Our Puppy

Julie Haydon



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Chapter 1

A Big Decision

I'm Jake. My brother, Pete, and I are very excited because our family has decided to get a dog! Mum and Dad tell us that a dog is a big **responsibility**. We will have to feed our dog, train and exercise him, keep him healthy and spend time with him.



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There are many different kinds of dogs. We want a dog that will suit our **lifestyle**, so we do some research. We borrow library books on dogs, and we talk to friends who have dogs. We go to dog shows and chat to **breeders** about their dogs.





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Be Smart

Choose a dog carefully. Remember that the way a dog behaves is more important than how it looks. Do research on the animal, then decide if it is the right pet for you.

Chapter 2

Kinds of Dogs

There are hundreds of different kinds, or breeds, of dogs. Dogs whose parents are the same breed are called purebreds. Dogs that are a mix of two breeds are called crossbreds. Dogs that are a mix of many breeds are called mixed breeds or mongrels.



a purebred dog



a mixed breed dog

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This dog is guarding its owner's property.

Dogs can be different shapes, sizes and colours, and they can have different kinds of coats.

Dogs have different **temperaments** and different abilities. Some dogs are bred to be **companions**. Some dogs are bred to do jobs, such as herding sheep or guarding property.

Be Smart
Remember that working dogs need lots of exercise and get bored easily.

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Chapter 3

Our List

We write a list of what we want in a dog.

pet ✓	working dog	show dog
mixed breed	crossbred	purebred ✓
puppy ✓	middle-aged dog	old dog
small dog ✓	medium-sized dog	large dog
short coat	long coat	coat that does not shed ✓
needs very little exercise ✓	needs some exercise	needs lots of exercise
eats a little ✓	eats a bit	eats a lot



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Be Smart

Before you buy a dog, think about how much money you are prepared to spend on its food. A large dog like a Great Dane will eat more than a little dog like a chihuahua.



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