

So you've answered questions inside this leaflet.  
Now you might ask .....

## WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF ADOPTING A DOG?

- Regular dog-walking improves fitness levels.
- Dog-walking increases social interaction - many people become friends with the fellow dog owners they regularly meet.
- Walks help to forget the stresses and strains of everyday life, providing an opportunity to can get away from it all and spend some time with a faithful companion.
- Dogs provide us with a sense of emotional wellbeing thanks to the unconditional love they give us.
- Dog owners generally have a more robust immune system, helping them stave off illnesses.
- Dog ownership helps people to recover from personal trauma, such as bereavement.
- Dog owners generally have reduced blood pressure compared with non-dog owners.
- Patting a dog lowers your blood pressure, therefore lowering your chances of cardiovascular disease.
- Dog owners often recover faster from illnesses and have a higher survival rate after a heart attack.
- Dog-owning children have fewer sick days off school, and children who own pets often have better self esteem.

They can make you laugh, cheer you up after a rotten day and above all you will have.....

**A LOYAL FRIEND who is always there for YOU!**

(From [www.purina.co.nz](http://www.purina.co.nz))

## R.S.P.C.A. TAMESIDE & GLOSSOP BRANCH

Is an independent charity which raises its own money to re-home animals brought in by RSPCA Inspectors.

This leaflet has been produced to help ensure that our dogs are successfully rehomed to caring new families who have considered all the advantages and disadvantages of taking a dog into their lives and are committed to providing a happy, healthy life for a dog who may not have experienced any love or care in the past.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**TO CONTACT THE BRANCH:** Tel: 0705 026 4531

**IF YOU WISH TO REPORT CRUELTY TO AN ANIMAL** – Please contact the RSPCA's cruelty line on 0300 1234 999

**STRAY DOGS** – The RSPCA does not collect stray dogs. Responsibility for stray dogs now rests entirely with Local Authorities. Dog Wardens: Tameside – 0845 241 7253 & Glossop – 0845 129 7777

**INJURED STRAY ANIMALS** – The police (Greater Manchester Police Force Instructions) may call on the services of a veterinary surgeon. If you find an animal, which is injured, please telephone the police in the first instance.

**VETERINARY SURGEONS PRACTISING IN THIS AREA CAN BE FOUND IN THE YELLOW PAGES** – Ask them if they participate in the RSPCA's assisted neutering and treatment schemes.

**If you would like to offer a caring home please phone one of the following numbers to make an appointment:**

**07050 264 531 - Dogs**

**07977 757 273 - Cats**

**[www.rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk](http://www.rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk)**



# Tameside & Glossop Branch

*(We receive no state aid and depend on voluntary contributions and bequests)*

**Registered Charity Number: 232260**

**Established 1899**

**Email: [office@rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk](http://www.rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk)**



## Choosing a dog?

*Important questions for a successful adoption*

Telephone 07050 264 531

Or visit our website at

[www.rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk](http://www.rspca-tameside-glossop.org.uk)

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

### **IS THIS THE RIGHT TIME TO BRING A DOG INTO YOUR LIFE?**

The most important thing to remember is that a dog is a living, breathing, thinking animal. Do not get a dog if you think he will look wonderful with your new image, your new home, your latest handbag, or 4x4 off-roader. Buying a dog is not like buying a new car, even though during his lifetime you will probably end up spending as much on your dog as you did buying that car.

Adopting a dog is more like having a child, a responsibility for his/her lifetime. Although unlike a child a dog will only ever understand a few basic words of English, he may need housetraining and will often pick up and eat all manner of nasty things. If you find this difficult to come to terms with then consider one or preferably a pair of the many less demanding animals such as house rabbits, guinea pigs or tropical fish, which can give you as much pride of ownership, but are happy to be alone whilst you are out at work.

### **WILL YOUR LIFESTYLE SUIT A DOG?**

**How much time are you prepared to spend with your dog? How many hours are you out of the house each day?** If you leave the house at or before 8am and don't get home until after 6pm, 5 days a week, or you like to spend lots of evenings socialising with friends at the pub, the theatre or a nightclub, you are going to have a lonely, unhappy dog. He will soon show you exactly how unhappy he is by tearing up your new furniture, carpets, records or anything else you value simply out of boredom or loneliness, NOT because he is being deliberately naughty as some people imagine. Dogs are social animals who love to be with their family

**– THEY NEED YOU!**

### **HOW MANY TIMES A DAY ARE YOU ABLE TO WALK YOUR DOG AND FOR HOW LONG?**



If you enjoy long walks in the countryside then you could choose one of the more active breeds eg a Retriever, Border Collie, Springer Spaniel or their crosses.

If, on the other hand, your idea of exercise is a walk to the local post box, consider adopting a toy breed, or an older, more sedate animal who will appreciate the quiet life.

Many older dogs are overlooked in rescue centres just because of their age, but they often settle into their new homes more easily. They may have come into rescue simply because their previous owner has had to go into residential or nursing care or rented accommodation with a no pets allowed ruling.

**All dogs need regular, daily exercise** to keep their minds and bodies active and to use up any excess energy.

### **DO YOU HAVE THE COMMITMENT TO TRAIN YOUR DOG?**

It's important to ensure that dogs are socialised properly with people of all ages and with other animals including strange dogs. Modern training methods rely on a firm, kind approach. There are many books on the subject, but by far the best way to get help and support is to join a local dog training class. Your vet can often recommend one.

### **HOW MUCH SPACE DO YOU HAVE FOR A DOG?**

**Is your home suitable for the size of dog you would like to adopt?** A small home and garden may not rule out a larger, more "laid back" dog but would probably be unsuitable for a young, large, and very active one.

**Do you have a well-fenced, secure garden or yard?** Too many dogs are still allowed to roam the streets at will, as their owners don't take enough care to ensure that their property is escape proof or aren't prepared to take the dog out on a lead or to ensure that doors are closed when their dog is loose in the home. The Greater Manchester Dogs Home continues to take in over 300 stray dogs each week, many of which are never claimed by their owners.

### **ARE THERE CHILDREN IN YOUR FAMILY, OR DO YOU INTEND TO HAVE A BABY IN THE NEAR FUTURE?**

Then you need to ensure that the dog you choose to adopt is child friendly. Any good rescue will know which of the many dogs in their care are suitable to live with children and those who are not.

Even though you may be attracted to certain dog at the rescue, staff or volunteers will advise against a particular dog if they are uncertain in any way that he or she is child safe.

### **CAN YOU AFFORD A DOG?**

Adopting a dog from a rescue is not expensive, currently the branch asks for an adoption fee of £85 and this includes: vaccinations; neutering; micro-chipping; flea and worm treatment.



BUT, when you have added the cost of good quality food, veterinary fees for annual vaccinations, illness or injury, kennelling fees when you go on holiday and perhaps the cost of replacing expensive furniture (if you have left him alone for long hours at a time before he is secure in his new home), you can expect to pay several thousand pounds during the next 12 or more years.

**The RSPCA recommends that all pet owners take out insurance to cover unexpected veterinary costs.**