



NOSE — to — TAIL



Choosing Your Mixed Breed Dog

A companion to the book *Nose to Tail* by Louise Harding

www.nosetotailbook.com

Choosing Your Dog - Mixed Breed Dog

Inspired to give a loving home to a mixed breed, likely from a pound, rescue or re-homing organisation? This is a great option for many prospective owners, however there are a few things to be aware of.

1. The exact breed or mix of the dog is often unknown. What you see advertised may be just a guess.
2. Adjustment to a new environment can be traumatic for dogs, leading to them 'shutting down' or withdrawing and becoming more timid than they usually are. This can make it difficult to accurately assess their personality.
3. There's often little or no information available on the dog's previous life including behavioural and health issues.

Don't be embarrassed to ask questions of the shelter or organisation. Reputable shelters and organisations will be happy to provide you with all the information available to them. They are sure to have a few questions to ask you too.

Questions to Ask the Shelter or Rescue Organisation

1. How did this dog end up in the shelter? Was it surrendered by its owners? For what reason?
2. How long has the dog been in the shelter or in care?
3. Did the previous owner give you any information regarding the dog's breed/s? or What breed mix do you believe the dog is?
4. Did the previous owner give you any information regarding the dog's health or any behavioural issues? Have the Vet, foster carer or attendants noted any health or behavioural issues? Does the dog have any health issues that will require long-term care? Does the dog have any special dietary needs?
5. Do you have any information about the dog's previous environment? Was it an inside or outside dog? Was the dog kept in a small yard or able to run on acres?
6. Is the dog housetrained?
7. Has the dog been microchipped, vaccinated, desexed, wormed (including heart worm) and Vet checked?
8. What have you observed about the dog's behaviours since it's been in the shelter or foster care?



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