

Dating with Dogs: Pet Responsibilities



By Eric Bittman, CEO/President of [Warren London](#)

To say that getting a dog is a huge responsibility is an understatement. From feeding, walking, and picking up after your furry friend to making sure he's up-to-date on his vaccines and well groomed (with Warren London products, I hope!), he demands *a lot* of attention. Before rushing into picking out a pet, there are a lot of things to think about and to discuss as a family.

Related Link: [What to Discuss Before Getting a Pet Together](#)

Talking about how you plan to divide up responsibilities is extremely important in advance of getting a pup. You and your

family members might have busy work and school schedules. Who will watch the dog? How many hours each day will he be alone?

One possibility to discuss is dropping the dog off at a doggy daycare center. Once you've decided on daycare, you should consider the expense and discuss who will drop off and pick up your pooch.

Planning a walking and feeding schedule is also extremely important. If you want to bring a young puppy home, the first six to ten months can be very intense – accidents on your antique rug or brand new bed and chewing on the legs of your coffee table or favorite pair of shoes are common. The only way your dog will learn is to be constantly reminded and walked or let outside whenever needed. To make it easier, involve all of your family members and decide who will do each job.

It's no secret that kids love dogs and often beg their parents for a new puppy. The fun ends once everyone realizes how much work it is! Make sure your children understand the process of housebreaking, grooming, and cleaning up after a dog before bringing a new family member home.

Once the work level is understood, raising a pet will be a rewarding experience and will teach your children responsibility – after all, it's up to you and your family to keep your new pal both healthy and happy! Having a dog is not all fun and games, but as long as your family understands the work it entails, great memories will be made.

Related Link: [Picking Out a Pet](#)

For this month's celebrity Q&A, I spoke with Steve Cuccio, who appeared on *Charles in Charge*, became good friends with Scott Baio, and later appeared on the VH1 show *Scott Baio is 45 and Single*. Known as The Cooch, he was usually the voice of reason for Scott and his friends as they tried to figure out why he couldn't settle down and get married.



Q: What kind of dog do you have now?

A: A King Charles Spaniel.

Q: Did you grow up with dogs? If so, what kind?

A: I grew up with a beagle-cocker mix named Penny.

Q: How did you and your wife decide the rules on training your dog? Did you have different views, or was this a non-issue?

A: We sent our King Charles Spaniel to puppy school at about four months old. It helped her learn simple commands and introduced her to other dog's butts. We never feed her table food; she is actually on a strict diet from a bout with pancreatitis. She gets fresh Bison meat from Whole Foods, while I eat a microwaved dinner!

Q: Do you feel that your dog has a positive effect on your relationship with your wife and kids?

A: She is very loving and has had a positive effect on my family.

Q: You got your dog when your daughters were around their middle school years. Did your family set up job responsibilities for your kids prior to getting a dog?

A: The kids said they would walk her and feed her, but in

reality, they just play with her and enjoy her.

Q: Does your family use Warren London's easy to use at home dog spa products to pamper your pup? Is this a fun bonding time for your family?

A: We use Warren London products, and she loves them, especially her nail polish.

For more information about Eric Bittman, click [here](#). Stay tuned for next month's Dating with Dogs column!

Dating with Dogs: What to Discuss Before Getting a Pet





By Eric Bittman, CEO/President of [Warren London](#)

So you've been dating your significant other for a while. It feels like true love, and you decide to take the next step: buying or adopting a cute puppy together. Before you pick up your fluffy Fido, there are a few conversations that you need to have.

Related Link: [Picking Out a Pet Together](#)

While two people may seem like a perfect couple, their ideas on dog training may be totally opposite. One person might think crate-training is the way to go, while their other half might cringe at the idea of keeping their pup in a cage during the workday. Your mate might think a dog should eat Purina puppy chow and nothing else, while you might want Spot to eat only home-cooked, human-quality meals. The list goes on and on.

Before you bring home your new dog, it's crucial to sit down and talk about these sort of things with your partner. This will save you the stress of screaming at each other while

little Rufus is happily chewing your shoes. Think about the dog's feeding plan, walking schedule, sleeping arrangements, and exercise routine, and think about your own disciplinary techniques. If the conversation becomes hostile with no compromise in sight, it might be better to wait a bit – for the sake of your relationship and that sweet dog.

Note that there's not always a "right" way to train your pet, but taking your dog to a local professional may help shape your decisions. Once the issues are settled, enjoy every minute with your new friend. Raising a puppy will definitely bring you and your partner closer.

Related Link: [When Your Pet is a Deal Breaker](#)

This month, I asked actor Michael Rosenbaum, who recently wrote, directed, and starred in the movie *Back In the Day*, a few questions about dating with dogs:

Q: What is your favorite dog breed?

A: German Shepherd. My grandmother always had Shepherds running around the house while I was growing up.

Q: How many dogs have you owned?

A: My family had a St. Bernard, some poodles and a Golden Retriever growing up, but the first dog that I've ever owned is Irv, a German Shepherd.

Q: If you dated someone who demanded a little dog, such as a chihuahua or a yorkie, would you give in or push for a bigger dog?

A: I like more of a manly dog. Someone I can wrestle with and not have worry about stepping on by accident.

Q: You meet someone that insists that her dog sleeps in the bed with you guys. Is that the end of the relationship?

A: Irv sleeps with me every night. Maybe this question should be for the person I'm dating!

Q: What is your favorite brand of dog shampoo? (Hint: I will only accept one answer to this question!)

A: I like Warren London. It's all-natural, and that has to be good, right?

For more information about Eric Bittman, click [here](#). Stay tuned for next month's Dating with Dogs column!

Dating with Dogs: Picking Out a Pet Together





By Eric Bittman, CEO/President of [Warren London](#)

Picking out a pet as a couple can be a cause of stress in a relationship. The biggest choice is usually deciding whether you want a big dog or a small one, but it can be much more complicated than that.

There are many factors in determining what breed you and your partner should choose. First and foremost, consider your family size and future plans. Some dogs are known to be great with kids, while many breeds are too aggressive for little kids. Some of the best breeds with small children in the house are Beagles, Poodles, Labs, and Golden Retrievers.

Related Link: [When Your Pet Is a Deal Breaker](#)

Another factor can be how much exercise you're able to give to your dog. Some dogs – like French Bulldogs and Pugs – need walks and exercise but would be great apartment dogs. Other breeds, including Huskies and Labs, require a lot more space and are quite energetic. If you and your partner aren't home much or live in a very harsh climate, a dog who is happy

spending most of his time indoors would be ideal for you.

And sometimes, you have to choose a dog because of his personality. When my wife and I lived in New York City, our main concern was getting a pet that would be happy in a small apartment. My allergies to longer-haired breeds and a dislike for heavy shedding also narrowed our options, but we still had a big number of breeds to consider. One day, my wife told me that she saw a cute Boston Terrier on the street with the funniest personality, and after a little research, we were able to make a relatively quick decision. We loved the breed so much that, after a year, we added a friend for Maurice – our new pup, Brittney, also a Boston Terrier. We can't imagine our lives without these cuddly black and white pals.

Related Link: [Brandon McMillan Chats About Finding Homes for Pets on 'Lucky Dog'](#)

No matter how you decide what kind of breed to bring into your family, you'll know when you find the right dog!

For more information about Eric Bittman, click [here](#). Stay tuned for next month's Dating with Dogs column.

Giveaway: Keep Your Dog Clean and Happy with Warren London Products





This post is sponsored by Warren London.

By [Whitney Johnson](#)

It's no secret that many pet owners want what's best for their furry friends, and Eric Bittman was no different when he created [Warren London](#). Eric and his wife Sara are the proud parents of two Boston Terriers, Maurice and Brittney. When Maurice was six months old, he developed a number of skin allergies. Unfortunately, the recommended shampoo only left his skin drier and itchier, which is why Eric decided to develop his own line of grooming products.

Warren London's main goal is to make innovative luxury spa and grooming products that get great results. The company uses only natural ingredients to ensure that all items are top quality; they're even human tested on top of being dog tested. Each product is made with a simple belief in mind: "Every dog deserves a spa day!"

From shampoos and conditioners to paw revitalizers and facial cleansers, Warren London sells a wide range of products that are sure to keep your dog looking (and smelling) his best. We

all know that a clean dog makes a happy partner; after all, nobody wants to come home from a week-long business trip and be greeted by a smelly pooch who leaves muddy paw prints on their dry clean-only suit.

Plus, for a bit of added fun, the company also has quick-drying, non-toxic, water-based Pawdicure Polish Pens, available in 13 colors and perfect for dog nail art.

My husband and I used the Coconut 2-in-1 Shampoo + Conditioner on our Lab mix, Finn. Just a puppy, he loves to play and run around outside, which means he gets dirty quickly; even so, three days after his bath, he still smelled like coconuts. His coat was particularly shiny and seemed more moisturized despite the Colorado winter air.

We also used the Instant Ear Cleaner on Finn's sensitive ears. He happily obliged while we massaged the solution into his ear canals, and his floppy ears stayed much cleaner than usual.

Lucky for you, one lucky CupidsPulse.com reader will win a Warren London gift bundle that includes: Lavender Shampoo, Hydrating Butter, Deep Cleaning Paw Fizz Tablets, Paw Sani-Scrub, Cucumber Melon Foaming Facial, "Wet Kiss" Dog Cologne, Grapeseed Oil, Instant Ear Cleaner, three Polish Pens, Nail File, and Buffer Block. Grooming your dog should be easy, effective, and, most importantly, fun – and thanks to Warren London products, it can be!

~~GIVEAWAY ALERT: To enter for a chance to win the Warren London gift bundle, go to our [Facebook](#) page and click "like." Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know you want to enter the contest and telling us something fun about your dog. We'll contact the winner via [Facebook](#) when the contest is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is Monday, January 13th at 5 p.m. ET. Good luck!~~

Congratulations to Melissa Mazzur!

Open to US residents only.

Dating with Dogs: When Your Pet Is a Deal Breaker



By Eric Bittman, CEO/President of [Warren London](#)

For my first expert post, I want to consider a common question: What do you do if your pet is a deal breaker? Let's say you have a two-year-old puppy, and you meet the person of your dreams – and they aren't a dog person. Do you choose your dog, or do you pursue a relationship with your soul mate? Big dilemma!

Related Link: [Must Love Dogs: More Singles Getting Pets](#)

Being a dog owner has changed for the current generation. Keeping your dog outside and tied up to a tree is no longer an option. Now, our dogs sleep next to us in our bed, and some of us spoil them so rotten that they even have their own pillow and blanket. For many pet owners, having a dog can be similar to having a child: You drop them off at daycare; you bathe them regularly; and you take them to the vet for regular checkups.

Trading your puppy love for a new relationship will certainly be difficult, and it's an issue that you need to clearly communicate to your partner. They need to understand how important your pet is to you and that giving your dog up is not a decision that you take lightly. If you truly want a future together, you *both* must be willing to compromise.

This question affects everyone differently. Luckily, my wife is a huge dog lover, and we'll always have multiple dogs in our household. Our two Boston Terriers have been a huge part of our lives for the eight years we've been together, and we couldn't imagine not having them.

Related Link: [Amanda Seyfried and Justin Long Bond Over Her Dog](#)

This month, I caught up with Jayde Nicole, former Playmate of the Year and star of *The Hills* and *Holly's World*, to ask her some questions about dating with dogs:

Q: You meet someone who says "I'm not a dog person" or "I don't like dogs." Is it over right there?

A: Yes, definitely!

Q: Do you ever feel jealous of your significant other when they're more into their dog than you? Or is it attractive?

A: Never happened to me before!

Q: Let's say your dog eats your partner's new wallet. What do you do?

A: My dogs would never do anything like that – they're very well-behaved.

Q: How do you handle it if your dog doesn't like your new significant other?

A: Most of my dogs hate everyone at first, but they always warm up to people eventually, so I would just give it some time.

Q: You meet someone that insists that his or her dog sleeps in the bed with you. Is that the end of the relationship?

A: All four of my dogs sleep in my bed with me no matter who else is there!

Q: And lastly, Your significant other says hi to the dog before they say hi to you after a long day of work. Do you see it as sweet or just plain rude?

A: Pretty standard – my dogs are so darn cute!

For more information about Eric Bittman, click [here](#). Stay tuned for next month's Dating with Dogs column!