

Adoption Considerations

-Johnson Point Labradors-

Labrador retrievers are wonderful dogs that provide their owners with years of companionship and loyalty. The breed is intelligent, loyal, ready to please, easily trained and highly adaptable. However, Labradors do require a considerable amount of training, exercise and attention.

We do not require a formal adoption application or contract before selecting one of our puppies. Instead, we ask that each prospective owner read through the following list and consider each point carefully before deciding to bring a puppy into their lives.

1. Breed Selection

Each breed has a personality of its own and knowing in advance what to expect from your Labrador will help you decide if this breed is a good match. Research the breed and be open to changing your mind if the temperament of the breed does not fit your lifestyle. Asking questions of other Labrador owners and interacting with other dogs may be helpful. Labrador puppies are adorable, but grow to be 50 pounds by six months of age and new owners should be prepared for all stages of the dog's life. Labrador Retrievers are very strong dogs. Adult dogs can weigh 60-100 pounds, and a fit dog will be mostly muscle. Because Labradors are so powerful, it is important that you train them from puppyhood to obey you. Companion dogs will require basic obedience training and socialization from an early age.

2. Lifestyle Adjustment & Time Commitment

Adopting a dog means taking on the responsibility of a living being whose needs often come before your own desires. This may result in giving up more time for your pet each day than was expected. A Labrador will depend on you for its care, companionship, and leadership so consider carefully the commitment needed to provide for the dog over the duration of its life. If you travel often or are away from home for extended periods of time, a Labrador is probably not the right fit.

A puppy requires a significant amount more training and attention and patience than a juvenile or adult dog may. Are you familiar with training methods, or are you able to commit time to researching training? Training a puppy takes a great deal of patience and new owners must be prepared to be firm and consistent to achieve housebreaking and basic commands. Labradors are smart and easy to train provided you take the time to consistently work with them.

Labradors are very sociable and outgoing and crave companionship and attention. They are also energetic and need plenty of exercise. The exercise needs of Labradors should not be underestimated. Daily walks and ample training time are necessary to have a happy and obedient dog. Labradors that do not get enough exercise are apt to become destructive in the home.

3. Financial commitment

After the initial purchase price, please consider the other expenses that owning a Labrador can incur. Labradors are typically robust and healthy but will require annual veterinary check-ups, annual vaccinations, rabies vaccinations every three years, monthly heartworm and flea/tick prevention medication, an average of four cups of dog food daily, dog crate, dog beds, chew toys, secure dog collar and leashes, ear cleaner, canine tooth care, nail clippers, dog treats, and any training devices or courses you select.

4. Home environment

Puppy owners should commit to being able to keep their home and outdoor areas safe of any cords, toxic chemicals, plants or foods that an inquisitive puppy may ingest. A puppy will cry at night in their first few days at home and require a quiet, enclosed space where they can sleep or play safely when you are not able to supervise. For the first few months after you bring your puppy home, they will require constant supervision or need to be placed in a contained area where they can play safely. Adult dogs will

require a large crate to sleep in. Consider where you will place a large crate in your home for the dog to sleep in. New owners should also consider where they intend the dog to relieve itself and stretch its legs. A fenced yard where the dog can play freely is a good option, or access to a common area and dedicated exercise walks.

If you prefer your home to be pristine and spotless, owning a dog will be a challenge. Labradors shed hair, often come inside with muddy paws and puppies can be destructive when unsupervised. Young Labradors are voracious chewers. Puppies need to be provided with adequate chew toys and stimulation. Labradors are exuberant in showing their affection and could unintentionally damage something or harm a small child. Even trained adult dogs have large bodies and long tails that can cause trouble. Please consider whether a puppy and an adult Labrador fits with your idea of your ideal home life.

5. Daily commitment and primary caregiver

Consider whether the entire household is accepting of the decision to bring a puppy home. Owning a dog is a large commitment and requires the entire household's cooperation, especially if children are a part of the home. Labradors are people-oriented dogs and need human companionship. How much time each day do you plan to spend with your dog? Puppies need regular stimulation through play. An idle mind can get into trouble when you are not paying attention. Do you have the time and energy in your day to properly care for and exercise a Labrador? How will the puppy impact other pets in the home?

Consider who will be the person primarily responsible for daily dog care. Puppies and adult dogs require proper nutrition, grooming, bathing and exercise. Puppies need to be fed three times daily, adult dogs twice a day. Labradors have a great deal of energy and require daily training sessions and exercise.

Sources:

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