

# Newbies' News: Choosing a Breed:



## Are You Right for the Rottweiler?

By Warren Johnson

vonwarterr@cox.net

www.vonwarterr.net

**Newbies' News:** This section of TTRM is dedicated to the continuing elementary education of those who are new to the Rottweiler breed.



*Far left Gir von Hause Milsped  
and next Gil von Hause Milsped*

Warren Johnson and Terri Johnson have been married for almost twenty years. They have two teenage sons named Cole Johnson and Jesse Johnson. Warren is the founder and Pastor of the Gospel Light Baptist Church in his native home of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He serves as president of the USRC's Praterstrasse Working Rottweilers. Warren and Terri bought their first Rottweiler in the spring of 1991 and have been in love with the breed ever since. The three great loves of Warren's life are first, his Savior Jesus Christ, second, his family, and third, Rottweilers. The Johnson family operates the Von Warterr Rottweiler Kennel, named after the first parts of Warren and Terri. The kennel name is pronounced War-Tear (as in "rip"). You can learn more about the Johnsons and their beautiful dogs by visiting their website at [www.vonwarterr.net](http://www.vonwarterr.net)

You have decided that you want to purchase a Rottweiler puppy. Where do you begin the process? I suggest you start by taking a step back to reconsider whether a Rottweiler is really the right dog for you. The Rottweiler is a great breed of dog. In fact, I think they are the best breed. They have brought a great deal of joy to my life through the years. I absolutely love them, but I must say that they are not for everyone.

The Rottweiler is incredibly attractive, so it is understandable that you have been drawn to the breed. Before you rush out and buy a Rottweiler puppy though, stop and think long and hard about the responsibilities involved. That cute little bundle of fur with its sweet puppy breath is going to grow into an 80-120 pound dog that is going to live for 10 to 14 years. Owning a Rottweiler is a long-term commitment that comes with many demands, possible sacrifices and financial obligations that are often not adequately pondered beforehand.

Too many of these beloved dogs end up in unsuitable homes where they grow to be problem dogs, or are placed in animal shelters where they are often eventually euthanized. This is the sad result when impulsive buyers meet irresponsible breeders. I highly recommend the Rottweiler, but only for the right homes. I do not say that because they are vicious, as some ignorant people would have everyone believe, or because they make bad family companions. I say it simply because every breed has unique characteristics and special requirements that need to be taken into consideration when choosing which breed is best for your lifestyle. So, before you ask which Rottweiler puppy is right for you, ask yourself if you are right for the Rottweiler.



*L-R: Cole, Warren, Terri, Jesse &  
USRC PRW 2007 Best Male  
Puppy, UCI Int'l Youth & Adult  
Champion, Willi von Warterr*

Rottweilers require and deserve a threefold investment on the part of their prospective masters. They necessitate investment of your time, money and energy. I recommend that you ask and answer honestly some hard questions before making your final decision to buy a Rottweiler puppy.

### **Is your present lifestyle well-suited for owning a Rottweiler puppy?**

Rottweiler puppies take time and training and without those things, they can become trouble. Does your schedule afford you the needed opportunity to train, love, and care for a puppy? Don't get a puppy if your life demands are going to require the puppy to spend an unreasonable portion of his waking hours alone and locked in a crate or kennel run. This is not fair to the puppy. Remember that a bored Rottweiler becomes a destructive Rottweiler. They not only become destructive of your property, but they can also become destructive to themselves by constant licking or even chewing on their limbs. Then, when they do finally get out of their "prison," they are so excited to be free and with company that they act in ways that are annoying and less than enjoyable. If you don't have the time to dedicate to meeting a Rottweiler puppy's basic needs for