownership isn’t a lot of work.

And sadly, after the new puppy excitement wears off, many families suddenly decide they no longer want the puppy they Oohed and Aahed over on Christmas morning.

If you’re considering getting a dog for your family this year, I first want to say congrats! That’s such an exciting decision.

That being said, I also want to ensure you’ve thoughtfully considered what dog ownership entails so the dog you adopt doesn’t end up in a shelter a few months later.

So, without further ado, here are 7 key things you should consider before adopting a Christmas puppy... Of course, there are always more considerations, but this is a start!
CONSIDERATION #1 - TIME

It doesn’t matter what age a dog is, how much energy a dog has, or how old a dog is. Dogs are a big time commitment.

From training to daily walks and everything else in between, you’ve got to have enough time in your day to provide your new dog with the care he/she needs.

This is especially true if you’re adopting a puppy as they need frequent potty breaks and to be watched close to 24/7 initially!

The bottom line is that dogs need love and attention just like kids do. If you don’t have enough time in your day to devote to your new family member, perhaps it’s not the right time to get a new dog.
CONSIDERATION #2 - FAMILY

Every family is different.

Some people thrive with 6 kids. Other parents feel overwhelmed with just one.

Before you add a new family member to your “pack,” make sure that your family dynamic is equipped to add another person.

To determine this, you might look at a few things including...

- **How many kids you have:** If your hands are too full with the number of kids you’ve already got, adding a puppy into the mix isn’t going to make things easier.

- **The age of your kids:** Some small kids are great with animals. Some are not. Think about your kids’ ages and how they will handle a new pet in your home.
CONSIDERATION #3 - OTHER PETS

As an animal lover, it’s possible that you already have several pets in your home.

While some pets get along great with other pets, some aren’t as tolerant with new animals. For this reason, you need to consider your current pets’ needs before bringing a new animal into your home.

The good news is that many shelters will let you bring a dog home to introduce him to your living environment and other pets before you make an official commitment.

This is a great way to ensure your animals will all get along and to make sure that your new dog and other pets will remain safe and happy in your home.
CONSIDERATION #4 - FINANCES

While you certainly don’t have to be rich to own a dog, it’s important to understand that owning a dog costs money.

After you bring your new pet home, you’re going to be responsible for...

- Purchasing food, toys, crates, etc.
- Paying for vet visits/flea, tick, and heartworm meds.
- Paying for pet sitters, boarding, dog walkers, etc.

Over time, the expenses add up. So, before you go out and adopt a pup, make sure you have the finances to properly care for the dog.
CONSIDERATION #5 - TYPE OF DOG

While I believe all dogs are wonderful, it’s important to understand that not all dogs are the same.

You have to be realistic and do you research when deciding to adopt a dog. Here are 3 important things to consider...

**Dog Breed:** While all dogs are good dogs, different breeds have different personality traits that you need to be aware of. For example, German shepherds are very different from Labrador retrievers, as German shepherds need more stimulation and serious training than an easy-going lab does. It’s important that you choose a breed carefully based on your experience with dogs and your personal needs.

**Dog Size:** Depending on where you live, dog size is very important. If you live in an apartment, a large dog might not be the best fit for you. Likewise, you need to consider how much dog you can handle, especially if you end up with a dog that jumps or likes to pull on the leash.

**Dog Coat:** All dogs shed, but some shed more than others. If you’re worried about the mess that comes along with fur, it’s important to consider what breed of dog you are adopting. Short-hair breeds are easier to clean up after.
CONSIDERATION #6 - SPACE

All dogs need space to run, play, and use the restroom.

This doesn’t mean that you need to have a giant piece of land. However, having easy access to an outside space is vital as a dog owner.

If you live in a condo or apartment, that’s fine. Just be aware that you might have to climb your building stairs 4-5 times a day to let your pup out to go potty—or even more frequently if you adopt a pup who is under a year old.
CONSIDERATION #7 - TRAINING

You don’t have to be a dog whisperer or a dog trainer to own a dog.

However, you should at least have some basic dog training knowledge to ensure your new family member doesn’t take over your house.

Before you adopt a dog, it’s important to consider whether you’ll be willing to invest in learning some training techniques that will help keep your dog safe and happy in your home.

For new dog owners, I highly recommend my program called The Dog Calming Code.

Click here to learn more about the The Dog Calming Code.
CONSIDERATION #7 - TRAINING

Countless people have used this program to help transition a new dog into their homes—and I have no doubt it will work for you too.

There you have it...7 things to seriously consider before adopting a new puppy.

I wish you the very best as you consider this huge decision. And, of course, I want to congratulate you in advance if you decide dog ownership is the right choice for you and your family.

Best of luck with your new pup!

Doggy Dan
ABOUT DOGGY DAN

Doggy Dan is the founder of The Online Dog Trainer, a wildly successful online training program for dog owners. He has years of experience dealing with every type of behavioural dog issues and has worked with all breeds and ages of dogs.

Over the last decade, he has helped over 25,000 people successfully train their dogs using the exact method found in the The Online Dog Trainer and has thousands of testimonials to show for it.

His goal is to continue to share his unique approach to dog training with like-minded people who wish to make a difference in the world of dogs. His training methods, focus on creating and building the connection between dogs and dog owners, and are shared and used around the world.

For more information on Doggy Dan’s dog training methods and programs, please visit theonlinedogtrainer.com.