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Quick summer guide for responsible Manjaro dog owners.

Read this in conjunction with the puppy sale agreement.

Introduction.

Know that among companion animals, dogs are unmatched in their devotion, loyalty, and friendship to humankind.

Anyone who has ever loved a dog can attest to its hundred-fold return.

The excitement your dog shows when you come home, the wagging tail at the sound of the leash being taken from its hook, the delight in tossing a tennis ball, and the head nestled in your lap, those are only some of the rewards of being a dog owner.

Owning a dog is not only a right, but also a responsibility.

These dogs depend on us for food, and shelter, and deserve much more.

If you are considering taking an Manjaro APBT Bulldog or any dog into your life, you need to think seriously about the commitment that dog ownership entails.

If you already have a dog, you need to consider if you are fulfilling all your obligations as its owner.

Thinking of getting another dog?

Most dog breeds can and do operate as >>> pack animals by nature >>> and generally enjoy the company of other dogs.

Most dogs may benefit greatly from having a companion to play with.

Be as conscientious about getting a second dog as you were about getting the first >>> multiple dog ownership isn't for

everyone, and some dog breeds do better as an the "only dog."

Know this from the start >>> **fact**, the APBT Bulldog was selectively bred **away from being a pack animal** – so, do not house them together with other pet animals or any animals – **they will fight** – feed them separately – house them separately – play or work them separately.

(See article “Realize APBT Bulldogs are not pack animals” on this website”

Do your homework about the breed you want, and carefully think first, research the breed’s compatibility for whatever reason you think you want it, evaluate your living situation before you get a dog or another dog.

Dog ownership is not something to be entered into lightly. Owning a dog is a long- term emotional and financial commitment.

Before deciding that a certain dog is right for you, you must make an honest assessment as to whether your home is right for that dog – enough space, confinement safe, child friendly, not a barking breed and are you and the family ready for a dog.

Evaluate your lifestyle.

If you get a dog, he will become a part of you and your family and your lifestyle.

You need to make sure that the dog is suited for your lifestyle and your family.

For example, if you are athletic, you will probably not be happy with a dog that has a low energy level.

If you are extremely neat, you will probably want a dog that doesn’t shed much or does the dog have to live safely outside?

All aspects of your family’s life - hobbies, activities, personalities, and schedules - should be evaluated before you get a dog.

Make a list and discuss your idea of getting a dog with your family first.

Based on your evaluation, determine what qualities you want in a dog and for what purpose you want or need a dog.

Consider size, energy level, grooming needs, trainability, temperament, and breed traits.

Do you want a pet, lap or companion dog, indoor or outdoor dog, a guard or watch dog, an attack or protection dog?
Is it important that your dog gets along with children?
If you rent your home, are there restrictions on height, weight, or breed?

Answer these questions now - once you bring a dog home, it can be heartbreaking to realize that you made the wrong choice.

Only then choose a breed – a dog or a puppy – male or female registered or cross breed – big or small – long hair or short.

Once you have made your list of the dog in question's ideal characteristics, do some research to find which breeds or type of dog fit that profile.

Go to your local library, attend a dog show, and visit some breeder's websites.

Narrow your choices to the breed that you and the family think will be right for you.

1. For a registered purebred dog get a referral from a legal registered dog breeders registry on the breed.

These registries will put you in contact with the well-known registered breeders you are looking for.

You have a much better chance of being satisfied if you get your dog from a well-known registered and responsible, ethical breeder whose primary concern and reputation is to produce dogs of high quality, good health, and stable temperament – with a goal in bettering the breed's character and traits he deals with.

2. Make contact.

Get in touch with the breed contacts you have obtained.

Let them know that you are interested in their breed.

Be able to demonstrate that you have put thought into your choice.

Don't be discouraged if the first breeder you talk to does not have puppies available right away.

That person may know another breeder that have or can put you on the list for the next or an expecting female.

3. Ask questions.

Ask the breeder any questions you can think of about the breed after you have read up on their website.

Ask about if puppies sold have been screened and certified as such for breed conformation problems - teeth overbite and or bite function, hernias and if the parents have been certified for hip and elbow dysplasia, eyes (like entropion) and hart (like a heart murmur) and breed conformation.

Ask if the breeder have a sale agreement and if so, take your time to read it – know that any clauses you want that you deem important as not included can be added as an addendum before signing is done – you have been in full agreement with the sale agreement – no verbal agreements will do.

When you find a breeder, you're comfortable with, ask to visit the kennel and view the dogs on the breeder's premises – even if he does not have a pup at that time.

If you have done your homework you can inquire about genetic problems the breeders breeding dogs might have or health problems he experienced with his breeding dogs, and what can be done to prevent or control them.

Find out what is his purpose breeding his dog for >>> and what kinds of activities, including competition, the breeders and customers participate in or utilize his dogs for.

The breeders' dogs you see are a preview of what your dog will be.

4. You might want to consider an older as an 8-week puppy – discuss this with the breeder.

8-week-old puppies are not for everyone.

If a young or an older dog better fits your lifestyle discuss this also and get advice.

Then also make sure if dogs could be spayed or neutered or if you have the right to breed, or any breeding restrictions, with it or not and if the parents were screened for health and temperament problems.

5. Expect questions and probes from the breeder as well.

A responsible breeder will ask you extensive and pertinent questions about your type of home environment, yard size, purpose and if you have other pets and why you want such a dog, because he wants to know if a dog of his breed will and could be safely confined.

These people are as committed as you are to making the right

match between you and a dog from their kennel.
Give honest answers to their questions.
Remember that, due to **their** experience of the specific breed, they know what issues are important in placing one of their dogs.

6. Prepare to wait.

Availability varies.

Be aware that a puppy, young or older dog of the breed you have decided on may not be easy to find.

As stated above responsible breeders do not breed often, and many times the puppies of a planned breeding are already spoken for.

Just remember that a good dog is worth waiting for.

7. Don't not buy a puppy on the spur of the moment – especially at Christmas or a birthday time or just as a gift for the family.

Many people try to buy puppies as Christmas gifts for children or other family members.

Most breeders do not recommend this.

You should be always prepared to give a new puppy your undivided attention, and that is rarely possible during the busy holiday season.

If you and the family are certain to get a dog and happen to see dog-related - toys, leashes, grooming tools – and because you know for certain that a puppy will be brought home soon, then go ahead – it is in preparation for the new puppy or dog.

8. Pick up your puppy.

When the time has come to select your dog from a litter, consider your options carefully.

Also know that any transport and related traveling crate and other traveling costs - road or air from the seller's kennel will be for you to pay if you do not collect the puppy yourself.

Respect your breeder's input about which puppy is right for you related to what you reveal by answering his questions – he will

know from his breeding done what to expect from the puppies. If you are rescuing an older dog, ask your contact person at the rescue center for information on the dog's health, temperament, behavior, and history (if any – why the previous owner had to give up the dog).

9. Get all sale agreements and promises in writing.

Again >>>all information about the sale should be in writing. The contract or sale agreement should include, for example, details regarding any immediate or future hidden fees, health certifications and guarantees, neuter agreements, terms of co-ownership, restrictions on breeding, breeding rights and living arrangements.

It should also include instructions on what to do if the dog, despite your best efforts, simply doesn't work out for you or your family.

Most responsible breeders will assist **in replacing the dog.**

can enter their yard before a complete health test be done **on you the owners account**- this because of various bacterial and virus danger a dog might bring into a breeder breeding yard - understandable.

10. You should get your kennel registration, kennel or vet card relating to worming and vaccinations done for the age of the dog or puppy.

But know this >>>that sometime the kennel pedigree registration did not arrive in time at the breeders and will be send to you by courier soon afterwards – normally you can follow this up with the breeder's registration registry and even ask them to send the delayed kennel pedigree direct to you – please clear this also with the breeder.

Also make sure the breeder completes and signs and dates the appropriate sections of forms.

The breeder can also help you fill out your section correctly.

11. Re- register the puppy or dog in your name.

Send the completed, signed kennel registration pedigree as application to the dog registry of your choice.

Realize you might need to do a microchip implant (the costs will be for you) then on your name **and the tag should be added to the documentation for registry** and the same information will

be needed for any pet health Insurance, registration, or service dog and for you competing in a variety of competitive club events - if that's your choice.

12. Prepare yourself, family, home, and yard.

Get ready for your new puppy or dog before you bring him home, to make sure the transition will be as smooth as possible. Buy food, treats, a collar and leash, toys, grooming tools, and other necessities **in advance** so your dog or puppy will have everything he needs.

13. Make a schedule and get the family involved.

You and your family members should decide who will be responsible for feeding the dog, see that water bowls are clean and filled with clean drinkable water, for walking and exercise, for clean-up and grooming.

Post a schedule of tasks in a visible area of the house to remind everyone of their responsibilities.

Involve the children.

Your children can have fun and learn more about dogs and dog care by participating in club sport events.

Always supervise play with children.

Children and dogs can be great companions, but they also and always require supervision when playing together.

Your dog may be "good with kids," but what if he encounters a kid that is not good with dogs?

Very small children should never be left alone with a dog, no matter how stable his temperament.

14. Dog proof & marked areas your dog would be allowed in.

Prepare your home before your new dog arrives.

Move breakables or "chewable items " to higher ground.

Make electrical cords inaccessible to curious paws and noses.

Block off any area of the house that you want off-limits to the dog.

Put the lid down on your toilet and your shoes up in your closet.

Block access to any house or garden plants that may be toxic to dogs.

15. Set a confinement and containment policy in place.

It is essential that you have a secure method of keeping your

dog on your property.

Check your appropriable fence or boundary wall height and check daily for spots vulnerable to chewing or digging.

If your yard is not fenced, consider a large dog run or invisible fencing.

If your property is not fenced in some way, emphasize to family members that the dog must be leashed or always kenneled when taken outdoors.

16. Let your dog or puppy adjust.

Give the dog time to adjust to his new home and averment.

The dog is bound to feel insecure and frightened by a change in environment, and a pup may be homesick for his mother or littermates.

Show him to his crate or bed, and where to find food and water. Then leave him alone to explore the new surroundings.

17. Name your dog and or the registered name on the pedigree, use the name daily talking or instructing commands.

Your dog will need a good short name.

Your breeder may have given a registered name (this name cannot be changed or altered on re registration), but you can register a **call name** at the same the time when you re registering the dog.

Older adopted dogs can adjust quickly to a new name.

18. Make introductions to animals and humans as smooth as possible.

Introduce your dog to your household and other pets slowly.

Know that some breeds like the APBT Bulldog is not a pack animal and will fight for any or no reason.

Many pairs of hands petting him at once may overwhelm the dog.

Later, introduce him to neighbors, regular visitors, and other family members.

Give your dog a sense of who your - and your dog s - friends are or should be.

19. The introduction to other pets.

Other companion animals in your home should also be properly

introduced to your new dog or puppy.

Don't expect them to get along right away, and don't try to force them to play, sleep or eat together.

Give them time to adjust to one another – sometimes it will work, sometimes it won't.

20. House training.

Whichever method of house training you have chosen - crate training, paper soil training or litter box - make sure that all members of the family enforce it consistently.

Accidents happen, so have a procedure for clean-up.

21. Set house rules for your new dog or puppy.

Teach your dog from the beginning what is and is not appropriate behavior.

If something is "OK" today, your puppy will think it's OK forever. Make sure that every member of the family enforces the house rules.

Consistency is the key to having a well-behaved dog.

22. See a Vet as soon as possible for a complete health and body check.

This is mostly required by the breeder to be done within the first 3 days of your pup's arrival – should then be stipulated as such in the sale contract.

Ask the vet questions about your dog's diet, behavior, activity level or other concerns.

23. Feed a best diet.

Work with your veterinarian or breeder to find the food that is best for your dog's age, size, and activity level.

Best dry feed 28% protein minimum 10% fat – for all stages.

Keep the diet consistent.

Always provide plenty of fresh pre boiled and cooled clean water.

23. Exercise and time spent with your dog is essential.

Dogs need regular exercise to ensure continuing good health.

Take your dog for walks, run around in the yard, throw a ball around - anything to get him up and moving.

This will benefit his health and could prevent behavior

problems.

Play time is important.

Dogs, of course, love to play.

Set aside time each day for play sessions.

Apart from the obvious benefit of having fun together, play also provides an outlet for your dog's energy.

Go on walks.

Take your dog on frequent walks.

The dog will enjoy exploring the neighborhood and will benefit from the exercise.

Make sure that you have a good strong leash and that you always maintain control of the dog.

Plan activities with your dog.

Include your dog in family activities.

Take him to a safe place or on outings to the beach, or to special activities such as dog competitions at club level.

Your dog will love being out and about with you.

24. Talk to your dog.

Your dog won't understand your words, but he will enjoy the sound of your voice.

Talking to your dog will make him feel involved.

You can also use different voice levels to praise or correct your dog's behavior.

25. Vaccinations and worming.

Dogs should follow a strict schedule of vaccinations and worming to prevent diseases.

Keep your dog current on his vaccinations, following the schedule recommended by your veterinarian.

Puppies from a breeder will have the first vaccination at +/- 8 weeks and all worming's for their age.

Their after following the vet's recommendations.

Keep a copy of your dog's vaccination records handy.

26. Disease prevention is better than treating a full-blown disease.

You can take steps to prevent other diseases not covered by the regular series of vaccinations.

Depending on the area of the country you live in, your dog could be at risk for diseases such as heartworm and Lyme disease.

Ask your veterinarian for advice on prevention.

27. Repel and or treat fleas and ticks.

Aside from discomfort, parasites such as fleas and ticks can cause serious diseases.

Keep your dog, his bedding, your home, and yard free from parasites by using the method recommended by your veterinarian.

28. Know your dog's patterns and behaviours.

You should become familiar with your dog's patterns in terms of eating, drinking, sleeping, and relieving himself.

Any major variations in these patterns could indicate illness and should be reported to your veterinarian.

29. Provide safe appropriate chew toys.

Dogs never outgrow the need to chew.

Protect your possessions by providing a variety of chewing toys to satisfy your dog's urges.

Pet him, talk to him, play with him, laugh with him.

Let your dog know you value his company.

Give your dog your time.

You are the center of your dog's world.

You may be tired after a long day at work, but your dog has spent the day anxiously awaiting your return.

Reward that loyalty with your time.

Teach your dog to do a job for you.

Keep your dog active and alert by giving him tasks to do.

Teach him to fetch the paper, carry groceries in a pack or empty the dryer.

Make him sit before getting a treat or lay down before going outside.

Giving your dog a sense of purpose and accomplishment will increase his sense of well-being.

30. Bath your dog when needed.

A clean dog is a healthy dog.

Bathe your dog only when needed according to their living environment.

Overbathing can be harmful to a dog's skin.

Use a good dog shampoo and be sure to rinse well.

If bathing your dog is more than you can handle, take him to a groomer or veterinarian for help.

31. Groom your dog.

All dogs should be groomed regularly for health and best appearance.

Some short-coated breeds need just a quick brushing every week, while some longer-coated breeds need daily brushing to prevent matting and to reduce shedding.

If your dog requires clipping or sculpting, you may want to consult a professional groomer.

32. Clip those toenails and dew claw nail.

Keeping your dog's nails short will keep him comfortable, prevent injury to his feet, and may save the surface of your floors.

If you can hear your dog's nails click on a hard surface, they need to be trimmed.

Ask your veterinarian for advice on clipping your dog's nails yourself.

33. Clean those teeth.

To prevent tooth decay and gum disease, clean your dog's teeth regularly.

Most dogs will accept a "toothbrush" if introduced to it slowly and gently.

You can also give your dog products such as hard biscuits, rope bones and nylon chews to keep his teeth clean.

34. Prevent obesity.

Of the utmost importance - keep your dog healthy by maintaining him at an appropriate weight.

Feed the dog a well-balanced diet and give him plenty of exercise.

Don't give in to begging - "people food" is generally bad for dogs.

35. Know all about your breeds health risks.

You should be aware of common health problems in your breed, how to prevent them, and how to recognize their onset.

For example, some giant breeds are prone to bloat, while some short-faced breeds are prone to respiratory problems.

Ask your breeder or veterinarian for information about any signs or symptoms you should watch for in your dog.

36. Protect your dogs from all reachable poisons in the home kennel and yard.

Make sure that your home and yard are free from poisonous substances, such as antifreeze, which tastes good but can cause serious illness or even death.

Keep your veterinarian's number handy in case of accidental ingestion.

37. Be alert for age changing needs.

As your dog ages, his needs will change.

He may require a different diet, need more sleep, and be less active.

Do what you can to keep him comfortable.

Your dog may not be as "fun" as he once was, but he is the same dog you loved as a puppy.

You should do everything you can to pamper him in his final years.

38. The time to end suffering.

If, due to illness or old age, your dog reaches a point where his quality of life is severely compromised, arrange to end his life humanely.

Letting go is sometimes the kindest thing you can do.

Don't prolong the suffering because you fear the pain of losing your dog.

39. I.D. your dog - your choice

Your dog should wear an identification tag with your name, address, and phone number at all or runs away.

You might consider microchipping or tattoos.

Microchips and tattoos are methods of permanently identifying your dog and can be invaluable in recovering your dog should he become lost.

40. Provide safe and comfortable, shelter summer, winter, rain & wind.

Your dog needs a sheltered area for the time he spends outside. The shelter should provide shade in summer and warmth in winter.

41. When traveling with your dog, travel safely.

Keep your dog safe in the car by using a crate, or by attaching the dog to a seat belt with a harness.

Never let your dog ride free in the back of a pickup truck or allow him to hang his head out of the car window.

42. Find a dog sitter or boarding kennel, breed specific when needed.

Decide for your dog's care when you go away.

Have a friend or reliable dog-sitter come over to tend to your dog or find a good kennel for boarding (especially for APBT Bulldogs).

If you opt for boarding, try to inspect the facilities before you drop your dog off.

43. Prepare for disaster.

Be prepared to care for your dog in the event of a disaster such as fire, flood, hurricane, or earthquake.

Make an emergency kit with clean water, food, and first aid equipment.

Find out in advance if the evacuation shelters in your area allow animals.

If not, develop alternatives.

44. Establish emergency contact.

Enlist a family member or friend to take care of your dog in the event of a sudden illness, hospitalization, or other vet emergency.

This person should ideally be someone your dog has spent some time with and is comfortable with.

Leave a list of general care instructions in a safe place.

45. Make a will.

You should make arrangements for the safety and care of your pet in the event of your death.

Don't assume that a family member will step in to take care of the dog.

46. Take photos.

Of course, you will want a picture of your dog to grace your desk or to send as a Christmas card and for your album when he passes way.

More importantly, a current photo will be invaluable if your dog is lost.

47. Give nutritional treats and praise your dog at inappropriate times.

Your dog will always appreciate a treat, and treats can be used as a supplement to his regular diet, as well as an excellent training aid.

Praise your dog.

Because your dog loves you, he wants to please you.

Praise him lavishly for obeying commands and behaving well.

Using positive, rather than negative, reinforcement will help your dog enjoy learning.

48. Switch toys to keep your dog's interest.

Keep your dog entertained by rotating his toys.

Put "old" toys out of sight for a month or two and then bring them out again - your dog will enjoy them just as much as when they were new.

49. Find that nice scratching spot.

Scratch your dog's belly often.

If you find the "spot," so much the better.

Give your dog a message.

Dogs love to be petted, and recent studies have shown that structured massages may be beneficial to your dog's health and behavior.

They may also be very relaxing for you!

50. Leave a radio on or play appropriate calming music.

Try leaving the radio or television on when you leave your dog alone.

The noise will keep him company.

(See music to offload on my kennel management chapter website).

51. Make that tail wag.

Your dog's tail is a barometer of his emotions.
Do what you can to keep it happily wagging.

52. Go on trips.

Dogs can add another element of fun to a family vacation.
Check ahead for lodging that accepts dogs. If flying, ask about travel accommodation for your dog when you make your reservations.

53. Ease separation anxiety – start at puppy stage.

Your dog will want to be always with you, but for most people that simply is not possible.

Help your dog get used to being alone.

Leave him each day with a minimum of fuss.

When you come home, greet him calmly.

This will teach him that your leaving is not something to be concerned about.

54. Don't let your dog down.

You are not a dog owner just at Christmas, or on the weekends, or in the afternoon, or when you have spare time.

You are not a dog owner just when the dog is behaving, or when he is a cute fuzzy puppy, or when he is winning awards.

When you bring a dog into your family, that dog is yours for life.

If you can't keep that commitment, don't make it.

And once you've made it, don't break it.

Your dog's life depends on you.

55. Teach basic commands, obedience and socializing from puppy stage.

Teach your dog basic commands such as sit, stay, come and down.

Training your dog will not only make your life easier but will also fulfill your dog's desire to learn and please you.

Expose your dog to different people and settings regularly.

Take him to the park, to the pet store, or a walk-through town.

Praise him for accepting petting from friendly strangers, and for behaving calmly around other dogs.

The more your dog learns about the world, the more comfortable he will be in it.

Go to obedience and socializing classes.

Obedience classes can be a great experience for you and your dog.

You may even discover that your dog has a great talent for learning, and be able to compete in obedience, agility or tracking events.

Prevent nuisance barking – start at puppy stage.

Don't let your dog's incessant barking annoy your neighbors.

Teach your dog not to bark without real provocation.

If your dog's barking is causing a problem while you're away from home, there are several training options available, consult your veterinarian.

56. If breeding your dog only to improve the breed.

Breeding should primarily be done for the advancement of the breed.

If you are thinking about breeding your dog, consult your breeder for advice.

Consider all the consequences-and expenses- of breeding a litter before you do so.

Consult your registration registry for more information as well.

57. Find a mentor.

If you plan to breed or show your dog, you will want to find a knowledgeable person in the breed to show you the ropes.

A mentor can be an invaluable source of experience and information and can help make your "novice" days much easier.

58. Decide on spay or neuter.

Spaying/Neutering are major surgeries and the decision to spay or neuter a dog should be made by the dog's owner in conjunction with their veterinarian.

Recent scientific studies demonstrate that spaying/neutering, particularly before a dog is fully mature, may result in detrimental long-term health impacts.

59. Perform genetic screening.

If you plan to breed your dog, it is very important to test for genetic disorders.

While it is impossible to eliminate all genetic disorders, perform all available tests recommended by your club.

60. Join an active breed and purpose dog club.

Many clubs offer educational seminars and health clinics. It's also a good place to start if you plan to compete in competitive events with your dog.

61. If it's your purpose to earn a club title in competitions.

Explore the sport of dogs by participating in events.

Clubs offer titles for accomplishment in a wide variety of competition types and levels.

Find an event that's right for your dog breed and specific traits and have fun.

62. Encourage specific breed behaviour.

All purebred dogs were developed with a purpose in mind. Find some activities that will encourage your dog to fulfill their breed's purpose.

64. Set a good example.

As a dog owner, you are responsible not only for your own dog's wellbeing, but for the status of dogs everywhere.

One irresponsible dog owner in town can make life difficult for dog owners all over.

Owning a friendly, clean, well-mannered dog reflects positively on the species and may help protect our rights to own companion animals.

65. Respect your neighbours.

Not everyone will love your dog as much as you do.

Keep your dog on your property.

Don't force your dog's company on a neighbor who is not comfortable with dogs.

66. Don't leave leaving being.

Always carry a plastic baggie or two with you when you walk your dog to pick up any waste it leaves behind, then dispose of the waste properly.

Failure to clean up after your dog is disrespectful to your neighbors.

67. Respect local law and ordinances.

Heed the laws and Municipal By-laws regarding dog ownership in your town, city, or county.

These may include registration, leash laws and nuisance barking laws.

Failure to obey the laws in your area may not only result in the loss of your dogs but may also infringe upon the rights of others in your area.

68. Fight breed legislation.

Be aware of any legislation developing in your city or state that may compromise the rights of responsible dog owners.

Become an active voice against legislation directed against specific breeds.

69. Let your dog help others.

Dogs are invaluable in providing service to humans - visiting the sick, helping the disabled, locating missing persons, and much more.

If your dog is of the correct temperament, you and he can reap the rewards of helping others.

70. Most of all.

Give your dog lots of love, time, and affection and you'll be richly rewarded, the dog will be happy to return the favor!

That's it – Gawie Manjaro MK.

