



▶ THINKING ABOUT ADOPTING A DOG?



▶ MUTTS AND PUR-BRED DOGS: THE DIFFERENCE REVEALED



▶ BARKTOBER FEST IS COMING!

October 2009



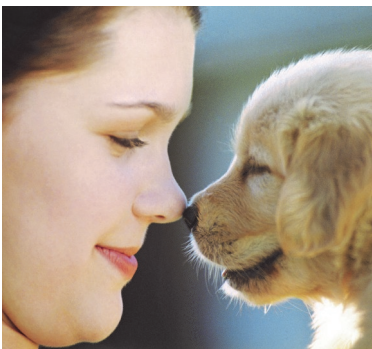
# Humane Education

**Kokomo Humane Society Mission**  
*Improving the lives of and preventing cruelty to domestic and companion animals through humane education, shelter, and uniting pets with families.*

It's time to make living ethically, sustainably, and peaceably on this planet the very purpose of education.

[www.humaneeducation.org](http://www.humaneeducation.org)

## October is National Dog Adoption Month



Thinking about adding a new furry friend to your family? October is a GREAT month to do it! Not only is it National Dog Adoption month, but it is the perfect time of the year for brisk walks in the park and housebreaking before it snows.

Before you adopt, you must consider your commitment to some very important attributes. Most important is **Time**. Will someone be home at least every few hours to take Fido out for a walk? This may mean someone has to come home on their lunch break. Unless you have a safe way for your dog to let himself outside in a fenced yard when you are not home, expect some accidents.

This brings us to our second most important thing: **Patience**. Dogs require consistent, patient training. You won't have a perfect dog right away. He will make mis-

takes. Just stick with your training plan and over time, you will have a very rewarding, loyal friend.

A very important attribute you will require is a **Good Sense of Humor**. Being awoken at dawn, hair on your suit, bits of kibble on the floor and an occasional mess on the rug—these things happen. Clean it up, get over it, and love your dog.

Finally, **Do Your Research**. There isn't a return policy on commitment. Many animals are returned to shelters because "it didn't work out." What this means is someone adopted a dog because they thought it was "cute" and didn't research the breed or spend time with it. Don't make a rash decision when it comes to adding a new family member. Grab a shelter volunteer, ask questions, and find the right friend for you!

## Unusual Dog Facts

Dogs can be right or left "pawed."  
Dogs sweat through the pads on their feet.  
There are more than 700 "breeds" of dog.  
The largest dog was a Mastiff that weighed 343 lbs.  
The oldest dog lived to be 29 years old.  
Dogs have 1/5 the taste buds that humans do.  
A dog's sense of smell is 1,000,000 times better than ours.





## Pure vs. Mixed Breed

*What you should know.*

First things first: A pure-bred dog does NOT necessarily make a better pet. There are pros and cons with both, but having a specific breed of dog does not guarantee personality, longevity or health. Pure breed dogs have been artificially created by humans who have selectively bred them for a specific purpose. Due to this selective breeding, you get a standard of look, color, size and weight, thus creating a "breed." As a consequence, purebred

dogs have very little genetic variation, often resulting in a wealth of genetic health problems passed on for generations. This includes the "designer dog," such as the Cockapoo. As the offspring of two purebred dogs, they have no guarantee of health or personality.

So called "mutts," or mixed-breed dogs, are genetically diverse, which results in the variety of appearance and fewer genetic health problems. However, most dog breeds have been established for decades. While this results in little variation, it does result in a predictable standard. It is

common knowledge that a St. Bernard puppy will grow very large, but a mixed breed puppy's growth is not as easy to guess. Additionally, pure bred dogs are predisposed to have certain personality traits, though this is no guarantee of their overall behavior. If, after doing research, you are set on a specific breed, consider adoption. Twenty-five percent of all dogs in shelters are purebred, and there are many mixed breed dogs deserving a good home. Bottom line, any dog, regardless of breed, will be an amazing companion when given proper training and socialization.



### Barktober Fest

Join us October 10 from 9am-noon for our 3rd annual Barktober Fest Dog Walk in Highland Park. Bring your furry friends and come play games, participate in contests, and have a great time! Raise \$30 or more and receive our special tote bag. Monies raised will go towards Shelby's Second Chance Fund, which provides veterinary care to injured but otherwise adoptable animals. Its great fun, excellent exercise, and for a good cause!



### Emily J. Auth

*Reluctantly receives dog kisses.*

Its getting colder, but Ben and I are just warming up our school sessions! We've got some fun new games and ways to teach your students how to care for, and be safe around pets! Arrange a visit today.

At the Kokomo Humane Society we are committed to preventing pet overpopulation and animal abandonment. This takes everyone's cooperation to educate our community! Reach me at 765-452-6224 ext. 3 or [e.auth@kokomohumane.org](mailto:e.auth@kokomohumane.org)

Many Thanks, Emily J. Auth,  
Community Outreach Coordinator

*I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.—Gilda Radner*



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