

Pets Corner

Thinking of getting a dog? How do you choose which type? Are Rottweilers vicious attack dogs, or should you play safe and get a poodle?

These are just some of the



questions that crop up when you are considering a dog. This week, we're going to look at some of the popular misconceptions about some dogs, so you can put these out of the way!

First of all, do Rottweilers make good pets, or should they only be used for security?

There are two types of Rottweiler, the German Rottweiler and the American Rottweiler. The German Rottweiler has a slightly heavier build, thicker necks, bigger heads with shorter, broader muzzles, smaller feet and ears, usually the same height as the average American Rottweiler, but weighs approx. 15-20 pounds more. The American Rottweiler has the exact same brown on black pattern, but is of a slimmer build, longer legs, with bigger feet, a longer but not overly so pointed muzzle, and has longer ears. As you'll probably already know, these are strong dogs. They are intelligent and strong-willed. They do make great guard dogs as they are protective of their territory. But they do need a lot of exercise and crave attention. They are extremely popular dogs, particularly in the US, but are increasingly getting a bad name for being aggressive to humans and other dogs. Poor breeding and behavioural problems are cropping up more and more.

Conclusion - if you're careful in your choice, can give your dog plenty of your time, and are pre-

Dogs Common Myths

pared to exercise it regularly, the Rottweiler can make a good family pet.

Dobermans are another pop-

German Shepherds have been popular for a long time and are generally calm, obedient and responsive pets. Again, poor breeding in recent years has led to physical problems such as arthritis of the joints, eye disease, gastrointestinal disease and also behavioural problems such as nervousness, fearfulness, timidity, and aggression to other dogs. If you can find a well-bred example, German Shepherds are reliable and obedient pets.

In conclusion, a lot of the dogs you might consider to be unsuitable for a loving pet, can in actual fact make a great companion. It all depends on the particular dog you get, and the way it's treated. Heck, I've even had a poodle snapping round my ankles, jumping up and threatening to nip anything it can reach! Seeing the dog before you buy it, with the dog's parent might give you some clues. Some people purposely keep their dog chained up and 'starve' it of affection believing this will make it a better guard dog. This isn't always the case.

Most experts will agree, that dogs should not be left alone with babies and young children. Even dogs people have had in the family for years, have occasionally turned on a family member with unhappy results.

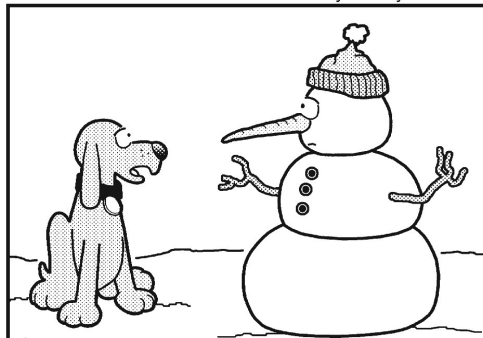
In the Dominican Republic, there are a lot of stray dogs roaming the streets and even the beaches. So many in fact, that it rumoured that some people set poisoned traps to keep the numbers down. Most of the dogs on first glance seem pretty docile, friendly, attentive, but usually pretty bug ridden.

However, many local residents do adopt one of these dogs with great success! Even if they are not a puppy, it's possible to train one to be a good

ular choice among those wanting a dog to help with security. Officially known as Doberman Pinschers, they originated from the interbreeding of Rottweiler, German Pinscher, Manchester Terrier, English Greyhound and Weimaraner. Dobermans are also intelligent dogs, obedient, hard working, fast and good as guard dogs. Again, they have attracted an increasingly bad reputation due to poor breeding and misuse. They can make great companions, but again, they really need owners who can put in the time and effort to ensure that the dog is trained correctly and doesn't develop any bad habits.

THE JOKE'S ON YOU

by Phil Ryder & YOU



"Hey, snowman! Any last words before I 'go'?"

- Tina Halloran • Erie, PA

Dodgy Dave's Guide to Spanish

Dave has kindly agreed to offer us the benefit of his lingual skills with some really useful phrases which you can learn. Try to practice saying them out loud to strangers you meet - it's a great way to make new friends and impress people! Note: you've also got to match up the English with the Spanish. Answers at bottom of page

- La cuenta, por favor.
- He perdido mi pollo
- Debo apagado ver al mago
- Yo estoy embarazada
- ¿Puede calentarlo?
- Quédese con el cambio
- No hay corriente
- Es demasiado caro
- Quisiera un parfait
- Me duele este diente
- ¿Hay una escuela de esquí?
- Necesito una bateria nueva
- Soy un amigo de Al Gore
- ¿Elvis ha estado aquí?

- Keep the change
- Can you warm this up?
- There is no electricity
- That's too expensive
- I'd like a ski pass
- This tooth hurts
- Is there a ski school?
- I am a friend of Al Gore
- The bill, please
- Has Elvis been here?
- I need a new battery
- I'm off to see the wizard
- I have lost my chicken
- I am pregnant

answers

a9,b13,c12,d14,e2,f1,g3,h4,i5,j6,k7,l11,m8,n10

family pet. If you are considering this, try to find other people in the locality that have already done it and ask their advice. There's no guarantee that the forlorn hound that follows you down the beach will successfully adapt to living in your house.

Dogs make great pets, but choose the right one to suit your lifestyle, and give it the care and attention it needs. Hopefully you'll be one of the millions of happy dog owners.