

BRINGING HOME HEIDI

Mike's family just got a puppy! When the Coles decided to get a dog, they called a family meeting to discuss what kind of dog best suits their lifestyle. Mike's dad said he would walk the dog every morning before work. Mike said he could give the dog its dinner each evening when he came home from school. Mike's sister thought they should name the dog "Heidi". But what kind of dog should they get? The Coles wanted to find a dog that would be just right for their family.



Next the Coles read books and went to a dog show to learn which breeds matched the description of the kind of dog they wanted. After they decided on a breed, the Coles talked with several breeders and visited kennels.

One Saturday afternoon they drove for an hour to visit a kennel in the country. The breeder had three puppies. The breeder asked the family lots of questions, such as how they would take care of the dog and where the dog would live. Then the Coles asked the breeder questions about the puppies and their parents. The smallest puppy ran up to Mike and licked his hand. "I think this must be Heidi," Mike said. That was the day the Coles brought Heidi home.

First they made some decisions about what they were looking for in a family dog. They decided that a small-to-medium size dog would live comfortably in their house and yard.. Mr. Cole wanted an enthusiastic companion for his morning walks.

To help with his family's search for the right dog, Mike made a checklist of things they needed to do. Read each of the items on Mike's list; then number them in the order you think they should be done. (There isn't one "right" way to number the list - just try to be logical.)

Things to do
<input type="checkbox"/> Read books from the library to learn about different breeds of dogs.
<input type="checkbox"/> visit different breeders.
<input type="checkbox"/> Decide which breed of dog will be best for the family.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose a puppy to buy.
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact a local dog club to get the names of people in the community who breed the kind of dog the family wants. For a list of clubs in your area, go to www.akc.org
<input type="checkbox"/> Go to a dog show to see some of the family's favorite dog breeds.

Can you think of anything Mike should add to the list?

This was Mike's list: 1. Read books from the library to learn about different breeds of dogs. 2. Go to a dog show to see some of the family's favorite dog breeds. 3. Decide which breed of dog will be best for the family. 4. Contact a dog club to get the names of people in the community who breed the kind of dog the family wants. 5. Visit different breeders. 6. Choose a puppy to buy. (Something Mike could add to his list: Buy the puppy's supplies, such as a bed, dishes, toys, collar, and leash.)