



**Dog Selection:**  
**Picking the Right Dog for You**

Answer the questions that follow. Encourage yourself to write down the first answer that springs to mind (intuitive, emotional response), rather than thinking it through (rational, logical response). Our interactions with animals are often governed more by emotions and impulse than logic. Your emotional response to these questions will more nearly reflect your response to your animal once it is living in your home. Animals whose characteristics and behaviors generate positive emotional responses (relaxation, contentment, happiness, joy) in us are animals who will be treasured members of our family for a lifetime.

I. Physical Characteristics: Coat Quality, Height, Weight, Strength.

	T	F
1. I hate it when a dog gets hair all over me.	___	___
2. I would feel embarrassed if people came to my house clean and left with dog hair all over their clothing.	___	___
3. I feel very uncomfortable if my house is not immaculately clean.	___	___
4. I enjoy being neatly dressed.	___	___
5. I feel uncomfortable in casual clothes.	___	___
6. I feel annoyed when I have to constantly clean up after people.	___	___
7. I can't rest until all the rooms in my house are clean and orderly.	___	___
8. I'm concerned about what people say and think about me.	___	___
9. I don't have a house plants because I don't have time to care for them.	___	___
10. I seldom have time to get done all the things that I want to do.	___	___
11. I don't enjoy repetitive tasks, even if I can daydream while I do them.	___	___
12. My living space has no place where I could groom a dog easily.	___	___
13. I'm ok with a shedding dog.	___	___
14. I enjoy grooming and have time for it.	___	___
15. I can afford professional grooming.	___	___
16. Amount of time I have each day for grooming: _____ min.	___	___
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1. I want a big dog.	___	___
2. I don't care how much it costs to feed a dog.	___	___
3. I am physically capable of walking a strong dog.	___	___
4. I live in a place with enough space for a large dog.	___	___
5. I am most interested in the bulkier breeds of dogs.	___	___

Please go on to the next page.

II. Temperament Characteristics

A. Dog's Indoor Activity Level vs. Your Need for Restless Activity

	T	F
1. I need to work quickly and energetically	___	___
2. I consider myself more restless and fidgety than most people.	___	___
3. I speak more quickly and loudly than most people.	___	___
4. I tend to eat rapidly even during a leisurely meal.	___	___
5. It annoys me to drive slowly when I can go faster.	___	___
6. I'm a brisk walker and feel impatient with stragglers.	___	___
7. I get uncomfortable with tasks that require deliberate and slow movements.	___	___

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B. Dog's Indoor Activity Level vs. Your Enjoyment of Activity

1. I'm usually full of pep and vigor.	___	___
2. I enjoy keeping busy during my leisure time.	___	___
3. I am happiest when I have a lot to do.	___	___
4. I pop out of bed in the morning ready and raring to go.	___	___
5. I enjoy working fast.	___	___

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C. Dog's Outdoor Activity Level vs. Your Enjoyment of Activity

1. Our family includes younger and/or physically active people.	___	___
2. Our family includes physically active people who enjoy being accompanied by their dog.	___	___
3. I feel old or wish to be inactive.	___	___
4. Estimated amount of time available per day to exercise dog: _____ min.	___	___
5. I have space available for at-liberty (off-leash) exercise.	___	___

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D. Dog's Behavioral Vigor

1. I currently enjoy/have enjoyed participating in:	Wrestling	___	___
	Boxing	___	___
	Football	___	___
	Hockey	___	___
	Baseball	___	___
	Soccer	___	___
	Weight lifting	___	___
	Basketball	___	___
	Mountain climbing	___	___
	Hiking	___	___
	Skiing (water or snow)	___	___
	Running	___	___
	Tennis	___	___
Surfing	___	___	
Backpacking	___	___	

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	T	F
2. I am a regular or consistent jogger or runner.	___	___
3. I enjoy work that requires physical exertion.	___	___
4. I like a race or game better when I have a bet on it.	___	___
5. I'm resourceful in fixing mechanical things around the house.	___	___

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E. Dog's Behavioral Constancy vs. Your Impulsiveness.

1. I usually make snap decisions.	___	___
2. I like to take a chance just for excitement.	___	___
3. I usually have a ready answer for most questions.	___	___
4. My friends consider me happy-go-lucky.	___	___
5. I like to make people laugh.	___	___
6. I prefer being at places where something is happening most of the time.	___	___
7. I usually let myself go and have a fun time at parties.	___	___
8. I like work that has a lot of excitement.	___	___
9. I enjoy competitive games more than noncompetitive ones.	___	___
10. I love to yell along with the crowd at a sports event.	___	___

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F. Dog's Behavioral Constancy vs. Your Impulsiveness.

1. When I have something to do I usually start right away.	___	___
2. When work piles up I get uncomfortable.	___	___
3. I like my surroundings to be clean and neat.	___	___
4. My friends can rely upon me fully.	___	___
5. I always try to use my time to the best advantage.	___	___
6. I enjoy working instead of daydreaming.	___	___
7. I consider myself organized.	___	___
8. I am usually not forgetful about important events.	___	___
9. I prefer to make a step-by-step contingency plan rather than deal with things as they occur.	___	___
10. I rarely leave things to the last moment.	___	___

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G. Dog's Need for Power and Control vs. Your Need for Power and Control

	T	F
1. I am ready to argue a point when I think I'm right.	___	___
2. In a pinch I can bluff my way through.	___	___
3. I enjoy being the boss and supervising the work of others.	___	___
4. I do, or would get a kick out of, public speaking.	___	___
5. I can and usually do take the lead in group projects and decisions.	___	___
6. I usually stand erect and make direct eye contact when talking.	___	___
7. I prefer to lead rather than follow.	___	___
8. I usually feel comfortable talking to "superiors" or "important" people.	___	___
9. I don't mind asking a stranger for directions or the time of day.	___	___
10. I prefer a job that involved initiative, one where I make the decisions.	___	___
11. I don't mind being conspicuous or attracting attention.	___	___
12. I would prefer to take the initiative rather than wait for others to take it.	___	___

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H. Dog's Territoriality

1. I want a guard or watch dog.	___	___
2. What do I want the dog to guard or watch? _____	___	___

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I. Dog's Emotional Stability vs. Your Emotional Stability

1. I am not bothered easily and generally don't get ruffled.	___	___
2. I consider myself an easygoing, even-tempered person.	___	___
3. I try to avoid arguments and rarely get into disputes.	___	___
4. I seldom hold a grudge.	___	___
5. I don't mind having noisy children or active dogs around me.	___	___
6. I stay calm when things go wrong.	___	___
7. I am not bothered when I'm in a hurry and just "miss the bus."	___	___
8. I don't mind waiting in a line or being stuck in traffic.	___	___
9. When someone does something stupid, I refrain from chewing him out.	___	___
10. I find it easy to forgive and forget.	___	___
11. There's hardly anyone I don't like.	___	___
12. It's easy for me to control my temper.	___	___

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J. Dog’s Sociability vs. Your Social Skills and Desire

	T	F
1. I can make friends easily.	___	___
2. I can be the life of the party.	___	___
3. I find it easy to express myself in conversation.	___	___
4. I tend to put strangers at ease.	___	___
5. People readily tell me about their personal troubles.	___	___
6. I often praise and encourage my friends.	___	___
7. When people talk to me, I can listen instead of thinking of my next comment.	___	___
8. I can hear the feelings behind people’s words as well as what they literally are saying.	___	___
9. I can be sensitive and sympathetic to people’s moods.	___	___
10. I am aware of and generally sensitive to other people’s tone of voice and body posture when they interact with me.	___	___
11. I can change my behavior/mood to match or help people I am interacting with.	___	___
12. I can smile readily when people interact with me.	___	___

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13. Usually I would rather go to a party than watch TV or a movie.	___	___
14. I dislike eating alone.	___	___
15. I would like to and/or do join many organizations and/or clubs.	___	___
16. I would like to and/or do get acquainted with my neighbors.	___	___
17. I like work that puts me in contact with many people.	___	___
18. I would like to and/or do spend many evenings with friends.	___	___
19. I would like to have or do have many friends.	___	___
20. I would mind living by myself.	___	___
21. Usually I prefer to work with people rather than with things and ideas.	___	___
22. Having people around me most of the time would not get on my nerves.	___	___
23. I depend very much on others for company.	___	___
24. I would rather talk to someone than read a book or watch TV.	___	___
25. I consider myself a social lion.	___	___
26. I prefer a large number of acquaintances to a small number of close friends.	___	___

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Please go on to the next page.

**K. Dog's Sociability with Strangers**

Place a check next to the reaction you desire from your dog:

- Playful; likes everybody. Jumps on people; continuously nuzzling, smelling and rubbing up against visitors for attention. Can annoy people who don't like dogs.
  - Likes almost everyone. Accepting but discriminating in its friendliness. May jump up but takes cues readily about the inappropriateness of this behavior.
  - Tolerates or ignores strangers.
  - Aloof; hangs back and approaches only after one or two visits. Can become friendly if adequately socialized before 20 weeks of age.
  - Distrustful. May growl if petted, approached or stared at. Usually not aggressive unless provoked. Requires extensive socialization and training before 20 weeks of age to overcome fear.
  - Hides when visitors enter. Exhibits fear-aggressive behaviors.
  - Ill-tempered. Danger to visitors varies with size and strength.
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**L. Dog's Sociability toward Children**

Regardless of how good a breed is said to be with children, children and dogs must NEVER be left unsupervised. Children must be taught appropriate ways to interact with dogs. Dogs must be well-trained and socialized with many children. Children should be involved in the care and training of the dog as early as possible, however, they should never be expected to be the sole or primary caregiver. An 18-month old child is capable of controlling a dog if properly taught and supervised.

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**M. Dog's Sociability with Owner and Family vs. Your Willingness to be Accepting or Critical of Others**

	T	F
1. I sincerely believe that most people mean well.	___	___
2. I expect an honor system to work well in most situations.	___	___
3. For me, logic is less important than faith in human interactions.	___	___
4. I have found that I can trust people.	___	___
5. If I lost my wallet or purse, I believe the finder would try to return it.	___	___
6. In my experience, other drivers are usually courteous and considerate.	___	___
7. I believe that one has to be sensitive to others to get on in this world.	___	___
8. I'm confident that most people look out for other people.	___	___
9. I believe that most people will not cheat, even if they can get away with it.	___	___
10. I think the only road to success is through the willing help of others.	___	___
11. In my opinion, most people will do more work than is expected of them.	___	___
12. I think that if I let my guard down, people will feel closer to me.	___	___

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## Dog Selection – 7

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### III. Learning Dimensions

	T	F
1. I have a lot of time for training.	___	___
2. The dog needs to obey all family members.	___	___
3. I have children.	___	___
4. The dog will need to be left home alone for long periods of time.	___	___
5. We have a chaotic family life with little time to train a dog.	___	___

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To receive the collated results of your answers, please send this questionnaire, along with your check for \$150., to:

Kindness Canine Behavior Consultants, LLC.  
105 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Results will be returned within 10 business days, and will include:

- Collated results with recommendations and rationales.
- A list of 6-8 breeds whose profiles match the needs indicated by the questionnaire results.
- A medical/genetic profile for each breed on the list.
- Guidelines for choosing and buying puppies.
- Guidelines for interviewing and selecting a breeder or other source.
- A list of resources and references.

Thank you for your interest and time. You have taken a giant step toward enlightened and responsible dog ownership!

Adapted from Tortora, D.F. (1980). The Right Dog For You. New York: Simon & Schuster.

