

## Best friends

# Choose the... Perfect pup for your family

Can't get your brood to agree on a breed? Pick the all-around best dog for you



**Y**our son wants a lab, your daughter's pleading for a pug, and you're ready to call off the search. We found the right dogs for every kind of household.

### BEST FOR kids

Pick a sociable, calm dog that can keep up with your gang.

**Best breeds for you:** Loveable labs, earnest English springer spaniels, affectionate bearded collies and curious beagles are fun for families. So are mellow English bulldogs and Newfoundlands.

**Buyer beware:** A bulldmastiff can be great, but only if he's been raised with kids. Cocker spaniels are terrific, too, but get one from a reputable breeder.

### BEST FOR other pets

Choose an easily trained puppy or a tolerant adult dog that's lived with other animals.

**Best breeds for you:** Go for a hearty Tibetan spaniel, a lively soft-coated wheaten terrier or a low-key golden retriever. A shih tzu or bichon frise is sturdy enough to hold his own with a cat or dog, yet small enough not to intimidate one.

**Buyer beware:** Most terriers (except soft-coated wheatens) will chase other animals—like a cat or a gerbil.

### BEST FOR allergies

Go for a dog with minimal dander.

**Best breeds for you:** A hairless dog, like the Chinese crested, or a breed that sheds only a little or not at all, like

### BEST FOR tiny spaces

Pick a small dog that won't take over your home.

**Best breeds for you:** The pug and Japanese chin are easily entertained. The Maltese and toy poodle are the right size but need monthly grooming.

**Buyer beware:** Pomeranians are barkers; steer clear if you have touchy neighbors. Chihuahuas are sensitive to the cold, and miniature pinschers can be hyperactive.

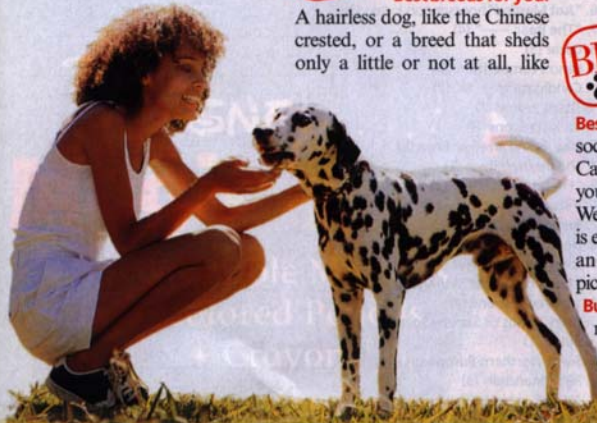
### BEST FOR singles

Choose one for walking in the park and lounging on the sofa.

**Best breeds for you:** If you're social, select a French bulldog or Cavalier King Charles spaniel. If you like the outdoors, consider a Weimaraner. A Yorkshire terrier is easy to travel with. If you want an uncomplicated relationship, pick a loyal pug or Boston terrier.

**Buyer beware:** Corgis tend to nip at the heels of visitors. West Highland white terriers are prone to allergies, so take vet bills into account.

By Charlotte Reed



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## What to do

### FIND YOUR DREAM DOG ONLINE

**Purebred puppies**  
The American Kennel Club's web site will steer you to an expert who can help locate the best breeder in your area. Go to [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) and search "breeder referral."



**Purebred adult dogs**  
Save yourself the cost of a puppy and the trouble of paper training by adopting an adult dog through a breed rescue organization. (You'll also be saving her life.) Find one through the AKC at [www.akc.org/breeds/rescue.cfm](http://www.akc.org/breeds/rescue.cfm).



**Lovable mutts and mixed breeds**  
Adopt an adorable, and ever-grateful, homeless mutt or mixed breed by visiting [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



CUT OUT AND KEEP

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TO GO...

