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By Jon Sapper

A New Dog

I'm sure many of you have been through the process of bringing a new dog into your family. It's an exciting time and we're going through that right now. One of the first questions you have to ask is, "What kind of dog are you going to get?" That's an important question, because in our case, we already have a dog. We have an English Bulldog named Bella. She's six and active.....if you can even use the term "active" when referring to a bulldog. So when asked about what kind of a dog I thought would be compatible with Bella, I said, "Well...one that sleeps 22 hrs. a day, can't walk more than 200 yards without laying down, defines excitement as three jump ups before resting and snores so loud that you can hear her through two walls even when I'm not wearing my hearing aids." So I asked my wife, "What are your thoughts as to what kind of dog would be compatible with Bella?"

She didn't hesitate and said a golden doodle. I said, "A golden what?" She said, "Doodle." I said, "Oh yea, I'm familiar with those,"the truth being I'd heard of 'em, but really didn't have a clue as to what they looked like. So what do you do when you need to find out something..... you google it. So I googled the doodle and found they were quite an interesting breed.....or should I say, mixed breed of a poodle and golden retriever. Now I know retrievers fetch birds and standard size French poodles were bred to hunt ducks and miniature poodles bred to hunt truffles, so I'm thinking, I really can't go wrong here. If we get a medium size golden doodle, maybe it will hunt truffles and ducks which could make one heck of a package. My wife said, "I kind of like an F1 golden doodle." That apparently has something to do with dog generations. I thought F1 was a tornado classification. Hopefully there's not a relationship here. And, I'm still trying to figure out, though, what the compatibility would be with Bella, given these doodles seem to exhibit more activity in an hour than Bella does in a month. Maybe that's the answer, compatibility from zero competition.

It's an important decision and one that we'll make carefully before bringing a puppy home. But to be honest, I'd rather bring home a dog that is beyond the puppy stage and housebroken. I just don't like putting on those plastic gloves and

doing what you have to do when puppies do what they have to do without really knowing where it's ok to do it.

I did mention to my wife that I didn't think it would be a good idea to doodle around on this thing, because the puppy might be picked up by somebody else. So it looks like it might be a golden doodle. I'm actually kind of excited about it. I've always loved truffles and roasted duck.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.