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Why Dogs Rule

By John Schwartz

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Ever wonder why dogs make such good pets? It's not something many people seem to give much thought to, but I've been pondering it lately. I've had cats, snakes, fish, even a bird once, but as pets they all compare unfavorably (in my humble opinion) to playful puppy dogs. But why? It's not like those other species don't have their good points as pets.

I've concluded that the main reason that dogs make better pets is a simple one, although it's not one that most people ever really think about. They show their need for us, openly and honestly. They don't hold anything back. Most other animals tend to be aloof and sometimes downright arrogant at times. Cats come to mind.

I realize that my reasoning involves a certain amount of anthropomorphism (applying human traits to non-humans), but that's my point! I think we can't help but be more attracted to dogs precisely because they appeal to us in human terms. They're loyal, loving, needy, funny, always nice to us, etc. And I think the best pets are those who fulfill those kinds of needs we all have.

And it doesn't matter if you prefer small dog breeds like a Chihuahua or a Yorkshire Terrier, or a larger breed like Golden Retrievers or Rottweilers. I've had dogs as pets in all shapes and sizes, and they invariably exhibit the wonderful traits we all crave. There's nothing quite like coming home from a long day and being met at the door by a wagging tail and happy disposition. Know what I mean? Dogs are simply the best friends we can ever know!

Just some food for thought...

John Schwartz is the owner and webmaster of <http://puppies-dogs-supplies.com>. He lives in East Texas with his wife, Shannon, who owns a dog rescue 'no kill' shelter.

Choosing Healthy Foods For Your Dog

By Kirsten Hawkins

Today's pet food market is larger and more diverse than ever before. While this offers a large number of choices in various types of pet food, it also presents a dilemma in choosing the healthiest food for your dog. Are generic or store brands suitable for a dog? What about familiar name brands like Purina and Alpo? Are the pricier brands that advertise specially formulated ingredients (Science Diet, Eukanuba) really living up to their claims and worth the extra money? All of these are valid questions that loving dog owners deserve to have answered.

Dog Food Considerations

There are several factors to consider when choosing the right food for your dog. Different dogs have different nutritional needs at different stages in their lives. Some things to consider when selecting the food you'll give your dog follow.

· The Dog's Age

Puppies have different nutritional requirements than adult dogs just as human children have different needs than adult people. Senior dogs also have different requirements than younger adult dogs. Make sure that you select a food that is appropriate for your dog's stage in life.

· The Dog's Health

Does your dog have a specific medical condition? If so, the food you choose may need to be partially dictated by that condition. Diabetic dogs need low-glucose foods and dogs with specific allergies (yes dogs can be allergic to all sorts of things, just like people) may require certain foods as well. Your veterinarian can help you choose foods that are appropriate for a dog with a specific medical condition.

· The Dog's Size or Body Type

Some dogs are overweight. Some dogs are underweight. Some have a natural tendency to get lots of exercise while others tend to prefer to lie around a lot. There are, of course, small, medium, and large dogs as well as the ultra-tiny "toy" dogs. All of these different types of dogs will have different requirements for the type of food they need as well as how much of it.

· Your Budget

Dog food can be expensive, there's no doubt about it. And where dog food is concerned, the rule really is "you get what you pay for." Low cost generics and store brands will lighten the burden on your wallet, but may not be the healthiest choice for your dog as they are made with cheap ingredients and lots of fillers. You should buy the best dog food you can on your budget to help ensure your dog's nutrition.

Kirsten Hawkins is a dog lover and animal expert from Nashville, TN. Visit

for more information on dog health, the care of dogs, and dog travel.



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