



ARE YOU READY FOR A PUPPY?

Training, Socialization and Enrichment

- Are you prepared to devote time and money to OTAT-approved training and socialization classes?
- Adolescence is a hard time for puppies. They often have higher levels of fear and energy during this time that can cause them to bark at strangers more. Are you prepared to learn to read your puppy's body language and then use that knowledge to protect, teach, and support your puppy around scary situations and people during this time?
- It can be hard to tell precisely what your puppy will be like as an adolescent and adult. Are you prepared to seek humane support if your puppy is struggling with behaviors like separation anxiety, poor leash walking skills, barking at strangers, fear of other dogs?
- Are you prepared to provide your puppy with chews, toys, enrichment puzzles, and exercise?

Living with a puppy

- Teething is uncomfortable and stressful for puppies. If you are interested in a puppy that is just a few months old, are you prepared to gently and calmly interrupt and redirect puppy biting during their teething phase?
- Puppies with no potty training can usually only hold their bladder for two hours and can only extend the amount of time they can hold their bladder by 15 minutes each week. Are you prepared to get up at night to take a puppy outside, patiently potty train, and refrain from punishment when inevitable accidents happen in the house?
- Have you [puppy-proofed your home](#)?

The Future

- Are you prepared to accept your puppy even if they grow up to be a dog that doesn't like going to breweries and bbqs or playing with other dogs?
- Before deciding to adopt a puppy, we recommend reading Ian Dunbar's free books [Before You Get Your Puppy](#) and [After You Get Your Puppy](#)