

# 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!*

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## Dating with Dogs: Picking Out a Pet Together





By Eric

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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!

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## Dating with Dogs: When Your Pet Is a Deal Breaker





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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!**

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