

SO YOU WANT TO GET A DOG!!!!!!

So you want to get a dog! But you are unsure of what breed of dog is suited to you? Do you go for a purebred, a mixed breed, do you go for a small dog, large one, quite or active. What would best suit you and your lifestyle?

The following questions and a chat with me (Gail) may help you to decide on the correct type of dog for you:

Why do you want a dog? Company/protection: What traits **must** your new dog have? What trait **should** your new dog **not** have? Is price going to be an issue? You need to be able to care for your new dog for a least the next 15years, costs involved would include food, shelter, training, vets etc: Are you planning on getting your dog from a good breeder? RSPCA? Pet store? Shelter? Rescue? Puppy mill? Do you prefer a purebred or a mixed breed dog? Do you prefer a puppy or an adult dog? Both have their advantages and disadvantages: Do you have children? Very important to choose the right dog in this case: Are you willing to provide adequate supervision of the children and the new dog? **NEVER LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN AND DOG UNSUPERVISED**: What facilities do you have for keeping a dog? Do you live in a unit/house/townhouse/duplex? Do you have a yard? Do you have adequate fencing? What height is the fencing? Have you checked your yard for poisonous plants? Do you have a swimming pool? If so is it fenced? Not all dogs are adapted to swimming especially puppies: Does your yard provide adequate shelter from the sun & bad weather? Do you have other pets? What experience have you had with dogs? What happened to your other previous dog(s)? (If you had any) What plans do you have to train your new dog? Do you have the time to exercise your new dog? Are you going to get it de-sexed? Are you planning on breeding it? Are you going to make the time to contact your local Council to find out what the Responsibilities of pet owners are surrounding dogs in your state and the penalty notices issued under the Companion Animals ACT if you do not comply? And information on the responsibilities for Restricted and Dangerous Dogs in your state should you chose to have a dog that falls within this section? And Dogs in Rural communities? All of these are very important if you are going to be a responsible pet owner.

By answering these questions truthfully you will be half way there in deciding on the right dog for you.

Remember a HAPPY DOG! HAPPY LIFE!