

Caring for Dogs and Puppies

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is a London-based animal rescue centre that takes in abandoned cats and dogs, and looks after them until they can be rehomed. This extract is from a guide for people who want to buy a dog. It has been approved by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.

There is a lot to think about when choosing a pet dog. Would you like a puppy or an adult? A male or a female? Is a pure-breed, cross-breed or Mongrel best? As you learn about the different types of dog, think about which one would best fit into your family life and home.

Puppy or adult? Puppies are cute, but they are also a lot of work. During the first few months they need to be fed and taken out to the toilet several times a day. Puppies have to be housetrained and taught how to behave, but often make a mess. Adult dogs that have been taught the basics are less work to begin with. However, some dogs may have habits that you'd like to change.

Male or female? Male and female dogs that have been neutered* are very similar. [...]

10 Pure-breed, cross-breed or Mongrel? Dogs have developed over thousands of years into a number of different breeds and types. Today, we group them as pure-breeds, cross-breeds and Mongrels. Pure-bred dogs are those with parents of the same breed. Cross-bred dogs have parents from different breeds. Mongrels come from a mixture of breeds. With a pure-bred puppy, you will know what sized adult he will become and roughly what his character traits are. With a cross-bred and Mongrel dog there is more guesswork, but learning his character traits can also be great fun. This is also true of every dog. Whether you have a cross-breed, Mongrel or pure-breed, all dogs are individuals with unique personalities to discover. [...]

20 Building Trust Playing games with your dog is an essential part of life together. Play provides your dog with exercise, keeps his mind active and helps him relax. It also creates a close bond between you. Through play, a dog will learn to trust you and listen to your instructions.

25 Keep it fun Games have to be fun to stop your dog becoming bored. The more fun you have with your dog, the more he will want to please you and do what you say. In this way, games help train your dog. If your dog bites, jumps up or gets too over-excited, end the game immediately and walk away. Your dog will quickly learn that this behaviour will stop him from having fun! Different breeds of dog prefer different games but there are two that most enjoy: tug of war, and chase and retrieve. Make sure you choose the correct toy for each game, as objects such as sticks can splinter and injure your dog.

Glossary

neutered — prevented from reproducing

An abridged extract from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: *Caring for Dogs and Puppies* by Ben Hubbard.

1 How does the author make the introduction (lines 1-3) stand out from the rest of the text?

☐ 2 marks

2 Write down one advantage of choosing a pure-bred puppy according to the text. Explain why you think it is an advantage.

☐ 2 marks

3 What does the word "unique" (line 18) mean? Use a dictionary to help you.

☐ 1 mark

4 According to the text, why is it important to play games with your dog? Circle one.

- a. It will make you feel more relaxed. b. It helps your dog to sleep.
c. It improves your relationship with your dog. d. It helps you to exercise.

☐ 1 mark

5 Why do you think Battersea Dogs & Cats Home might have produced this text?

☐ 2 marks

6 Would you prefer to have a puppy or an adult dog? Explain your answer.

☐ 2 marks

Total
out of 10