

FINDING THE PERFECT DOG BREED FOR YOUR FAMILY

A Comprehensive Guide





**"EVERY-
THING I
KNOW I
LEARNED
FROM
DOGS."**

-Nora Roberts

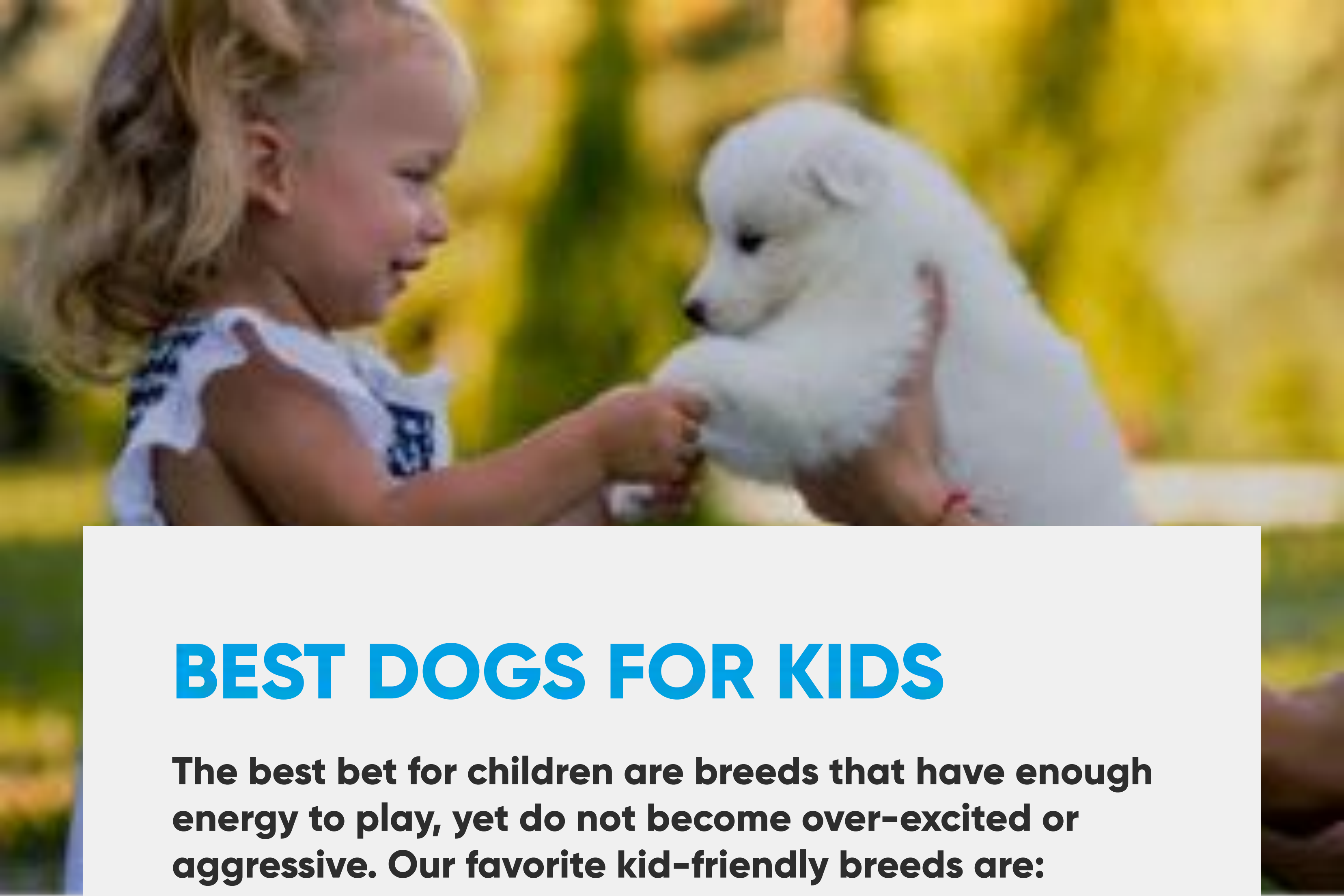
WHY YOU NEED THIS GUIDE

There is a multitude of reasons to adopt a furbaby! From reducing stress to improving cardiovascular health, dogs are a wonderful addition to any household. That's right! Even if you live in an apartment or have young children, there is a dog out there for you. It's not so much a question of if you can handle a dog, but rather which specific breed is appropriate for your lifestyle. If you're interested in adopting a pup but are unsure of where to start, this guide is for you!

BENEFITS OF HAVING A FAMILY DOG

Family structure varies immensely. From single-parent households to households with 3+ kids, each family is unique in its own special way. Parents may consider a dog for their children for various reasons, like companionship, responsibility, and/or entertainment! However, just like all kids are not the same, different breeds have distinct characteristics.





BEST DOGS FOR KIDS

The best bet for children are breeds that have enough energy to play, yet do not become over-excited or aggressive. Our favorite kid-friendly breeds are:

Bulldogs have a big build, letting them tolerate play-time with energetic children.

Beagles are full of energy and perfect to keep children entertained.

Poodles come in all sizes. They're also very smart, making it easy to train them.

Mutts are an obvious answer, having a combination of characteristics that could make any child fall in love. Additionally, they tend to be healthier and less likely to suffer from hereditary diseases. Not to mention, rescuing a dog is a very special experience that teaches children a great deal.

Dogs play a special role in our children's lives. However, some dogs are more than members of the family. Some pups are adopted because they have a job to do! You see, some parents need a furry friend to help their children overcome special conditions.

KIDS WITH ADHD:

- **Can struggle with behaving properly in specific surroundings**
- **Many times, it is a hazle for them to maintain concentration on a single subject**

- **Have trouble following instructions.**

Teaching a child with ADHD responsibility is no easy task. However, enlisting the help of a furry friend is a fabulous way to get the job done. If your child is hyperactive with a lot of energy, small dogs might not be the best option as they can easily get hurt. Instead...

Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers are easy to train and are the appropriate size to keep up with extremely active young ones.

AUTISTIC KIDS:

- **Do not have an easy time socializing with others.**
- **Sometimes become aggressive and can harm themselves or others.**
- **Do not communicate easily.**
- **Cannot focus on multiple topics/subjects at a time**

Autistic children may qualify for a service dog. Each case is unique and parents can determine what their best options are. A dog, however, is capable of being great help for a child with Autism. They can be trained to track lost kids, help during panic attacks by resting on their feet or putting their heads on kids' laps, assist their little human in interacting with other people, and serve as a form of entertainment for the child.

For this reason, bigger dogs are also a better choice for Autistic children. Unlike with kids who have ADHD, these dogs should have a calmer demeanor.

Boxers are playful, friendly, big dogs that tend to be calmer.

Great Danes are large pups but have a loyal and protective personality. If you have the space required for this big breed, then it would be a great choice!





“DOGS ARE
NOT OUR
WHOLE
LIFE, BUT
THEY MAKE
OUR LIVES
WHOLE.”

-Roger Caras

BEST DOGS FOR SENIORS

Dogs are a perfect companion for humans of all ages, including seniors who might live alone. They help with common issues that may arise later in life, like:

- **Depression & Anxiety**
- **Lack of Energy**

The best choice depends on the energy you have, the space you have available, and your ability to care for a pet. Mostly, smaller dogs are a better option for the elderly as they are lower maintenance. This, however, does not mean that big dogs are not a good alternative for people with an active lifestyle.

Pomeranians are tiny and easy to carry anywhere, making them fairly easy to handle.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are another relaxed and small breed.

Greyhounds are big but are definitely on the calmer side.

Malteses are perfect lap dogs that don't require too much activity.

BUDGET

When getting a new puppy, a big factor to take into consideration is how much you are able or willing to spend. All dogs vary in the amount of attention they require. They all have different needs regarding health, training, grooming, and food. What breed you should get depends on your family's economic situation, not only now, but over the next ten years as well.

If your budget is small, we recommend a mutt! Mutts are fun and come in all shapes and sizes. They tend to be healthier which means fewer visits to the vet. Also, adoption is far less expensive than paying for a purebred pup. When adopting a mutt, it's important to keep in mind that there is no sure way of knowing how big the pup will get. For this reason, the age and situation of each child in your household must be considered before adoption. Also, spending some time in the shelter and getting to know the dog helps to verify whether they are a good match.

Adopting a dog normally only requires a small fee along with initial medical costs like vaccinations. Additionally, here are some breeds that typically don't require much spending.

Dachshunds are small and have short hair, keeping food and grooming costs low.

English Bulldogs do not require a lot of energy so you won't have to worry about frequent leash replacements. Additionally, they have short hair and are a good option for an in-house dog.

Chihuahuas are also small and do not require that much grooming or food.

Jack Russell Terriers have short hair and require little food. However, they are very energetic and need special training.





SERVICE DOGS

Any person living with a condition that requires him or her to receive day to day help should strongly consider a service dog. These dogs are trained to assist people with different conditions, like seizures, blindness, and other disabilities.

As stated before, as long as they are calm and easy to train, big dogs make great service dogs.

Rough Collies have the energy to work with people. Their size and motivation make them a good fit for the job.

German Shepherds are big, strong, and have a calm temperament, making them able to work well with those in need.

Cocker Spaniels are a good option for those who prefer a medium-sized dog. They are sweet animals, yet determined to help and easily trained.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL

ESAs, on the other hand, are dogs that help people that suffer from depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions. They do not need to be trained like service animals but are just as important in their owners' lives.

German Shepherds are loyal, calm, protective and easy to train.

Doberman Pinschers are intelligent yet very loving animals.

Golden Retrievers make excellent companions. Their size makes them the perfect shield of protection that a person wants to feel. They are also easily trained and lovable.

Dachshunds are the perfect option for a small ESA if the person is constantly on the go or traveling and wants their ESA on their lap in the plane.

ARE YOU IN A SMALL APARTMENT?

Small dogs that do not require a lot of space and do not have an immense amount of energy are beneficial for families living in apartments. They are also the best option for college students or those who work long hours because they do not require a ton of exercise.

Shih Tzus are generally small and do not require a lot of activity. However, they need to be groomed and tended to constantly.

Malteses are a toy sized breed with a funny and playful personality. They might take some time to train but are perfect for families in apartments.

Pugs are another reasonable breed for small living spaces. They require consistent grooming and eat a standard amount of food.

DO YOU HAVE A HOUSE WITH A YARD?

If this is the case, then having a bigger dog is an alternative! Some of our favorite breeds are:

Siberian Huskies are big and energetic. A great option for colder climates.

Rottweilers are very active and can happily live outside. They do however require a lot of attention to make sure their behavior does not become aggressive.

Mastiffs are lovable and caring dogs. They have the ability to live outside as they can easily adapt to the weather.



BEST FARM DOGS

Some dogs are perfect for herding or living on big, open spaces like farms.

Dalmatians are known for working outside. In fact, they are the go-to choice for firefighters & police forces.

Border Collies are extremely smart and easily trained, perfect for the job as well.

Pembroke Welsh Corgis are known for being funny and small, but they are also intelligent and easily trained. They are a breed to consider if in need of a smaller pet.

BEST GUARD DOGS

For protection, dogs with a natural instinct for defending are great! The only precaution is they need to be trained in order to not become too aggressive or possessive.

Cane Corsos come from a long line of trained war dogs and are known for being loyal.

Bullmastiffs have a threatening appearance when in protection mode. With the correct training, they can become personal guards.

Rottweilers have a playful side but can be very intimidating when they need to be.



**"THE LANGUAGE
OF FRIENDSHIP
IS NOT WORDS,
BUT MEANINGS**

**-David Henry
Thoreau**

DO YOU ALREADY HAVE A FURRY FRIEND?

The myth that cats and dogs do not get along has been busted by cute puppy/kitty videos on Youtube. However, if you already have a cat (or a dog) and are thinking of getting a second pet, certain breeds are better than others. For example:

Pugs are caring dogs that will show their love even to cats.

Basset Hounds are calm and friendly, perfect for getting along with other pets.

Papillons are small and excited dogs that can get along with cats. However, their long hair requires attention and grooming.

BEST DOGS TO TRAVEL WITH

Some individuals/families are constantly on the road for a variety of reasons. Most of the time, small dogs are a better choice for this type of situation.

Yorkshire Terriers adapt to small spaces and are easy to carry.

Russell Terriers are energetic yet small, allowing them to go anywhere and everywhere with their owner.

Dalmatians can be considered if the person wants a big dog since they are easily trained. However, larger dogs are normally transported as cargo in planes.

HYPOALLERGENIC DOGS

It's not uncommon that someone in the family is allergic to dogs, making it difficult to enjoy their company. Luckily, there are a variety of hypoallergenic breeds that are perfect for this.

Bichon Frises have a white and fluffy coat that barely sheds.

Schnauzers come in different sizes and have a short coat.

Poodles also come in different sizes. They have curly locks, but are tolerable to people who are allergic to dog hair.

After listing so many breeds, you may be experiencing a little decision paralysis. **Just remember**, the most important thing is that your new companion makes you and your family happy! The truth is all dogs are special and serve a purpose. Whether they're small, medium, large, pure breed or a mutt, they give us unconditional love. We hope this short guide has been helpful and wish you and your pup to be the best of luck!



Honest Paws is a company that sells CBD products for dogs and cats. Our goal is to **provide a longer and happier life for pets** to enjoy with their owners. You can check us out and read more about us at www.honestpaws.com.



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