



TOP DOG

CHOOSE THE **PERFECT BREED** FOR YOU

TOP

DOG







DK
TOP
DOG

BY DENNIS-BRYAN / TRACY JORGAN

DK

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1 INTRODUCTION TO DOGS





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TRAINING







INTRODUCTION TO DOGS

WHAT IS A DOG?

The evolution of the dog from wild predator to domestic companion has been greatly influenced by human intervention. It has taken just a few hundred years to produce seemingly endless variations on the canine theme—but planned breeding has not removed the basic characteristics of the dog's ancestor, the wolf.



Dogs are social animals

Evolution of the dog

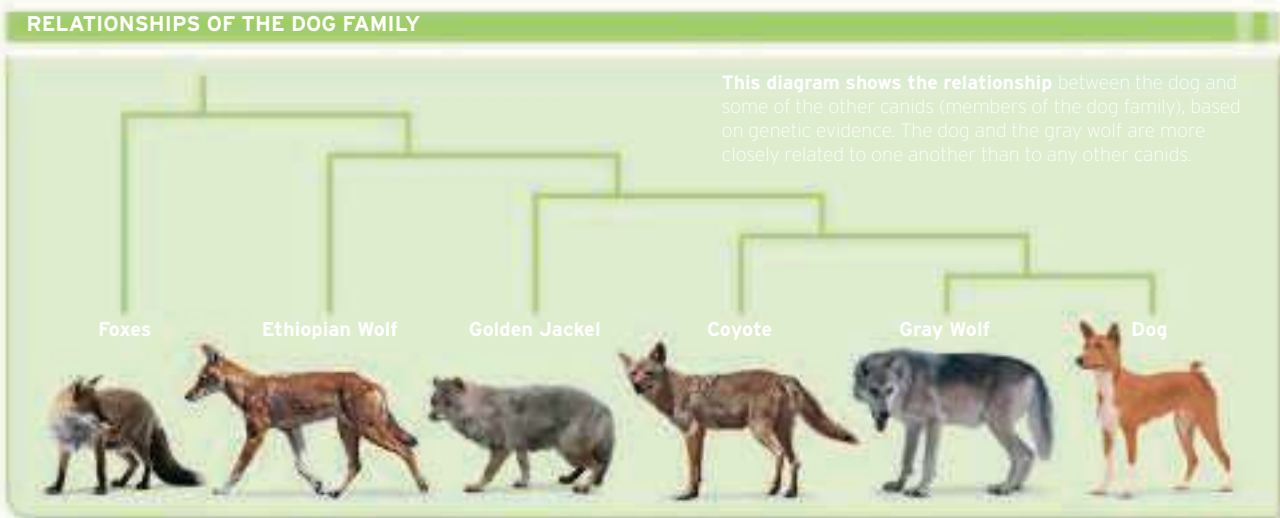
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From the wild

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In from the wild

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The shape of a head

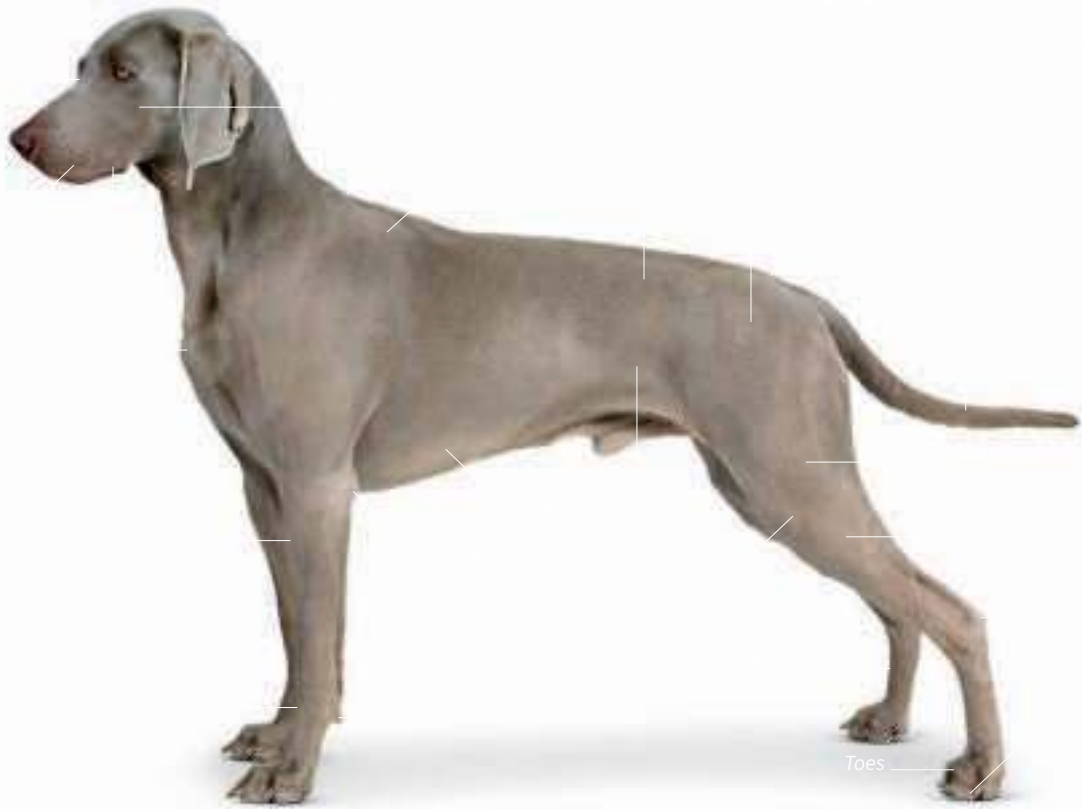


Dog anatomy

Dog DNA

Doing things cooperatively is an inbuilt canine characteristic. Most domestic dogs look to humans as their pack leaders.





Toes





HOW DOGS ARE GROUPED IN THIS BOOK





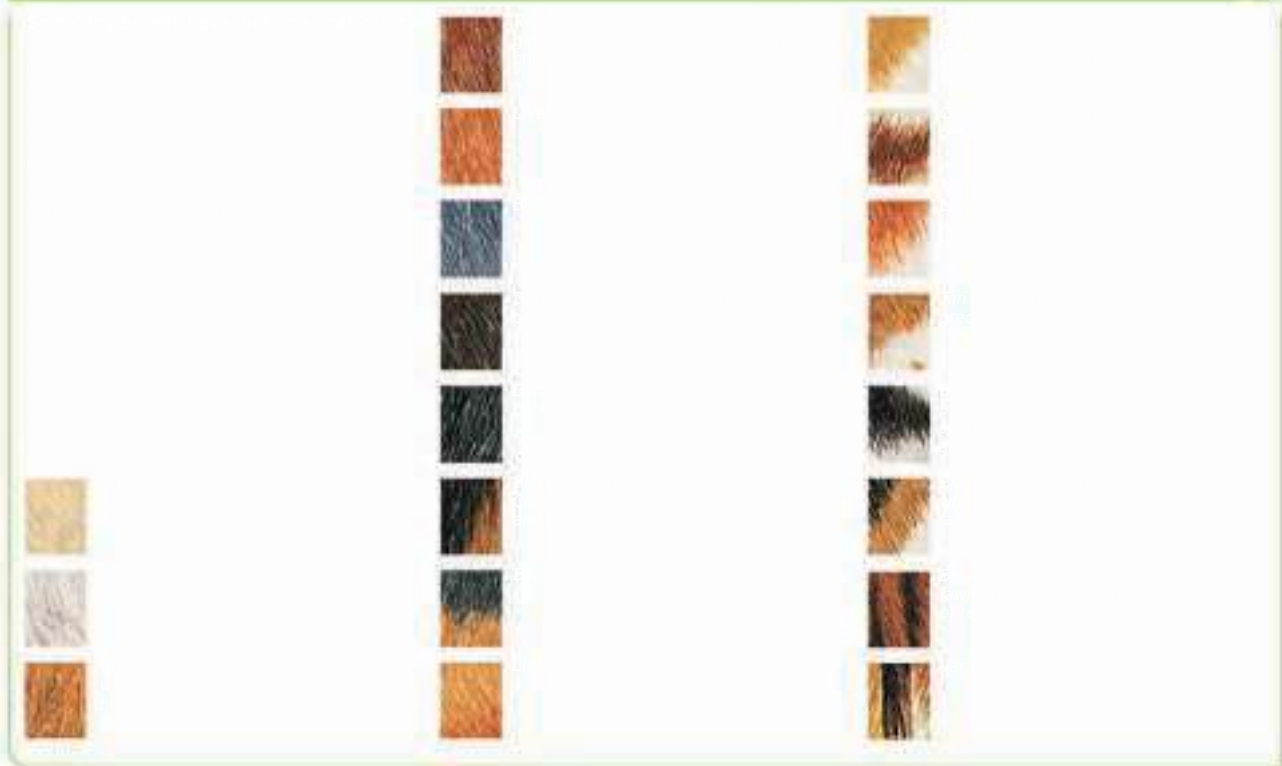
HOW TO USE THE BREED CATALOG



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COAT COLORS



CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOG



A puppy can grow into a big dog, so know what you are buying

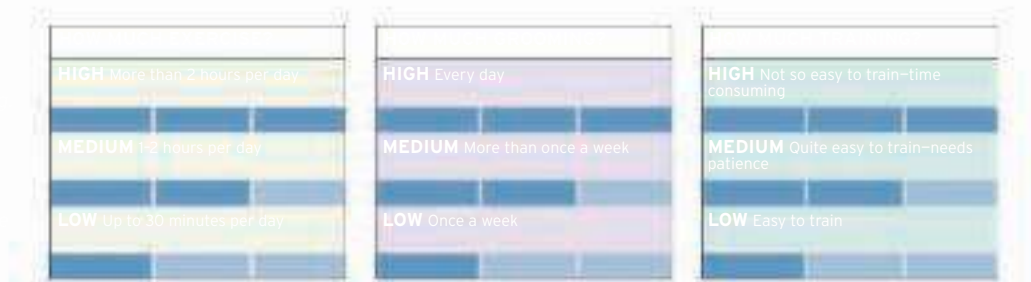
The dog you choose will probably be your companion for the next ten or twelve years, so making the right decision is important. Being faced with more than 400 different breeds with a variety of exercise, training, and grooming needs can be bewildering. This section provides advice and flowcharts to help you narrow down your choice.

The perfect match

When you choose a dog, you are choosing a companion for the next ten or twelve years. It is important to choose a dog that fits your lifestyle and needs. Consider the dog's exercise, training, and grooming requirements. A dog that requires a lot of exercise and training may not be the best choice for someone who is busy or does not have a lot of time to spend with the dog. A dog that requires a lot of grooming may not be the best choice for someone who does not have a lot of time to spend on the dog's appearance. Consider the dog's temperament and personality. A dog that is very energetic and playful may not be the best choice for someone who is looking for a calm and quiet companion. A dog that is very friendly and social may not be the best choice for someone who is looking for a dog that is independent and self-sufficient. Consider the dog's size and weight. A large dog may not be the best choice for someone who lives in a small apartment or has a small yard. A dog that is very heavy may not be the best choice for someone who is looking for a dog that is easy to handle. Consider the dog's health and lifespan. A dog that is prone to certain health problems may not be the best choice for someone who is looking for a dog that is healthy and long-lived. Consider the dog's breed and background. A dog that is a mix of breeds may have different characteristics than a purebred dog. A dog that is a rescue may have a different history than a dog that was bred in a kennel. Consider the dog's cost. A dog that is expensive to buy and care for may not be the best choice for someone who is on a budget. Consider the dog's availability. A dog that is hard to find may not be the best choice for someone who is looking for a dog that is readily available. Consider the dog's suitability for your lifestyle. A dog that is a good fit for your lifestyle will be a better companion than a dog that is not a good fit. Consider the dog's suitability for your needs. A dog that meets your needs will be a better companion than a dog that does not meet your needs. Consider the dog's suitability for your personality. A dog that is a good fit for your personality will be a better companion than a dog that is not a good fit. Consider the dog's suitability for your environment. A dog that is a good fit for your environment will be a better companion than a dog that is not a good fit. Consider the dog's suitability for your family. A dog that is a good fit for your family will be a better companion than a dog that is not a good fit. Consider the dog's suitability for your community. A dog that is a good fit for your community will be a better companion than a dog that is not a good fit. Consider the dog's suitability for your country. A dog that is a good fit for your country will be a better companion than a dog that is not a good fit. Consider the dog's suitability for your world. A dog that is a good fit for your world will be a better companion than a dog that is not a good fit.

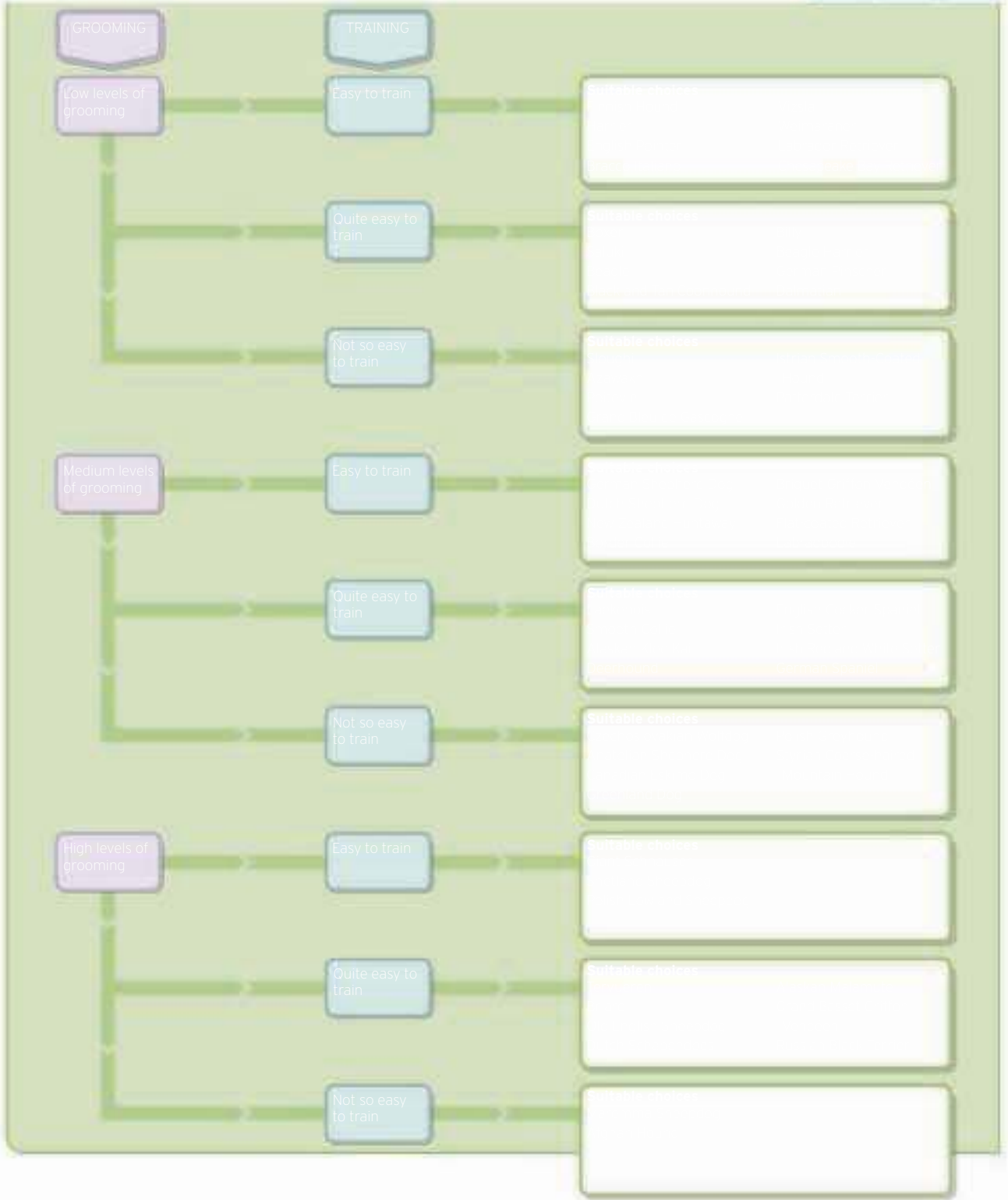
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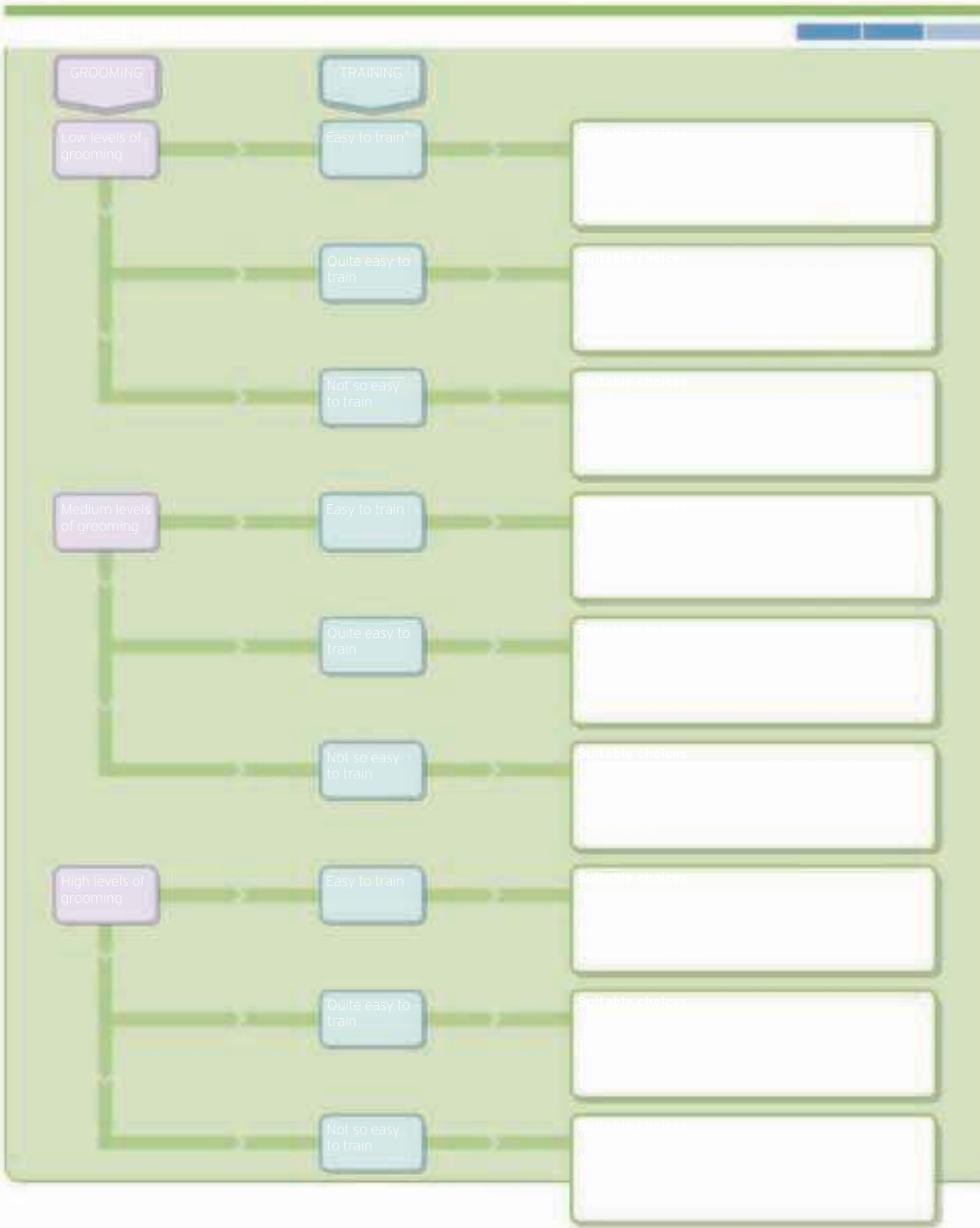
HOW TO USE THE FLOWCHARTS

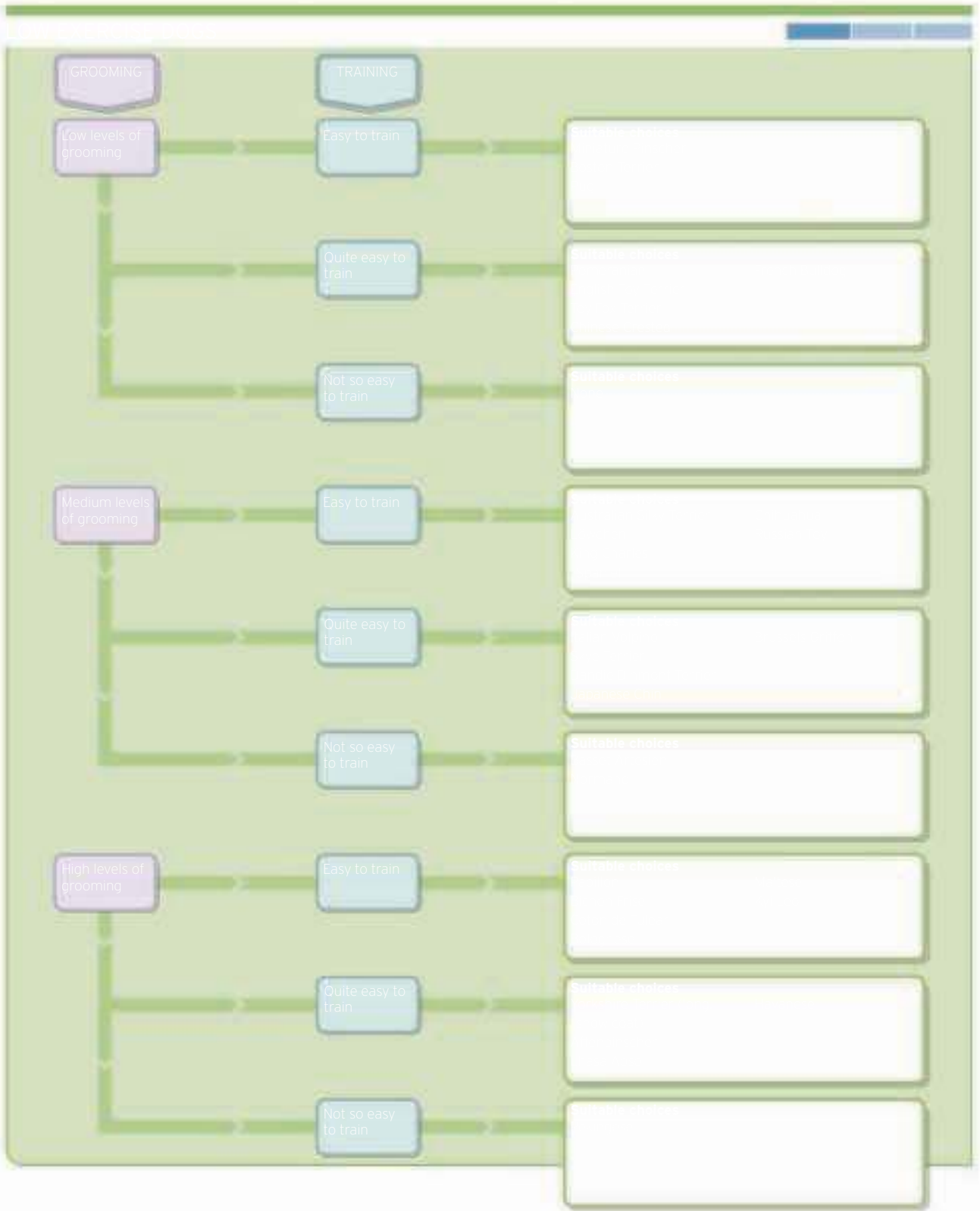




High level grooming









Finding a puppy



Puppy farms





10 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK A BREEDER

A large empty rectangular box with a thin yellow border, intended for writing the 10 important questions to ask a breeder.







GUIDE TO BREEDS

AFRICAN HUNTER

Elegant and immaculate, the Basenji makes the most civilized of pets, but this African breed worked as a hunting dog for thousands of years.



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