

INGLÉS

Most people have had a dog or wanted one as a companion at some time in their lives. If you are thinking of buying a dog, however, you should first decide what sort of companion you need and whether the dog is likely to be happy in the surroundings you can provide. Specialist advice is available to help you choose the most suitable breed of dog but in part the decision depends on common sense. Most breeds were originally developed to perform specific tasks, so if you want a dog to protect you or your house, for example, you should choose a breed that has the right build and characteristics. You must also be ready to devote a good deal of time to training the dog when it is young and giving it the exercise it needs throughout its life, unless you live in the country and can let it run freely. Dogs are demanding pets. Whereas cats identify with a house and so are content if their place there is secure, a dog identifies with its master and consequently wants him to show proof of his affection. The best time to buy a puppy is when it is between six and eight weeks old so that it can transfer its affection for its mother to its master. If puppies have not established a relationship with a human being until they are over three months old, their strongest relationship will always be with dogs.