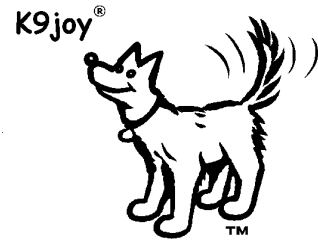




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SEMINAR:

"HOW TO CHOOSE A PUPPY"

Overall frame:

One evening seminar of 3-3½ hours, for 10-50 students. Handout materials in binder, including test schedules and check sheets.

Who can participate:

The seminar is meant for people who *consider* acquiring a dog – or plan to do so in the near future. They may or may not have an idea of what kind of dog, yet it is highly recommendable that they participate in the seminar *before* they commit to a specific purchase. Please *list the breeds you consider* when signing up, and they will be specifically addressed at the seminar.

Prior participation in the seminar "The Dog's Social Instincts" will enhance the value, but is not mandatory.

Objective:

To give the participants a realistic perception of what dog ownership involves, in terms of necessary lifestyle changes, economy, time commitment and other obligations, joy, and potential suffering - all related to the choice of dog, its breed, its health, its Imprinting, and its Socialization.

To give the participants the tools they need to pick a supplier (preferably a breeder) and to test a puppy from that supplier before committing to a purchase.

To have the participants understand the implications of various typical contracts offered by breeders, shelters, etc.



Content:

- The dog's fundamental nature - what to expect from a domesticated wolf...
- Presentation of the most common breeds, their history and past use, their temperaments, what it takes to keep them happy and in mental balance (avoiding destructive behavior), and what types of lifestyle are compatible with such a dog. *How to pick the right breed of dog for you and your family.*
- Genetic diseases - what to watch out for in what breeds, and how to avoid making things worse than what they have to be, even if this risk cannot be completely eliminated.
- How to find a good breeder - what to ask and what to look for when visiting the breeder, and what to expect from the breeder's side, testing *you!*
- Puppy testing - what the breeder should allow you to do - and how you ensure that your puppy has the potential you need for bonding to you (proper Imprinting and Socialization on humans).
- The purchase: what to expect in a breeder contract, what to accept, what to ensure.
- What the puppy will cost - adding the tally for purchase, veterinarian assistance, shots, health insurance, food, furniture destruction, training, boarding, traveling, show, etc.

Good reasons for participating in this seminar....

Each year, probably all full-time professional dog trainers have hundreds of students approaching them with the problems they have with their dogs. Unfortunately, the vast majority of those problems could have been completely avoided if people had been more knowledgeable about what dog ownership all involves *before* they bought this puppy.... Even though a dog, in terms of the law, is a commodity you can sell and buy, dog ownership involves far more than purchasing a TV. It is not too much said that *dog ownership is a lifestyle* in and on its own. If people do not know what this all entails *before* they acquire their adorable puppy, they are in for trouble.

Way too many people buy a dog because they like the looks of it. Well, honestly, you might be better off buying a picture to hang on the wall, if this beautiful breed of dog generally has a temperament that is incompatible with the lifestyle you want to live....

Other people want their dog to be "smart". Well, we have seen many dogs outsmart their owners, and it is not really a desirable situation for anybody, not even the dog. In order to avoid this, it is paramount that the dog has activity needs and a temperament that fits well with what you can give it. It is never a



dog's "intelligence" that is the limiting factor for what you can train it to do - it is almost exclusively the *match* between the dog's temperament and yours that counts!!!!

We have heard thousands of times from students in our classes: "I wish I'd known all this before I bought this dog!"

What you get out of this seminar:

First of all, you get an understanding of what you can expect from a dog, dependant on its breed - or combination of breeds, if you are looking for a mutt. We will address the issues that should enter into your considerations of choosing a dog, both those that relate to the dog and to the breed, and those relating to you and to your lifestyle.

You will further get a hand-out with specific guidance to what to do and what not to do when

- Picking the breed(s) that are compatible with your lifestyle;
- Choosing a breeder (or other supplier, like a shelter or private person);
- Testing your puppy before committing to it;
- Involving your veterinarian;
- Signing the purchase contract.

On top of that: you get to know somebody who can help you if you run into problems - or simply want to avoid problems by getting the puppy treated right, right from the beginning....

What your dog will get out of your participation:

The most important advantage for your new dog will be that it will have a fair chance of becoming *the right dog* for you and your family. And that in turn greatly reduces its risk for ending up in a SPCA shelter - or being put down because it is "misbehaving" or obnoxious to a degree you cannot live with.

Problem dogs are all man made.

We wish for no dog to be acquired by a "problem owner" who later blames the dog for his/her own bad choice.