

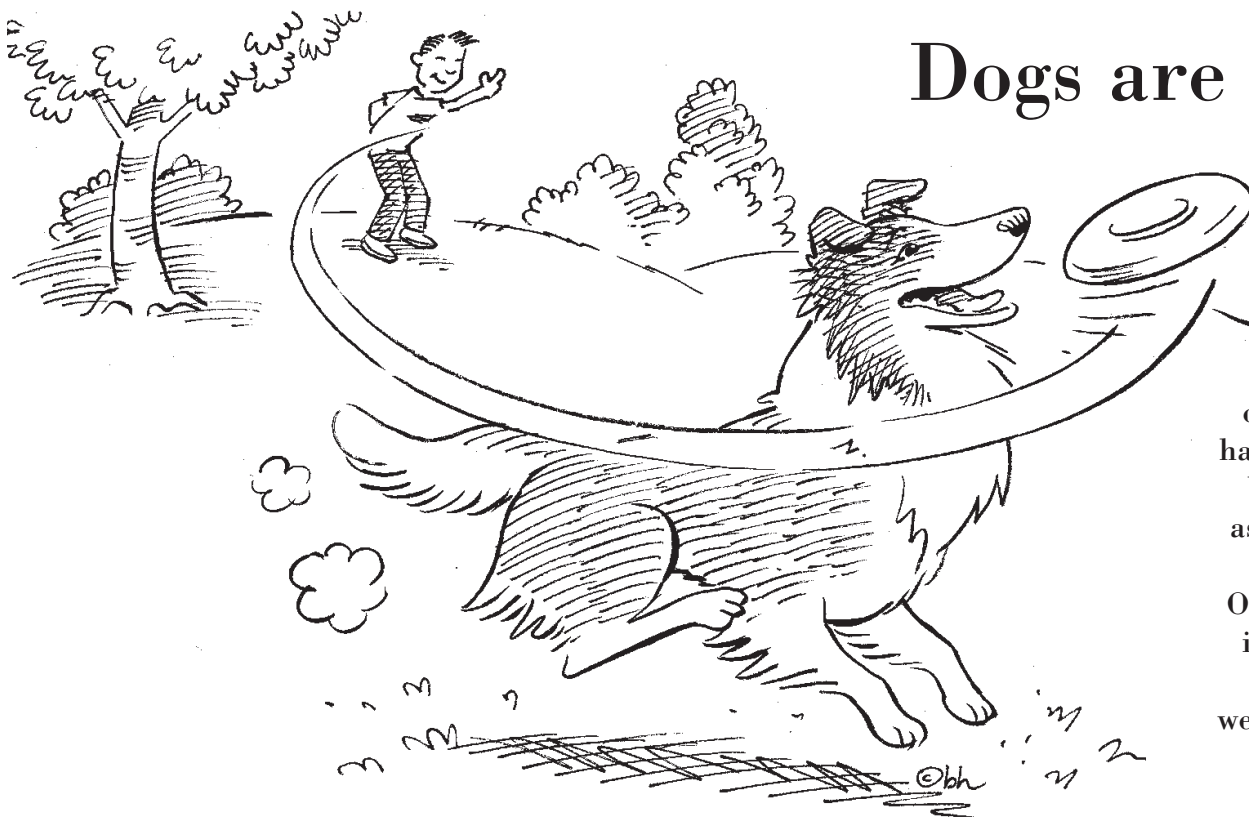
# Before You Buy A Dog



Whether you're thinking about buying a puppy or adopting an adult dog, there are lots of things to think about beforehand. Please consider the following:



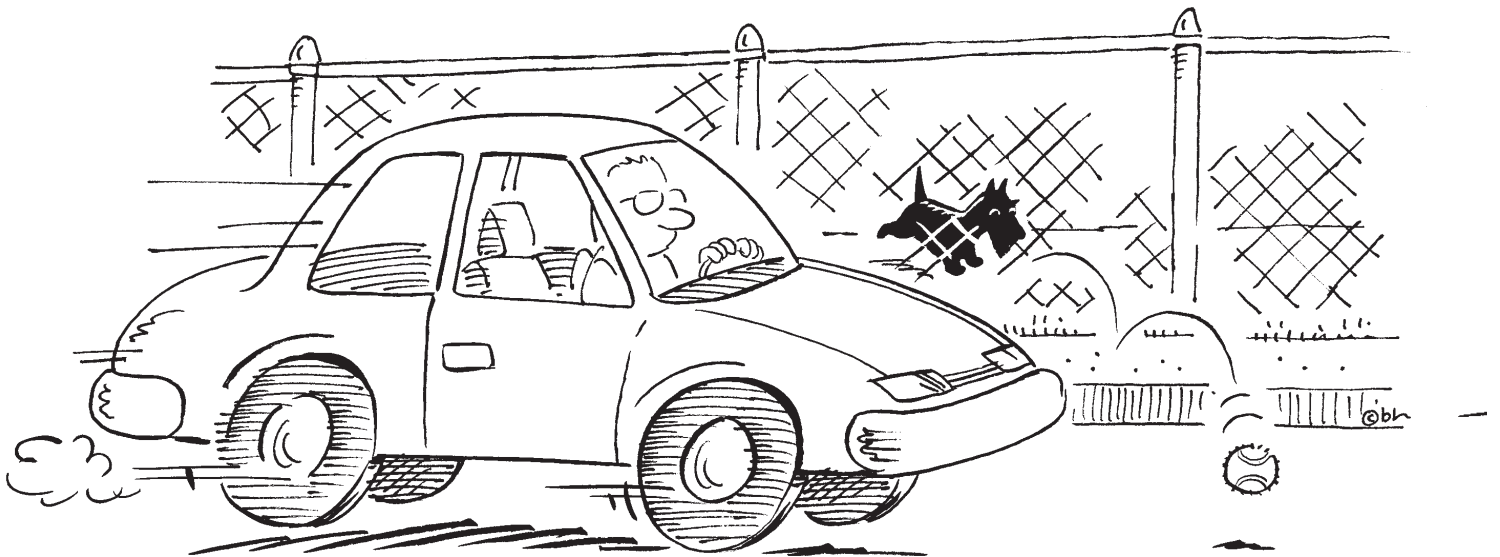
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## Dogs are playful

Dogs need plenty of exercise to stay happy and healthy. You'll need to set aside playtime and time for training. Obedience training is a must for your dog to become a welcome member of the community!

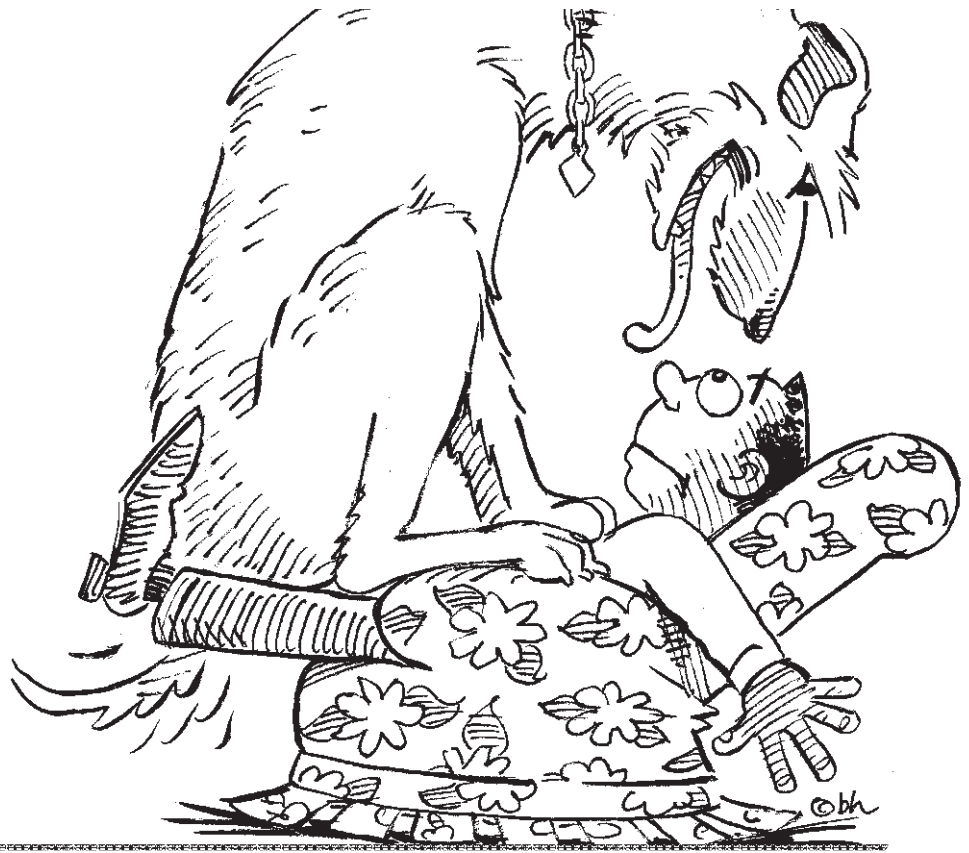
## Dogs need protection.



A fenced yard is important for your dog's safety. You certainly don't want your dog to run away or get lost. It's a good idea to get an identification tag or have your dog permanently identified with a tattoo or microchip just in case he manages to get loose despite your efforts! And, of course, when he leaves the yard, he'll need a leash!

## Dogs grow.

Puppies don't stay little for long! You'll need to pick a breed that suits your environment. Larger, energetic breeds need lots of space and may not be suited to apartment or city dwelling. A toy breed might be better if your space is limited.



In some communities, dogs need a license. Failure to comply with local laws may result in fines or penalties, and may endanger your right to keep your dog!



## Dogs may need a license.

## Dogs influence the family budget.

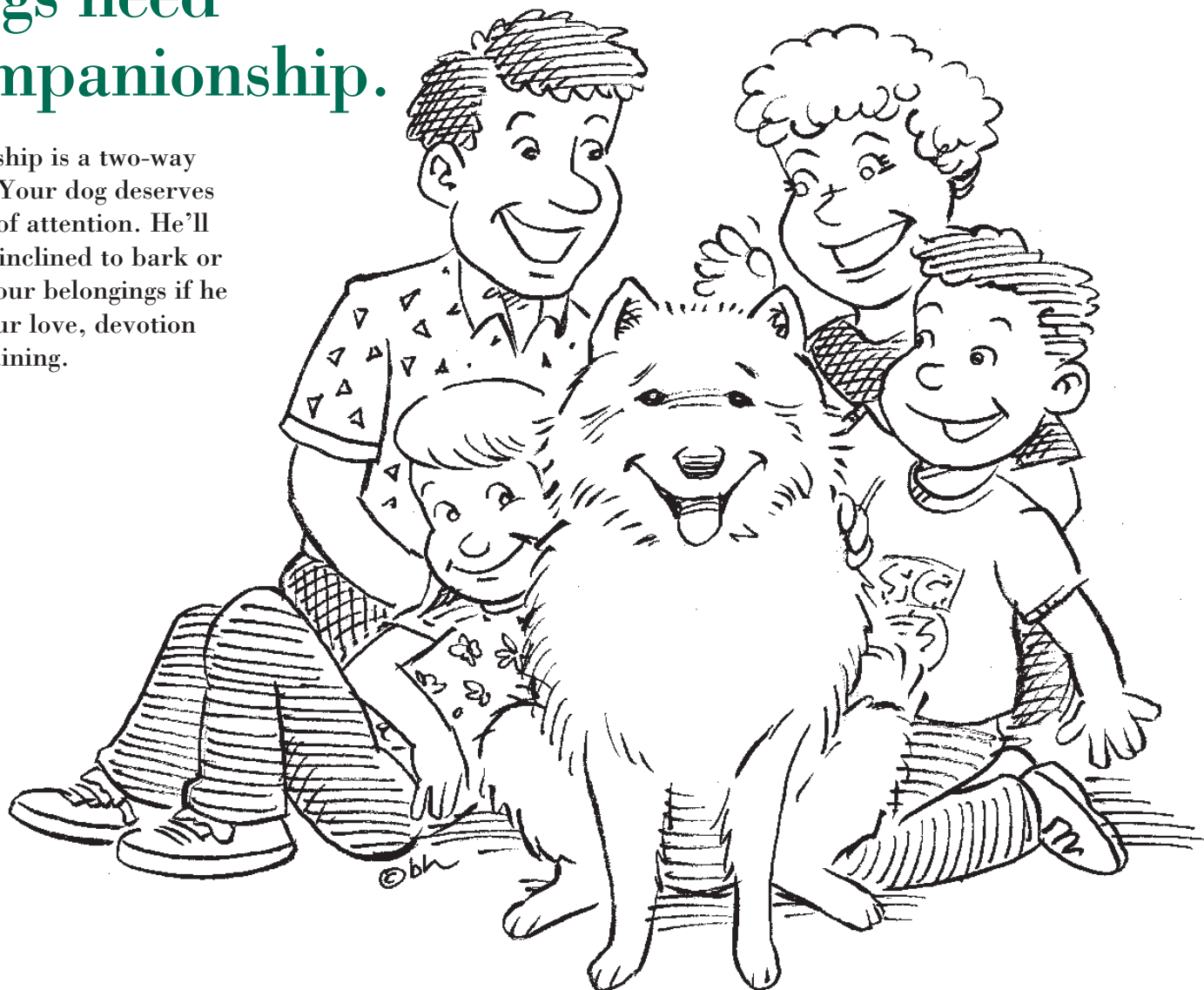
In addition to the purchase price of your dog, plan for food, grooming, collars, a leash and perhaps some toys and a special bed. Don't forget to add in vet care and those training lessons!

## Dogs need health care.

All dogs need annual vaccinations, heartworm medicine, and – just like humans – regular checkups. Sometimes, dogs require flea and tick treatment or treatment for unexpected ailments or illnesses.

# Dogs need companionship.

Friendship is a two-way street. Your dog deserves plenty of attention. He'll be less inclined to bark or chew your belongings if he gets your love, devotion and training.



## Dogs need all of the above for their lifetime.

The average life span of most dogs is twelve years, but some dogs may live for over twenty years! So, your dog will depend on you for love and care for a long time. Being a responsible dog owner is an important job and requires your serious commitment.

For more information about responsible dog ownership, contact:  
American Kennel Club  
Customer Service Department  
8051 Arco Corporate Drive  
Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27617  
919-233-9767  
Or visit us on the web at  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)



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