

## What to expect during the first two years of a puppy's life.

So, you are thinking about getting a puppy... Purchasing or adopting a puppy needs serious consideration and here is why, your life will change overnight and so will your lifestyle. These are just a few things I want you to consider **BEFORE** you adopt/shop.

- Will you be willing to lose sleep the first few weeks with nightly potty breaks for you 8-15-week-old puppy?
- Are you ready to take your puppy out on the hour or two during the day for potty training the first couple weeks to teach puppy where to go and clean up accidents in the house while puppy is learning?
- Are you willing to change your house around to accommodate a crate, xpen, gates and pick up rugs to eliminate potty accidents, chewing, etc?
- Are you ready to deal with nipping, biting, chewing, barking, and teaching your puppy good basic manners- Trainer is strongly suggested!
- Are you willing to walk your puppy daily and provide physical enrichment along with mental enrichment.?
- Are you able to care financially for the rest of your puppy's life, expect 10-15 years age life expectancy, this includes food, veterinary visits, medication, special dietary needs, toys, beds, crates, gates?
- Are physically capable of handling your puppy once they become an adult?

Finally, do you have in place a person to care for your puppy/dog in the event you pass before your puppy/dog does? If your answers above are mostly no, then PLEASE don't adopt a young dog, the rescues and shelter are full of adult dogs that need loving homes that may have already grown out the puppy antics. Having a puppy is not EASY, its very rewarding after you put in the HARD work that it takes to have a well-behaved dog. I also suggest that you research the breed that your interested in beforehand to ensure you know what temperament you will be getting as well as exercise needs.

All dogs need structure, management, boundaries, expectations and benevolent leadership, are you ready for the challenge?

