



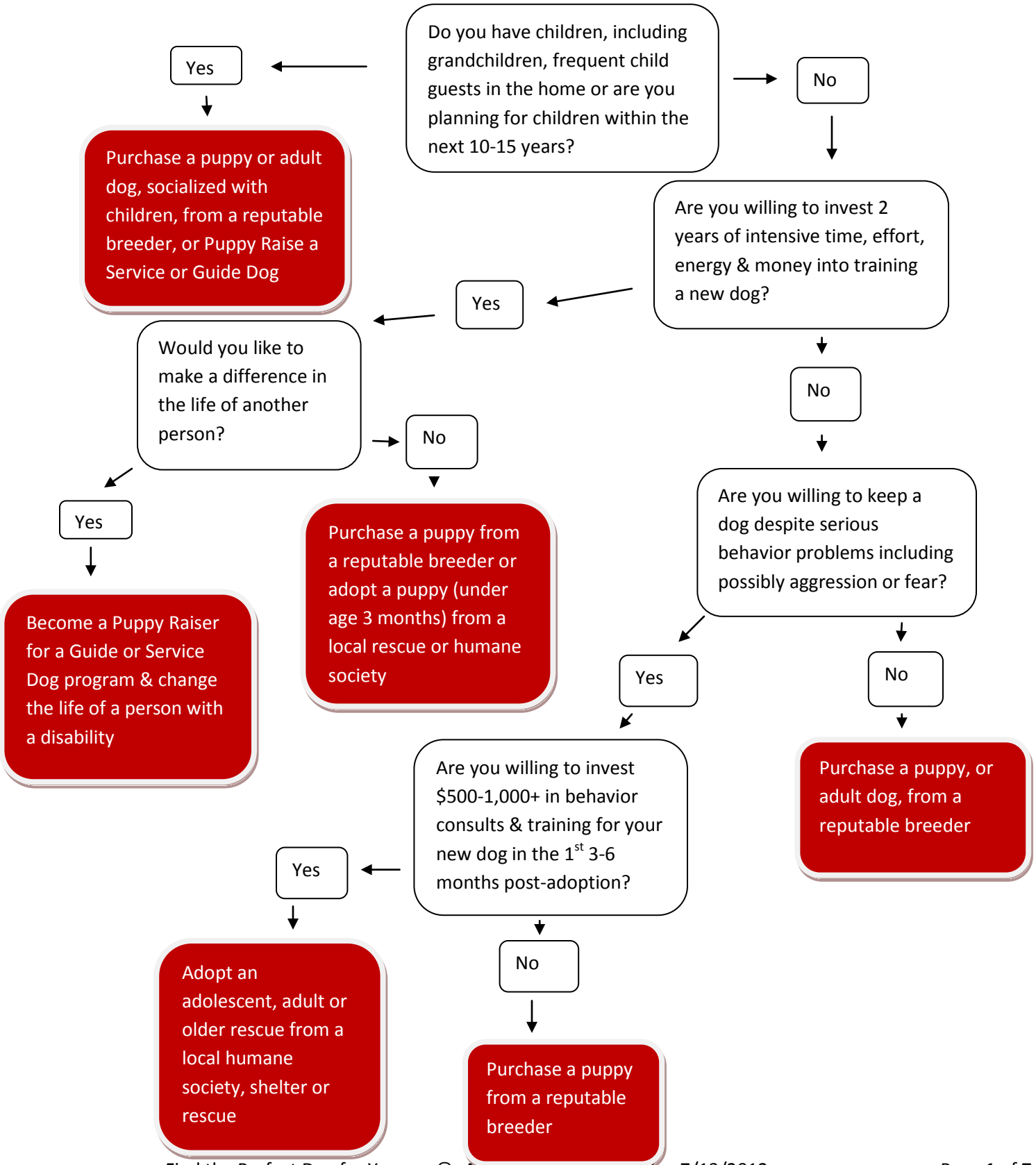
Maplewood Dog Training

353 N Main St – Sharon, MA 02067

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www.maplewooddog.com

Find the Perfect Dog for You





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Following the ‘Find the Perfect Dog Flow Chart’

Why get a dog from a reputable breeder and not rescue when there are kids in the home?

- Children are an incredibly vulnerable population, who have little understanding or accurate ability to read canine body language, warning signals, or defend themselves against aggressive acts
- Dogs and puppies in rescue or shelter situations have to at least some degree, if not completely, an unknown history
- Dogs and puppies in rescue, due to their unknown history and often less than desirable early start in life, often have incomplete or poor socialization histories, and poor early bite inhibition learning. This leads them to be a high risk and liability for fear based aggression and behavior problems as they age
- For safe interactions between dogs and children, early positive socialization with children is critical as well as proper early socialization with humans in general and critical early bite inhibition learning
- Due to the high risk for bites and aggression of a dog with an incomplete or unknown socialization history and bite inhibition learning, it is not recommended that families with children adopt or rescue a dog or puppy
- It is also not recommended that most families with children add a new dog or puppy to the home until the youngest child is at least 6 years old. Adding a new dog is akin to adding another 2 year old child to your home and family. Many young children themselves are not at an age to cognitively understand typical puppy or adolescent dog behavior such as teething chewing and chasing running kids, which can add additional stress to parents, children and the dog alike.
- Families with children are wisely encouraged to get a dog that, at adulthood, will weigh at least 40 lbs or greater. Small dogs often have a lower pain tolerance than medium to large size dogs and children often inadvertently cause dogs pain. A dog in pain is significantly more likely to resort to aggression and bite.
- Getting a new dog should be a family decision. If your kids really want a dog, the parent’s should as well. Understand that 98% of kids are not mentally ready to take on the full responsibility of a dog & will lose interest within the 1st 6 months of bringing a new dog home

You mention ‘reputable breeder,’ what does that mean?

- Reputable breeders are generally hobby or show breeders who’s primary goal for breeding is to improve the quality of the dogs they are breeding
- Reputable breeders generally do not breed more than 1-2 litters per year and invest countless hours properly caring for, socializing and raising those puppies from birth to age 8-12 weeks
- Reputable breeders health test their breeding dogs and have health testing documentation on many generations of dogs in the lineage
- Reputable breeders often participate in activities with their dogs- dog shows, conformation, obedience, agility, hunting, rally, tracking, etc
- Reputable breeders often belong and participate in their national, regional or local breed or performance activity club and will sign and abide by their breed club’s Breeder Code of Ethics (every breed recognized by the American Kennel Club, United Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club has a national breed specific club, also often affiliated with these clubs are national breed specific rescue organizations. Ex- The Golden Retriever Club of America, or Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston, etc. To find these breed specific clubs & rescues visit www.akc.org, www.ukcdogs.com or www.ckc.ca)
- Reputable breeders care very much about the placement of their dogs and puppies and will generally interview potential adopters and have them sign a contract to ensure that they are the perfect home for their dog

- Reputable breeders will guarantee the health of their dogs and puppies and guarantee to take that dog or puppy back at any time should you be unable to keep that dog
- There is often a 1-2+ year wait to get a new puppy or dog from a reputable breeder. Reputable breeders again generally only breed 1-2 litters per year and often their dogs are highly sought after and they will have a wait list
- Reputable breeders often will not allow you to pick your own puppy and do not operate puppy or dog purchase on a 1st come 1st serve basis. Puppies and dogs are placed in a new family based on thorough temperament and structural evaluations in the breeder's best attempt to ensure that you get the perfect dog or puppy for your family

But I want to rescue a puppy, what's the best way to do that?

- Due to the high stress and trauma during critical periods in a young puppy's life, it is not recommended that you adopt a puppy from an out of state rescue or shelter organization or on that has been transported to your local area. Stick to local adoptions.
- Puppies in rescue situations can have often had poor early socialization and raising, so it is recommended that you adopt a puppy from a local rescue or shelter that has an animal behavior team on staff evaluating suitability and safety of dogs and puppies available for adoption (2 reputable local rescues that do so are the Animal Rescue League of Boston and the MSPCA) or by going through a breed specific rescue affiliated with a national or regional breed club (ex. National Rescue Committee of the Golden Retriever Club of America or Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, etc)
- If you rescue a puppy, be sure the puppy is between 8-10 weeks old or if older, has had positive early socialization and exposures outside of the shelter environment
- Be sure the puppy has not been removed from his mother or littermates before age 7-8 weeks
- Again it is not recommended that you rescue a puppy or dog if you have children in the home due to the high risk for serious behavior problems in rescued dog and puppy populations

Does raising a puppy really take 2 years of work?

- Properly raising a puppy takes a considerable amount of time, effort, energy and money and yes that effort, to be fully effective, needs to be consistent over the 2 year period it takes for most dogs to reach mental and physical maturity
- The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior recommends early, positive out of the home socialization and exposures for puppies before the critical imprint window closes at age 14 weeks
- This is because of a number of critical developmental periods in a developing puppy's life-
 - Critical Early Periods- Birth to age 20 days
 - Neonatal- birth to age 14 days- puppies eyes & ears are closed & they rely solely on scent and touch to survive and find their nursing mother & littermates
 - Transition- age 14 to 20 days- puppies eyes & ears open & they begin to assimilate sensory information through all senses
 - Canine Socialization- age 21 to 49 days
 - Awareness of other littermates- age 21-28 days
 - Weaning to solid food
 - Developing 'normal' interactions with other dogs & puppies
 - Begin to accept discipline from their mother
 - Bite inhibition- learning how to control their mouths & bite through play & interactions with littermates & mother
 - Elimination- begin to seek out places away from sleeping, playing & eating area to void, setting the foundation for house breaking
 - During this period it is critical that puppies experience daily handling by people and begin to be positively exposed & socialized to various toys, surfaces, noises & sounds
 - During this period is the best time to expose puppies to safe, puppy-friendly cats
 - Human Socialization- age 7 to 12 weeks
 - Best time to go to a new home

- Best time to begin ‘formal’ training & enrollment in a puppy kindergarten class that focus’ on early positive socialization & exposures as well as self-control & basic obedience skills
 - Continue with bite inhibition & learning bite control with people
 - House breaking
- Critical Socialization Imprint Window- age 6-14 weeks
 - Period of largest neural brain growth
 - Stress early positive exposures to new & varying people, surfaces, smells, noises, sights, sounds & puppy-friendly animals
 - Positive, safe out of the home exposures & socialization is critical
 - Enrichment experience- the 4 E’s- Explore, Encounter, Examine, Experience
 - Critical for preventing long range fear based aggression & behavior problems
- 1st Fear Impact Period- age 8-11 weeks
 - The 1st Fear Impact Period generally falls just as puppies are going to their new homes
 - During this period, your generally confident & happy puppy, suddenly becomes nervous or afraid of often times very usual situations they have previously had no negative response to
 - Fear impact events can last anywhere from a few hours to a few days to a week
 - When you notice this period has begun, create a positive association with the situation your puppy had a fear response to, then severely limit exposures until the fear period is over
 - Situations that cause a fear response during this period of time often have life long lasting negative fear response consequences
- Seniority Classification- age 12-16 weeks
 - Age of “Cutting”- milk teeth begin to fall out as adult teeth surface & period of increased independence from owner
 - The 1st teething stage begins at age 12 weeks and closes at age 6 months when canine teeth emerge
 - The Importance of Separation
 - Learning that being left alone for periods is not stressful or scary
 - Foundation for preventing separation anxiety
 - Builds confidence & sense of ‘self’
- Adolescence- age 4 months to maturity
 - Flight instinct- between age 4 and 8 months, generally lasts approx 2wks
 - 2nd Fear Imprint Stage- between age 6 and 14 months
 - 2nd Teething Stage- around age 8 to 10 months
 - This is generally when dogs will engage in serious destruction of property & can be very detrimental both to your dog’s health & your home
 - Recommended that you continue with crate training & confinement through age 18-24 months to maintain safety for your dog & home
 - Critical to continue with consistent early training to prevent behavior problems & encourage lasting appropriate behavior
 - Critical to continue with positive socialization & exposures to prevent fear based behavior & aggression problems
- Maturity- between age 1 and 4 years
 - Increased level of protectiveness
 - Often around age 18-24 months aggression may surface as dog reaches sexual & mental maturity
 - Age 24 months growth plates close & physical growth & maturity is complete
 - It is unsafe & not recommended to do any hard exercise or running with dogs under the age 2 on hard surfaces such as pavement or concrete or on-leash
 - Safe exercise before the age of 2 can be done off-leash on soft surfaces such as grass, dirt or sand or in water
 - Testing- dog will often test limits & boundaries, important to be consistent with training throughout maturation

- Training- it's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks!

What is this about raising a dog to help a disabled person? What is a Puppy Raiser?

- Service and Guide Dog organizations that raise and train dogs to assist people with disabilities depend on volunteer Puppy Raisers to prepare their dogs for formal training and eventual placement with a disabled person
- Puppy Raisers generally take an 8wk old puppy bred by the service or guide dog program, and raise it until age 14-18 months, teaching the puppy good house manners, including house breaking, basic obedience and proper behavior in public, preparing that puppy for a career as a service or guide dog
- Some service and guide dog programs have weekend Puppy Raiser programs where volunteers help puppies being raised in local prisons gain added training and socialization on the weekends
- Puppy Raisers attend classes and outings sponsored or provided for free by the service or guide dog organization over the time span they are raising the puppy
- Organizations that have local Puppy Raising programs are-
 - The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind www.guidedog.org
 - Guiding Eyes for the Blind www.guidingeyes.org
 - Canine Companions for Independence www.cci.org
 - NEADS www.neads.org

Do most dogs in rescues or shelters really have serious behavior problems? Do I really have to be worried about aggression if I adopt a dog?

- The most common reason that dogs are surrendered to animal shelters or rescues is because of behavior problems
- Most dogs in shelters or rescues have had poor early raising, incomplete or no training and incomplete or no socialization history
- Dogs with poor socialization histories are significantly more likely to develop a fear based behavior complaint sometime in their lifetime
- The most common form of aggression in dogs is fear based aggression and dogs that have been through trauma with little or no support from a trusted human caregiver are more likely to resort to aggression when afraid
- Being displaced from a previous home and placed in a rescue or shelter environment incurs high stress and trauma to any dog, increasing the likelihood of fear based aggression developing in that dog
- Due to this trauma, most dogs when adopted into a new home, do not feel comfortable enough to show their true personality for 2-6 months. Many times, it takes at least 8 weeks in a new home for the dog's behavior problems to surface
- Because of the high instance of behavior problems in shelter and rescue dog populations, potential adopters need to understand the time and monetary commitment and investment that is necessary for such dogs to succeed in a new home long term
- It is recommended that potential adopters adopt locally, after personally meeting the dog a number of times in a local foster home or shelter, to increase the likelihood of a successful long term adoption
- It is recommended that adopters plan for a 6 to 12 month timeline for getting a new dog from a rescue or shelter situation. Don't adopt the 1st dog you happen to see or fall in love with for his sad story or brown puppy-dog eyes. Take your time and ensure that you really are getting the best dog for your family to ensure a successful adoption

So now you've scared me, are there any positives to adopting a shelter or rescue dog?

Why yes, of course! Countless positives!

- Adopting a shelter or rescue dog gives that dog a second chance at a great new future
- Adopting a shelter or rescue dog can give you the positive satisfaction of helping a dog in need
- Adopting a shelter or rescue dog can give you a chance to become a better dog owner and trainer

- Adopting a shelter or rescue dog can open opportunities for you to connect with others passionate about helping animals through volunteering or supporting the rescue or shelter organization
- When potential adopters understand the honest risks of adopting a rescue or shelter dog, then adoptions are more likely to succeed long term

What about if I have another dog at home? I think he wants a friend.

- Adding a 2nd or 3rd dog to your home and existing dog pack can be a great experience or it can be a nightmare.
- To make it a great experience it is recommended that you-
 - Add a new dog to the family because it's what you want, not because you think it's what your existing dog wants
 - Adding a 2nd dog generally doubles the amount of work, expense, and time you will need to commit to your canine family. Adding a 3rd dog generally quadruples it.
 - Adding a 2nd dog doesn't mean that your existing dog will train or exercise the new dog for you. Dog ownership is a human commitment and it's critically important that you invest significant time into each dog individually so that they have a healthy bonded relationship with you and other people and not an often very unhealthy co-dependent relationship on each other
 - Adding a 2nd dog now means you have an artificial dog pack.
 - Feral dogs don't pack naturally, and wolves only pack as a family, genetically related unit. Modern dogs 'pack' because that's what we create in our homes.
 - Dog packs have their own social structure, rules and hierarchy essentially unrelated to their dog-human relationships.
 - One of the worst things that owners can do is attempt to create a pack hierarchy from their own perspective and not respect what the dogs actually want socially. Commonly this happens when a new puppy or dog is added to the home and the owners feel the need to "assert" the existing dog's "dominance" because "he was here 1st," by feeding, giving attention or otherwise giving preferential treatment to the existing dog.
 - This is not recommended as it can very often and easily create massive pack strife and an unsuccessful venture.
 - Adding a 2nd or 3rd dog is inherently risky as it's not guaranteed that the dogs will get along. Even when you add a puppy, as that puppy grows and reaches sexual, physical and mental maturity, often time's pack dynamics change and conflict can arise. It's best to be prepared for the notion that maybe your current dog likes his solitary, undivided attention from you and perhaps he doesn't want to share or that the new dog won't want to share either. Have a backup plan in place on what actions you will take if it turns out that your dogs cannot safely co-exist together
 - When adding a new dog to be successful it's important that you-
 - Give each dog individual, undivided alone time with you daily
 - Give each dog a separate place in the house where they can have some solitary relaxation time
 - Work with each dog daily, both individually and together, on obedience, self-control and deference behavior training exercises
 - Ensure that both dogs are getting adequate exercise daily
 - Feed each dog in their own space, either in a crate or in separate rooms of the house
 - Have ample toys and places for them to rest in the house, don't expect them to want to share
 - Recognize what healthy dog friendships look like-
 - They are stable and consistent. Healthy dog friendships involve relationships with other dogs that they see consistently on a frequent basis without much change in the nature of the relationship, pack structure, dynamic or hierarchy
 - In healthy dog friendships approx 90-95% of their time is simply spent hanging out together sleeping. Adult dogs on average sleep 14-18 hours a day, puppies often more so.
 - About 5% of their time is spent engaging in very balanced, socially appropriate, respectful, healthy play for about 5-10 minutes at a time

- About 5% of their time is spent having fun with their owner together such as going on walks, playing ball, going for a swim or hike
- Excessive non-stop interactions with another dog for periods of time greater than 10-15 minutes is not physically, mentally or socially healthy for dogs and is actually very socially detrimental and often dangerous, likely to cause conflict and dog fights

Finding & Picking a New Dog or Puppy- Do's and Don'ts

- Do's-
 - Do research breed histories prior to choosing a purebred or mixed breed
 - Do think about your lifestyle, home environment & all family member's needs
 - Do think about your goals for your future dog
 - Do have a professional evaluate the temperament & structure of any potential dog or puppy
 - Do enroll your new dog or puppy in a formal training program (private and/or group instruction) immediately after bringing him or her home, don't wait to 'see how things go'
- Don'ts-
 - Don't pick a dog based solely on looks, color, size, coat type or popularity
 - Don't pick a dog based solely on a sad story
 - Don't buy or pick a dog on impulse
 - Don't purchase a puppy or dog at a Pet Store or sight unseen over PetFinder
 - Don't get a dog or puppy for someone else without their knowledge or approval

So, what are the recommendations again?

- If you have children in the home-
 - purchase a puppy or adult dog of good temperament and breeding from a reputable breeder
- If you do not have children, and are ready to commit to 2 years of intensive time, effort, and money raising a dog-
 - purchase puppy from a reputable breeder or adopt a puppy from a local rescue or shelter, or regional breed specific rescue affiliated with a national or regional breed club
- If you are ready for the commitment of a puppy, but don't necessarily want a dog for life, and would like to help a disabled person in need-
 - become a volunteer Puppy Raiser for a service or guide dog organization
- If you would like to help a dog in need and give him a second chance at life, and are prepared to properly invest time and money addressing potential behavior problems-
 - adopt a puppy or adult dog from a local shelter or rescue, or national or regional breed specific rescue affiliated with a national or regional breed club
- If you have a current existing dog in the house-
 - Make sure that adding a new dog or puppy is really what you are ready to commit to and want, and also make sure that it is truly what your existing dog wants as well
- Never pick a dog or puppy solely on appearance, popularity, impulse or for someone else without their knowledge
- Always consult a professional prior to adopting and enroll your new dog or puppy in a training program right away
- Remember that you are deciding to add a new member to your family who will share your home and lifestyle for the next 10-15 years. Take your time, do your research and homework to ensure that those years with your new dog are as positive and valuable as you dream.



**Did you know that most
mis-matched dog
adoptions fail within the
1st 6 months of
placement?**

**Save your family this terrible heartache by consulting
with our experts *before* you bring home a new pet**

At Maplewood Dog Training, we enhance relationships for life. Set your family & new dog up for success & a lifetime of happy dog ownership

What Pre-Adoption Counseling Offers:

- **Free** Find the Perfect Dog for You Seminars in the local community
- Phone or in-person consultations that take into account your lifestyle, family environment & goals for your future dog
- Professional input & evaluation individual rescue dog PetFinder ads or breeder's websites
- A wealth of information & handouts on how to find the right breeder or rescue organization, questions to ask, deciding whether to get a puppy or adult dog & how to choose a dog that is the right fit for your family
- Hands on professional behavioral & temperament evaluations of dogs or puppies you are considering adopting or purchasing

Invest in expertise that can save your family years of heartache

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