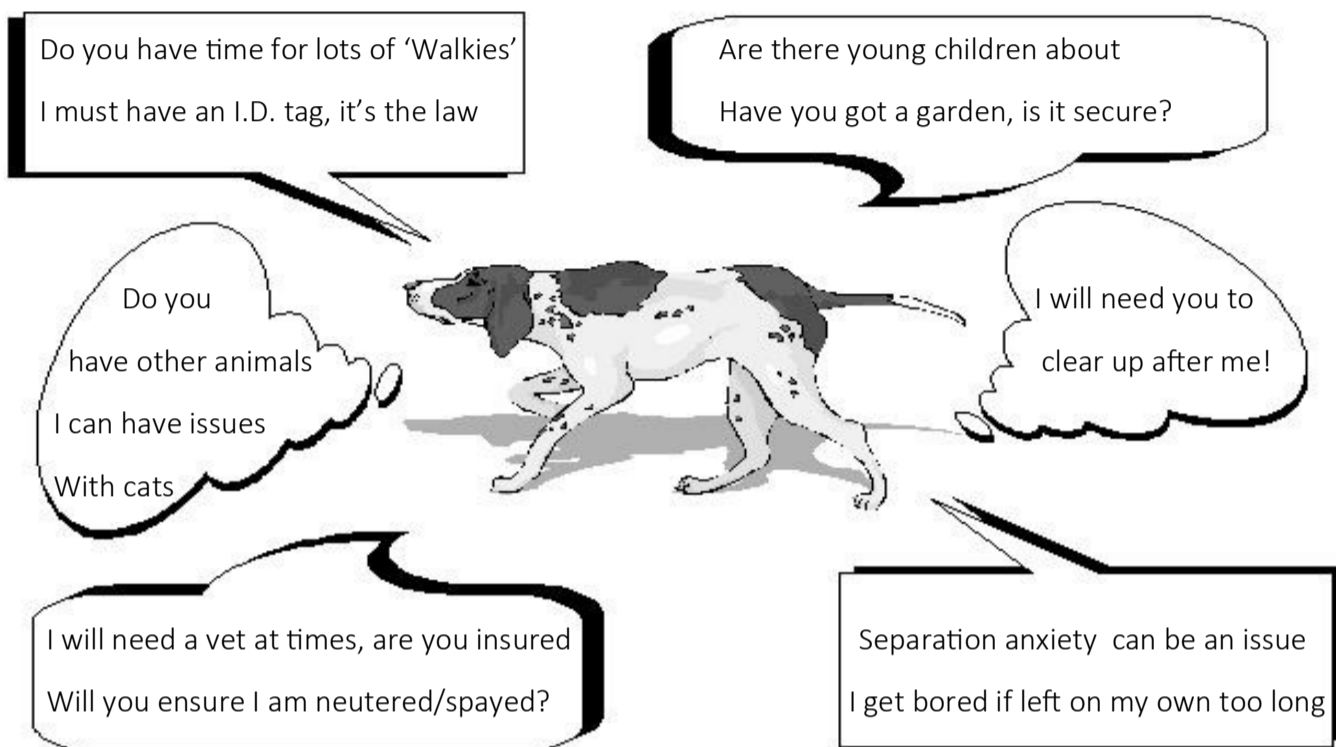


Factsheet

What to think about before adopting a dog

Dog ownership requires commitment and a responsible attitude and should never be entered into lightly. It is important to remember that you will have full responsibility for a dog's proper care. He will prove to be a loyal and entertaining companion only if you are prepared to give enough in return. Rehoming a rescued dog can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also be hard work. GSP Rescue Services has rehomed over 2,000 Pointers since 1987. Please think carefully before making this decision.

The space at home and your garden should cope with the needs of a dog that may start at 10kg as a big puppy, but weigh in at 20kg—25kg at a year old. A large dog in a small flat with no garden is not sensible. Consider the dog's energy levels. As the German Shorthaired Pointer was bred to be a working dog it will have lots of energy and could get bored easily. They need stimulation and as well as two or three good walks a day they need interaction, play and company. You could find it difficult if the dog is allowed to pull you. You must be physically able to control the dog and not let it take you for a walk. Be realistic about committing to a breed that needs attention and is full of love in return.



You should be aware male dogs are generally bigger than females. If you already have a dog and are looking for a companion you could have problems pairing two dogs of the same sex as this could lead to a battle for dominance. A dog and a bitch will get on far better, but it still depends on the character of each. It is a condition when rehoming a new dog that it must be neutered/spayed within one month of taking it on. As well as resolving aggression issues this also reduces the risk of cancer problems. Breeding from rehomed dogs is not permitted and proof of the procedure will be required from your vet.



Find out as much as you can before committing to a particular dog. A young dog may be boisterous and need training whilst an older dog will tend to be calmer and require less exercise. Dogs of all ages are very adaptable and most will fit in eventually. GSP's tolerate being left at home for short periods of time but you must fully understand their susceptibility to separation anxiety and they should not be left unattended for long periods. Before you commit to re-homing a dog we usually arrange a handover meeting, the adoption only goes ahead if both parties are content and any companions are compatible.

If you have children consideration must be given to having a hunting/chasing dog in the house, each animal—as with all pets will have differing tolerance levels or may have had previous bad experiences. Loud excitable youngsters are probably not suitable company for a gun dog breed. As with most dogs, GSP's should never be left unsupervised with babies and young children. The same goes for cats and other small pets unless you are fully aware of their compatibility. German Shorthaired Pointers will chase most things that move. You may get a new dog but find your cat has moved out!

Pointers need regular exercise and enjoy a planned routine to help stop boredom and to get them to feel settled. The dog will not want to run all day but burning off its energy will help satisfy a need and when satisfied it is less likely to get up to naughty tricks or be destructive.

Remember ~ 'Walkies' does not stop for wind and rain ~ get a good coat and some Wellies!

Also, you are required to have a never ending supply of little bags to clean up after your 'Good Dog'!

Research the breed for yourself, we can't say it all here but Pointers are strong willed and need leadership, they will be devoted and loving whilst being like sneaky kids when you are not watching, sometimes ignoring you when called because something else has taken their attention. Have you trained a dog before? An adopted dog may know more than you! Take time to consider seeking dog agility or training classes, it helps the dog socialise with other dogs and you will learn together and bond with your new pal showing kindness and patience (and some bribery with tit bits). All this will take time and commitment.