

Acquiring a dog

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

Before you go out and buy that cute dog, STOP. In this article we are going to cover rules that need to be followed from day one.

Consider why you would like a dog. Will the dog serve any special tasks? Or is it just to have a pet and companionship. Any answers you have; just be honest with yourself. The commitment in owning a dog is not for a few months but for at least 10 to 15 plus years.

There are many factors to consider before getting a dog. Here are several but you will get the just of it; Amount of space living quarters, backyard space, time commitment, financial, medical, grooming, training, daily walks and the list goes on.

According to your answers, choose the right breed, talk to a few professional trainers about the breeds you are interested in. See what they suggest, but you will be the final decision maker. If you don't like a dog shedding a lot, and then seek out a breed that doesn't or at least sheds a little. Once you have all your answers I highly suggest to hire a professional trainer to go with you to choose the right character and temperament that will be suitable for your home and

lifestyle.

Once you have picked up your dog and brought it home, the first thing is to start training them to potty outdoors. (If you are an elderly person and live in a high rise building, it might be easier if you use the wee wee pads for convenience, assuming it's a small dog). If you live in a home, then please make the effort to take them out frequently. They will come to understand in due time. What you teach them from day one will be exhibited later as they get older. As cute as puppies are, do not allow them on beds or couches. Once you do allow them, there is a very good chance as they get older that they will growl or even bite you when you try to get them off.

Don't treat them like babies; they are a dog they need leadership and proper guidance. If you don't, you will experience their bad behavior later on as they get older.

Ask yourself why so many dogs are surrendered to the humane society. It's because the owners never showed and instilled proper leadership & guidance from the beginning.

If you still want them with you on

the couch and only the couch, train them to come on only if you ask them. Never allow them to make the decision. A professional trainer can help you with things like that. There are



other mistakes humans do with their dogs, which can later backfire as they get older.

An owner of an unruly dog that acts up will never try it on a professional dog trainer. Reason being, the trainer from the start shows the dog that he/she is Alpha. That doesn't mean the dog won't try, but will find out quickly they aren't going to win against the trainer.

In the beginning don't give them free range of the house, only a small section which will be safe for them and your home. Gradually you can increase the area. Between two and three months is the bonding stage. Once they hit three months start training the obedience commands with a professional trainer. Not a treat trainer. At times you may have to use a treat here and there, but those are situations where it may be needed.

When looking for a trainer, use your due diligence. Make sure they answer all your questions and that it makes

logical sense. Remember if it doesn't make sense, that's a red flag move on to the next. When you call, see if they are throwing you a sales pitch; like things you might want to hear if so red flag.

If you're interested in our Executive Dog Training services, feel free to call. Training isn't hard as long as you are willing to put the time in and follow my formula to have success; Patience, Persistence, Consistency & Repetition. If you still fail, it's on you not your dog. You didn't stick to the formula.

As an added note, if you are fed up with burrs sticking on your dog we have a solution tool to remove them with ease. If you are interested please visit our website executivedogtraining.com and on the right hand menu you will see Burr Off click and read more and you can order directly.

Have a woof woof of a month.

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