



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Is Your Family Ready for a Dog?

Answer the following questions, and discuss your responses with your family.

- Does everyone in the family want a dog? List each family member and write whether they want a dog next to their name.
- Where will the dog spend most of its time? _____
- Where will the dog sleep? _____
- Where will the dog exercise? _____
- Where will the dog eat? _____
- Can your family afford the food, supplies, and proper veterinary care for the dog, as well as the initial fee to obtain the dog? Each year the average American dog-owning family spends \$152 on veterinary care and \$300 on dog food and supplies.

If you decide to add a dog to your family...

Who would drive to the store to buy the dog's food? _____

Who would groom the dog? _____

Who would take the dog to obedience class? _____

Who would pay for the supplies and vet bills? _____

Who would feed the dog? _____

Who would ensure that the dog always has fresh water everyday?

Who would come home frequently to let the puppy (or dog) outside to go to the bathroom, until the puppy (or dog) is house-trained? _____

The above are just a few issues to discuss prior to deciding to get a dog. Adding a dog to your family is a long-term commitment. Proper care of the dog needs the involvement of the entire family. It is wise to thoroughly research what owning a dog entails. Good luck!