

## **A Puppy Is Not For Everyone!!!**

**Are you thinking about buying a puppy for yourself or for someone else? Please think twice before making this very important decision!!!**

A puppy is a huge commitment and responsibility, financially as well as emotionally. A puppy needs round the clock care and supervision, training, and a guardian who is willing to make that type of commitment to the dog for the rest of its life. We are firm believers that a beagle needs a home where it will be a true member of the family and will be taught right from wrong in a very positive and non-abusive manner. Colorado Beagle Rescue believes that motivational training is the key to having a dog that will truly suit your needs.

If you feel you want to give a puppy as a present, please be sure that the gift is a welcome one. This type of gift should not be taken lightly, and the recipient should be a responsible guardian for the lifetime of the dog. New puppy guardians should have a secure fenced yard (4 feet or higher), someone who is home most of the time, and children over the age of six years. A doggie door is highly recommended as well as puppy obedience classes. New guardians should be aware of the cost involved, including veterinary care, food, training essentials such as leashes, dishes, toys, bedding, crate, licensing and microchipping. These are all part of the joy of being owned by a beagle puppy.

If you can answer YES to all of the above, here are some suggestions when getting a brand new puppy:

1. Use a reputable breeder. Beware of newspaper ads and pet stores. The majority of these “breeders” obtain their puppies from puppy mills. These dogs are bred in horrible conditions, mostly for money, not for health, temperament, or behavior. Having “registration papers” does not always mean you are buying a quality pup.
2. Make sure the facility is clean. If the pup’s parents are on site, make sure they are well cared for and healthy.
3. Make sure the breeder gives you a guarantee on the pup. This means if anything happens to the pup such as a sickness, the breeder will take the dog back and refund you your money with no questions asked.
4. Make sure the breeder knows about the breed of dog they are selling. Beagles are “scent hounds” and need to be placed in homes where they will be protected. They require a secure fenced yard (4 feet or higher), and they should never ever be allowed to go off leash in an open area. They don’t do well in apartments or town homes. Do research on the breed you are interested in. Get on the Internet or go to your local library or bookstore ? ? know the facts about the breed before you get the dog!
5. Ask the breeder for referrals. You want names and telephone numbers of people who have purchased a puppy from them. If they hesitate or say they’re not sure if they can do that, then leave. This is a warning to you that this is not the breeder you want to work with.

As we all know, there is nothing cuter than a puppy. They are precious beyond words! However you MUST have the quality time to give to your puppy and teach it how to behave in a positive and non-abusive way.

You need to be prepared to have a “baby” in your household. Housebreaking and chewing are just a few of the problems you will encounter. If you have children, be absolutely sure they know how to treat a dog with kindness and respect. A beagle is a great family dog, but if children torment or tease it, it will defend itself, which means it will nip the child.

**BE A RESPONSIBLE GUARDIAN.** You will get out of your dog what you put into it. Every dog out there has potential to be a wonderful pet ? ? you just have to be a wonderful guardian.