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December 6th 2024

Mr. and Mrs. Smith
123 Pine Street
Magnolia, AR

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

We hope this letter finds you well. The following document holds our recommendation for a dog breed that best suits your family's needs as a PTSD emotional support animal for Mr. Smith. We have carefully considered a wide variety of breeds based on the needs you have provided, such as living conditions, budgets, allergies, and other considerations. We settled on six possible breed options: the Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Poodle, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Yorkshire Terrier, and Border Collie. These breeds have their own strengths and weaknesses that we go over in further detail in the recommendation document.

After further careful consideration, we recommend the Yorkshire Terrier, or Yorkie, as the most well-suited breed for your family. They are considered to be very intelligent and can be trained to perform emotional support and tasks for Mr. Smith's PTSD. They have a low-shedding, hypoallergenic coat, which minimizes the allergic reactions your son may have. It is a smaller breed, which makes them easy to manage. It also makes them ideal for a wide variety of living conditions, including your current housing. The size also makes travelling with them easy, if

emotional support is needed during trips. Yorkies are known for their alertness, which can be a substitute for a bigger guard dog. They will quickly notify your family of any danger they sense, even if they cannot physically protect your family as well as a bigger breed.

The breed will cost between \$1,200-\$2,500 if purchased from a reputable breeder. The annual cost ranges around \$1,300-\$2,500, which includes food, supplies (toys, bedding, etc.), grooming, veterinary visits, and other costs. This does not include emergency care or specific health issues. The estimated costs fall well within your family's budget.

However, the advantages of having a Yorkie can also be the disadvantages. Their small size makes them fragile, so its interactions with your younger children should be supervised in case of accidents that can injure the dog. Their coat requires regular grooming, which can be costly and time consuming. Their alertness and yappy nature makes them very vocal dogs, which might annoy a family that prefers a quieter environment. They tend to be quite stubborn and challenging to train if their owners are not experienced. They are prone to separation anxiety, which might not be ideal if your family travels a lot without bringing the dog along.

Despite the disadvantages, we believe that Mr. Smith's prior experience with owning a dog can alleviate those issues. Most behavioral issues—such as its interactions with children and stubbornness—can be solved if the dog is properly trained. We also offer dog training advice and services for all types of dogs if your family requires additional aid in training.

We are confident that the Yorkshire Terrier breed will meet the most important requirements of your family, especially for Mr. Smith's emotional support needs as well as your son's allergies. It

also falls within the budget range, living conditions, and care requirements. If your family requires further guidance of the adoption, care, and training of this dog breed, our experts will be happy to provide professional support through our hotline or an in-person appointment. We believe that our other options are also viable, and the document includes detailed descriptions of the advantages and disadvantages of each breed option.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

The Puppy Experts

Recommendation of Emotional Support Dogs for the Smith Family



Recommendation of Emotional Support Dogs for the Smith Family

Proposed by

Chandler Merritt

Garrett Shipp

Zhen Ze Ong

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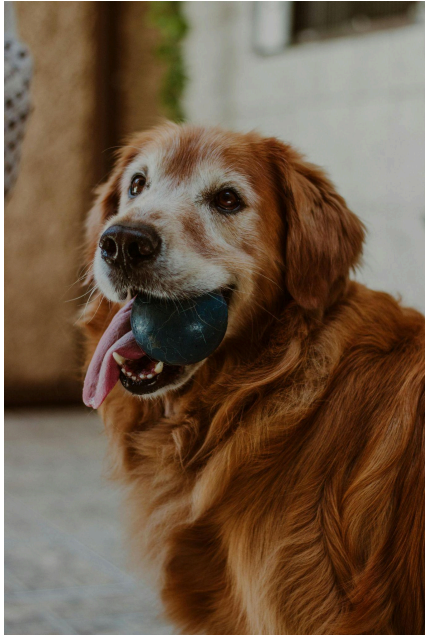


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Tables

Table 1, page 22 - Monthly Cost for Golden Retriever

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$70-\$80
Grooming	\$30-\$60
Medications and Vet Visits	\$20-\$50
Pet insurance	\$30-\$50
Total	\$150-\$240

Table 2, page 23 - Monthly Cost for Labrador Retriever

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$20-\$100

Grooming	\$40-\$80
Medications and Vet Visits	\$50-\$100
Pet insurance	\$30-\$80
Total	\$140-\$260

Table 3, page 25 - Monthly Cost for Poodle

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$22-\$70
Grooming	\$50-\$100
Medications and Vet Visits	\$15-\$250
Pet insurance	\$25-\$160
Total	\$112-\$580

Table 4, page 27 - Monthly Cost for Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$25-\$50
Grooming	\$25-\$50
Medications and Vet Visits	\$25-\$50
Pet insurance	\$25-\$50
Total	\$100-\$200

Table 5, page 29 - Monthly Cost for Yorkshire Terriers

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$17-\$35
Grooming	\$35-\$50
Medications and Vet Visits	\$25-\$40
Pet insurance	\$30-\$80
Total	\$107-\$205

Table 6, page 30 - Monthly Cost for Border Collie

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$30-\$60
Grooming	\$10-\$50
Medications and Vet Visits	\$50-\$100
Pet insurance	\$25-\$100
Total	\$115-\$310

Abstract

This report provides an analysis and recommendations for an emotional support dog breed for Mr. Smith, a marine veteran with PTSD, and his family. The evaluation considers all the different criteria for the Smith family such as the Smith's living condition, budget, allergies, and specific emotional support needs. Six breeds were initially considered: Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Poodle, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Yorkshire Terrier, and Border Collie. After a thorough examination of each breed's characteristics, the Yorkshire Terrier was recommended as the most suitable breed for the family. This report details the selection process, criteria evaluation, and a final recommendation to ensure the chosen breed meets the family's requirements.

Executive Summary

Mr. John Smith, a marine veteran suffering from PTSD, requires an emotional support dog to help with his symptoms. After evaluating the Smiths' specific needs, including living conditions, budget constraints, and allergy considerations, six dog breeds were considered: Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Poodle, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Yorkshire Terrier, and Border Collie.

Each breed was analyzed for its suitability as an emotional support animal, taking into account all the factors such as temperament, trainability, shedding, and overall care requirements. Once the analysis was done it was found that the Yorkshire Terrier was the most appropriate breed

for the Smith family. This breed is known for its intelligence, low shedding, hypoallergenic coat, and adaptability to various living conditions, making it an ideal choice for Mr. Smith's PTSD and the family's environment.

Despite some challenges such as the need for regular grooming and potential vocal tendencies, the Yorkshire Terrier's benefits outweigh the drawbacks. The report also provides a cost analysis, estimating the initial purchase and ongoing care expenses.

The recommendation includes a detailed comparison of the breeds, emphasizing the Yorkshire Terrier's compatibility with the family's needs.

Introduction

Scope

This recommendation letter provides six detailed recommendation options for an emotional support dog breed that is suitable for Mr. Smith to help manage his PTSD. The recommendation is based on a consideration of multiple key factors, including the Smith family's lifestyle, emotional support needs, and the specific traits of dog breeds that are suited in providing comfort and companionship.

Puppy Experts Inc. is fully qualified and certified to provide advice for the Smith family's current needs and situation. We have provided hundreds of personalized recommendations in the past, with customer satisfaction guaranteed.

Organization

Puppy Experts Inc. has been offering expert advice on selecting, training, and caring for dogs personally tailored to our customers' individual needs since 2010. We have aided thousands of owners and their dogs since then. Our headquarters are based in Magnolia, Arkansas. We provide quality and working results, regardless if you are a first-time owner or not. We believe that each dog and its owner should have these services available to them. Our mission is to promote responsible dog ownership and enhance the dog-owning experience through education and professional support.

Our experts are trained professionals who are dedicated to providing the best quality support to our customers. Our team consists of certified canine specialists, behavioral experts, and veterinarians with years of experience. We provide breed selection consulting, personalized training plans, and support for you and your dog. Our experience helps you understand your dog's temperament, exercise requirements, and compatibility with you.

We have connections with trusted trainers that can prepare your dog to perform its duties and tasks for emotional support or security. We also collaborate with shelters, breeders, and rescue organizations that want the best for their dogs. Our online resources are available 24/7 if you need readily available information and tools. At Puppy Experts Inc., we believe that every dog deserves a person and place they can call home, and that every owner deserves a perfect canine companion.

Background of the Situation

Mr. John Smith is a marine vet needing an emotional support dog to help with his PTSD. He has experience with taking care of dogs as his family owned a German Shepherd when he was a teenager. He and his wife Lydia live in a middle class neighborhood with three kids, a 17-year old daughter, 10-year old son, and a 3-year old daughter. Their house has two floors and a medium-sized backyard. They are fine with a dog that lives indoors and/or outdoors. The son has some allergies and is sensitive to animal dander, so they do not want a dog that sheds a lot. They also want a calmer dog that will not be rough or aggressive with the kids and is preferably

fond and protective of young children. If possible, the family would also like a breed that is able to be trained to be a guard dog, but it is not a requirement.

For the dog itself, the Smith family would prefer to adopt one from the local shelter but are willing to spend up to \$1,000 to purchase from a reputable breeder. They hope to keep annual expenses around \$3,000 for food, toys, and possible medication. The children are excited to get a dog and are willing to walk the dog daily and help with cleaning.

Technical background

Some breeds are more suitable as emotional support service dogs for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than others. Studies show that calmer and less excitable dogs tend to lessen PTSD symptoms and have a closer bond to veterans with PTSD. The dogs have to be trained to ease those symptoms by doing tasks like nudging and waking the victims if they experience flashbacks or nightmares.

Likewise, different breeds have a varying tendency to shed, which can affect humans who are allergic to animal dander. Dander are microscopic flecks of skin shed by animals, similar to human dandruff. Most people are not allergic specifically to dog hair but rather to the dander which can build up on a dog's coat. A breed that is less likely to shed will not produce as much dander around the house or area. However, keeping a dog clean and bathing it in warm water can reduce dander in its coat. Cleaning its bedding once or twice a week and avoiding furniture like cloth curtains or carpets that accumulate hair are additional precautions that can be taken.

These methods can be practiced to combat allergies if the choice of dog is a breed that tends to shed more often.

Vetting costs can be more expensive for the initial visit, since a physical and vaccinations are usually required. It can cost between \$340-\$510. Routine check-ups can cost between \$50-\$250. Dental cleaning should be done annually, and the cost depends on the dog's age: \$500-\$1,000 for a young dog but can exceed \$1,000 if the dog is old and has oral health issues. Spaying or neutering can cost between \$160-\$220. Factors that can affect pricing are the location of the clinic and whether there is pet insurance. Regular checkups will reduce the risk of greater health issues that can lead to more expensive treatment and medication.

Basic grooming includes bathing, brushing, ear cleaning, and nail trimming. Full-service grooming may include a blow dry. The costs are dependent on the dog's breed, size, coat condition, and different services. Groomers often weigh a dog to quote a price, with heavier dogs costing more. Specialized trims for certain breeds like poodles or cocker spaniels cost more. Additional costs can come from optional services such as haircuts, de-matting (matting is dense tangles and knots in dog fur that can be quite painful for the animal), and flea treatments. Basic grooming costs can range between \$30-\$90. Grooming is necessary for the dog's hygiene, health, and comfort. Professional grooming appointments should be scheduled every 4-6 weeks or 6-8 weeks depending on the breed. There are mobile dog groomers who can come to you but they cost more.

There is a possibility to adopt dogs at no cost if someone who is unable to care for one is looking to rehome that dog. However, the choices are usually extremely limited. Local shelters

often have a variety of dogs that are available for adoption, and the dogs are usually already vaccinated and spayed/neutered. Adopting from a shelter costs from \$25 to \$700, and rescue dogs tend to be already trained, since they have already spent time in a home and have prior owners and caretakers. However, breed options tend to be limited in local shelters, if a specific breed is necessary to fit the family's needs, especially for a specific type of emotional support such as Mr. Smith's PTSD. An older and untrained dog may have behavioral and bonding issues. Rescue dogs that have been abused or neglected by humans may be hard to build trust with. Potential health issues are also more frequent in dogs that have lived in dog shelters. Purchasing from a breeder is more expensive, ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, but opens more options that may fit the other criteria. A breeder that sells dogs at a cheaper price may not always be the better option, as the dogs may come from a puppy mill or an irresponsible breeder, which can lead to a lifetime of expensive medical costs.

Requirements and Criteria

Living Conditions

Most important. The family needs a breed that is suitable for PTSD emotional support, does not shed a lot, and is suitable for young children. The family has a child that is allergic to animal dander, so a breed that sheds less is preferable. They do not have a size preference. An additional preference is the breed's ability to be trained as a guard dog. Their house has a backyard but the family is fine with an indoor dog.

Budget

Important. The family has a budget of roughly \$3,000 per year. They want to adopt from the local shelter but are willing to spend up to \$1,000 to purchase a breed that fits their living conditions. Other requirements tend to fall under the budgeting cost.

Vetting

It is not mentioned by the family, but it must be considered under the family's budget. John might not have the most experience with vetting since he was only a teenager when he had his last dog.

Grooming

It is not mentioned by the family, but it must be considered under the family's budget. John might not have the most experience with grooming since he was only a teenager when he had

his last dog. Since the family is looking for a dog that does not shed a lot, grooming costs and frequency tend to be higher due to the nature of those breeds' coats.

Care

The children are willing to help with walking and cleaning the dog, so the breed should be reasonably simple to care for. John has notable experience with dog care in the past, so a slightly more difficult dog is still a possibility.

Training

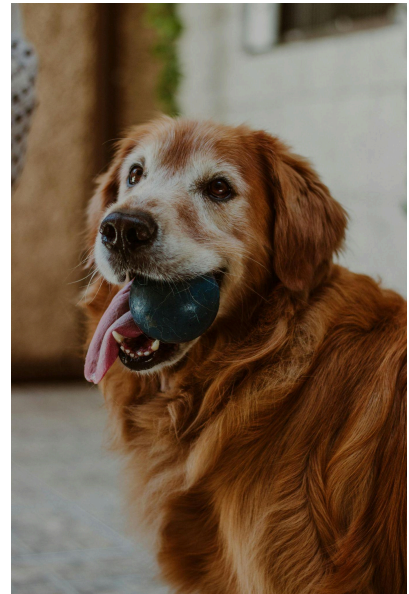
Least important. The family mentions that they like a suitable guard dog if possible, but it is not a priority. John should be able to train the dog for tricks and tasks with his prior experience.

Description of Options

Option 1: Golden Retriever

Figure 1, Daniel Pratt / Pexel

Golden retrievers are widely known for their friendly and loving demeanor, which are a great fit for families with children like the Smith family. They are intelligent and highly trainable, which makes it easier to teach them tasks and behaviors for emotional support. They generally have a calm and patient temperament, which is ideal for providing PTSD emotional support.



On the downside, golden retrievers shed quite a bit, so frequent cleaning and bathing is required to minimize cases of allergic reactions of those allergic to animal dander. They also require a significant amount of exercise and mental stimulation, so walks and playtime is a necessary addition to the family's schedule. Although they are generally healthy dogs, golden retrievers are prone to certain health issues like hip/elbow dysplasia and heart problems, which can be costly and require regular veterinary care. Being a bigger dog, they can be disadvantages for people living in smaller houses or who have trouble managing larger animals.

Golden retrievers can sometimes be found in animal shelters but are usually the first ones to be adopted due to their popularity. Adoption prices range from \$200-500. Buying a puppy from a breeder ranges from \$1,000-3,500. Puppies need core vaccine shots at 6, 12, and 16 weeks old.

Afterwards, they will only take the shots yearly. Regular monthly costs can range from \$150-\$200 (\$1,800-\$2,400 annually), with food being the biggest expense. However, if certain health issues arise, treatment and medication can quickly break the budget with costs up to \$6,000.

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$70-\$80
Grooming	\$30-\$60
Medications and Vet Visits	\$20-\$50
Pet insurance	\$30-\$50
Total	\$150-\$240

Table 1, Monthly Cost for Golden Retriever

Option 2: Labrador Retriever

Figure 2, Anna Goroshnikova / Shutterstock

Labrador retrievers, also known as labs, are friendly and good-tempered dogs. They are highly intelligent and easily trainable with treats and verbal commands. Which makes them a good fit for emotional support animals for people with PTSD. Labs are also short haired dogs which cut down on shedding and maintenance.

However, labs are bigger dogs making them a harder fit for people with a smaller house. labs are generally healthy dogs but some common illnesses for them are joint problems and heat

problems. Labs also require exercise to stay healthy so walks or time for the dog to run around outside are required. The dog will also need grooming at least twice a month, so they stay clean. Labs aren't hypoallergenic so if a member of the family has an allergy to dogs that could pose a problem.

The cost of labs can be anywhere from \$400-\$1500.

When you go to buy the dog make sure to buy from a reputable breeder to reduce the chance of birth

defects and other illnesses. For routine vet checks will be around \$1000 which includes vaccines, preventive

medication and additional treatments. The total grooming will be about \$60 per appointment which includes bathing, brushing, ear cleaning and nail trimming. The yearly cost of food will be around \$740. To get the lab trained to be an emotional support animal for PTSD will be around \$20,000.



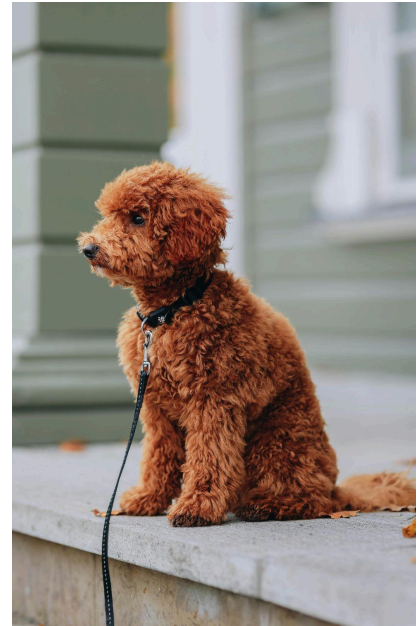
Item	Cost per month
Food	\$20-\$100
Grooming	\$40-\$80
Medications and Vet Visits	\$50-\$100
Pet insurance	\$30-\$80
Total	\$140-\$260

Table 2, Monthly Cost for Labrador Retriever

Option 3: Poodle

Figure 3, Valeria Boltneva / Pexel

Poodles are one of the most intelligent breeds, making them highly trainable and capable of learning complex tasks for emotional support. They are affectionate to children, which is suitable for the Smith family. They also have a hypoallergenic coat, which is a great benefit for owners with allergies. They are versatile in size, which can be classified as standard, miniature, and toy. The different sizes allow for more flexibility for the living environment and preferences.



A big downside would be that poodles are sensitive to their environment. They may become anxious if their routine is disrupted, which is not ideal as a PTSD emotional support animal for Mr. Smith. Poodles need regular grooming to keep their coats healthy and free from matting, which is costly and time-consuming. They require regular physical and mental exercise to stay healthy. Possible health problems are hip dysplasia, epilepsy, and eye disorders.

The price of a poodle is highly dependent on its size, with the standard sized ones having a higher monthly cost. Adopting can range from \$70 to \$800, and buying from a breeder can cost \$800 or more. Standard poodles start around \$1,000 but miniature and toy poodles can be double that price tag. Monthly costs for a poodle can range between \$182–\$665 per month, which is more expensive than the average breed. Poodles have higher grooming needs, otherwise they can easily get matted. They also tend to become bored and destructive if they

are not provided with toys and other forms of entertainment, so setting aside a part of that budget for new toys and chews are recommended. Again, the monthly cost is highly dependent on the size of the poodle.

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$22-\$70
Grooming	\$50-\$100
Medications and Vet Visits	\$15-\$250
Pet insurance	\$25-\$160
Total	\$112-\$580

Table 3, Monthly Cost for Poodle

Option 4: Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Figure 4, American Kennel Club

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are best known for their affectionate nature. They have a loving and gentle demeanor, making them great companions who can offer consistent affection and comfort. Their small size also makes them easy to manage and well suited for various living environments, including apartments. They are generally very friendly and sociable and get along great with people and other pets. Cavaliers are often very attuned to their owner's emotions and can offer comfort during moments of distress or panic attacks. They are also relatively low maintenance-only requiring moderate exercise and grooming.

On the contrary, Cavaliers may not be the best option for owners on a tight budget. They are prone to certain genetic health problems, such as heart disease and hip dysplasia, which can

lead to high veterinary costs and emotional stress for the owner. They are also prone to separation anxiety if left alone for long periods, which might not be ideal for a busy schedule. In addition, their long, silky coats require regular grooming to prevent matting,



which can be time consuming and challenging for some owners. While their small size may be ideal for some, they may not provide the same physical presence or sense of security that larger breeds may offer.

Cavaliers are generally affordable after the purchase of the dog. However, the purchase price being anywhere from \$1,500-3,500 (one time cost) can be pretty pricey. Veterinary care for routine checkups and vaccinations are generally \$200-\$400, preventative medications (flea, tick, heartworm): \$100-\$200, potential health issues: \$500-\$1000 (varies based on health).

Grooming expenses can amount to \$300-\$600 (assuming professional grooming every 6-8 weeks. Food costs \$300-\$600 (depending on the quality and size of dog), supplies amount to \$100-\$200 (toys, bedding, leash, etc.) Pet insurance \$300-\$600 (optional but recommended).

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$25-\$50
Grooming	\$25-\$50
Medications and Vet Visits	\$25-\$50
Pet insurance	\$25-\$50
Total	\$100-\$200

Table 4, Monthly Cost for Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Option 5: Yorkshire Terriers

Figure 5, Purina

Yorkshire Terriers (also known as yorkies) make great emotional support animals for a number of reasons. One of which includes their alertness; providing a sense of security for their owners. They are quite loving and affectionate creatures, providing utmost comfort and



companionship. Their small size makes them easy to manage and ideal for different living conditions such as apartments and lifestyles with limited space. Their size also makes travel easy, great for those that need emotional support on the go. They also have a low-shedding, hypoallergenic coat which can be beneficial to those with allergies. Yorkies are considered very

intelligent and can be trained to provide specific types of support or perform tasks to help their owners.

In contrast, Yorkies are relatively fragile due to their small size and prone to injury. This makes small children and active households a hazard for this small breed. Grooming can also be a problem due to the fact that they require it regularly-which can be costly and time consuming. They are also prone to separation anxiety—which is not ideal for an absent family/owner. They are also very vocal dogs and bark frequently which can be a problem for those who prefer or require a quieter environment. Yorkies also tend to be quite stubborn and challenging to train. They require some medical attention since they are prone to dental issues and patellar luxation, which can be costly.

The initial purchase price of a Yorkshire Terrier from a reputable breeder typically costs between \$1,200 and \$2,500. Annual veterinary costs for visits, vaccinations, and preventative care can range from \$300 to \$500. This does not include emergency care or specific health issues. Professional grooming can average \$50-\$70 per session, usually every 6-8 weeks (true for most small breeds). This can average \$400-\$600 per year. Quality dog food (breed specific) can average about \$200-\$400 per year. Supplies for such breeds can range \$100-\$200 (toys, bedding, and grooming supplies). Training courses for Yorkies can cost \$100-\$300 for a basic manners course. Miscellaneous things such as pet insurance, treats and accessories can range \$200-\$500. In total the yearly cost after the purchase year averages around \$1,300 to \$2,500, the first year usually coming out to around \$2,500-\$5,000.

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$17-\$35
Grooming	\$35-\$50
Medications and Vet Visits	\$25-\$40
Pet insurance	\$30-\$80
Total	\$107-\$205

Table 5, Monthly Cost for Yorkshire Terriers

Option 6: Border collie

Figure 6, Milan / Adobe Stock

Border collies are known to be friendly outgoing dogs. Border collies are intelligent dogs that make them easy to train. Border collies also can tell when their owner is feeling anxious which would make them good dogs for supporting people with PTSD. They are also on the smaller side of dogs making them a good fit for any size household.

Some disadvantages of border collies are they require more maintenance than other dogs due to their longer hair which also makes shedding an issue for them. They are not hypoallergenic so they will cause allergies to people with them. Border collies require



regular walks or exercise of some sort to stay healthy. Some common problems with border collies are hip dysplasia and separation anxiety.

The cost for border collies is around \$700-\$2500. Make sure to buy from a reputable breeder to reduce the chances of illnesses. Vetting for the dog will be around \$500 for routine checkups including vaccines, preventative medication, and additional treatments. Grooming for a border collie will be around \$300 per year as they need professional grooming at least once a month. For food it will be around \$740. To get the proper training for PTSD it will cost about \$20,000.

Item	Cost per month
Food	\$30-\$60
Grooming	\$10-\$50
Medications and Vet Visits	\$50-\$100
Pet insurance	\$25-\$100
Total	\$115-\$310

Table 6, Monthly Cost for Border Collie

Point-by-Point Comparison

In accordance with the family's needs, they want a dog suitable to aid with PTSD, hypoallergenic, suitable for children, and trainable for protection. The budget is roughly \$3000 per year and are willing to spend up to \$1000 to purchase the dog. A simpler breed is preferred-one easily cared for by the children and less experienced family members.

All criteria considered, the Golden Retriever would not be the best fit for the family. While child friendly and easily trainable, they are a high intensity dog; they need constant attention and significantly more care than other breeds. They are also high in demand and are rarely found in shelters or at a low budget price from legal, licensed breeders.

The Labrador Retriever, while a promising candidate, is also not going to be the ideal option. Though their short-haired nature makes them great for those who do not care for shedding, Labs are prone to costly health issues and are very costly to purchase. Since they are bred to be hunting dogs, it can be very hard to acquire one for such a low price.

Poodles make great emotional companions, and are very child friendly. They are hypoallergenic and come in many sizes suitable for any environment. However, Poodles need constant coat care and maintenance due to the texture and complexity of their hair. If not groomed properly and often, matting may occur which is very painful to the animal and costly to remove. They are also not ideal as a guard dog. Poodles can be seen as dramatic and stubborn to train. They are also very sensitive to change in their environment, making them not a suitable aid for those with PTSD. Overall, the Poodle is not the recommended choice.

Border Collies are very friendly and outgoing creatures, making them easily trained. They have heightened senses due to being bred as herd dogs and can sense anxiety in their owners just as they can sense disturbance in a herd of cattle. This in mind, this is a very hyper breed known for their high intensity speed and energy, thus, requiring significant exercise. Border Collies often make great guard dogs but can sometimes be a little too aggressive. They tend to nip when being protective or playful, much like nipping at cattle. This can be a potential hazard for small children.

Conclusion

Finally we are left with one of the top two choices; the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and the Yorkshire Terrier. The former is the most logical choice. The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel breed is affectionate, gentle, and has a comforting nature about it. They are great for small children and flexible to various living environments. They are easy to manage and great for small children and other animals. They are very attuned to their owners' emotions and are great for mitigating panic attacks (often caused by PTSD). They are relatively low maintenance and don't require a lot of exercise or grooming. They do require some grooming and have a bit of separation anxiety. They are also not very ferocious and do not make for great guard dogs. They are also prone to some very pricey health issues; this is why they are a great option but did not make the final recommendation.

Recommendation

All breeds considered, the Yorkshire Terrier is our resulting recommendation and evidently the best fit for the Smith family. They are great emotional support companions due to their affectionate nature and alertness to their environment. They may seem small but have big attitudes. While they do not offer much for protection, they can be considered a moderately vocal dog and will alert their owners to any changes in the environment. They are travel size and make on the go easy. Yorkies also have a low-shedding, hypoallergenic coat, and are great for allergies. This breed is highly trainable for specific needs or tasks but can be a little stubborn. They are proven to be one of the best breeds for PTSD support. Of course, like all breeds, Yorkies have their drawbacks. They need to be groomed frequently because the hair around their eyes gets long relatively quickly and therefore makes them unable to see clearly. They are also prone to separation anxiety and need more attention than other dogs. Their small size can be a hazard for small children since this breed is considerably fragile, but they are able to adapt quickly. The dental work they require can be costly but is absolutely necessary. Annual costs for this breed is relatively low compared to bigger or more complex breeds, making the dental aspect not as budget-breaking. All things considered, the Yorkshire terrier is the most suitable breed for this family due to its ability to match the family's needs significantly better than other dog breeds.

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Appendices

Appendix A - Group Contract

Group Project Contract for Emotional Support Dog Recommendation Letter

This contract establishes the operational guidelines for the members of Puppy Experts from 10/28/2024 to 12/4/2024. It remains applicable to all parties in case of group dissolution or member dismissal, though reassignment of tasks may occur in the event of a member's dismissal.

Article 1: Branding and Style Guidelines

- **Group Name and Logo:** "Puppy Experts", with a logo described as a dog icon in dark brown #5C4033, featured on the cover and title pages of the report.
- **Color Scheme:** Primary color black #000000 for headings and main body; secondary color gray #808080 for footnotes and captions.
- **Typography:** Titles use Arial size 27; headings use Calibri size 16 bold; footnotes in Calibri size 8; all other text in Calibri size 12.

Article 2: Leadership and Roles

- Responsibilities include managing contact information, project oversight, and communication with the professor, divided among Chandler Merritt, Zhen Ze (Justin) Ong, and Garrett Shipp.

Article 3: Work Policy and Schedule

- Commitment to high-quality work, respectful collaboration, and academic integrity.
- Weekly task schedule:
 - **Week 1:** Adoption of Group Contract; start work on Segments 3.1 – Overview and 3.2 – Collaboration on Paamsongre Courseware.
 - **Week 2:** Select topic; define criteria and options; get initial feedback from professor; complete Segment 3.3.
 - **Week 3:** Create recommendation report outline; write descriptions for [Option 1] and [Option 2]; seek professor's feedback.
 - **Week 4:** Draft the report's body, including various sections from introduction to recommendations.
 - **Week 5:** Draft front and back matter, including transmittal letter, abstract, and appendices.
 - **Week 6:** Revise and edit the report based on feedback; submit the final draft.

Article 4: Attendance and Accountability

- In-person discussion during Monday's Technical Writing class if the instructor allocates time for it.
- Every Monday (latest by midnight unless with an excuse accepted by all members), each member must update other members on their current progress and conclude what tasks must be done by the next meeting (or the next if agreed by all members).
- Weekly updates and tasks are sent in the Discord group chat.
- A penalty of dropping a full letter grade will be given to an individual for every two unexcused weekly update absences or task failures.
- If one member will be absent from the weekly meeting, they must inform the group and give their weekly update and discuss the current week's tasks to avoid any penalty.

Article 5: Communication Tools and Protocols

- Collaboration through Google Docs and Discord; members to be reachable via text or email for urgent matters.
- Updates and weekly tasks from meetings will be recorded in the Discord group chat and can be used as proof for penalties. Any attempt to edit or delete an agreed task will lead to a penalty of dropping a letter grade.

Article 6: Amendments

- Amendments require a two-thirds vote with all members present, added to the contract with the date of addition.

Article 7: Adoption and Commitment

- Members sign to acknowledge, understand, and agree to abide by the terms of the contract.

Template adaptable for Emotional Support Dog Recommendation Letter.

Signatures:

1. Group Member 1: _____ Zhen Ze Ong _____ [Signature] __Zhen Ze Ong__
[Date] 11/4/2024
 2. Group Member 2: _____ Garrett Shipp _____ [Signature]
Garrett Shipp _____ [Date] 11/5/2024
 3. Group Member 3: __Chandler Merritt _____ [Signature]
__Chandler Merritt _____ [Date] 11/5/2024
-

This contract ensures that each member of Puppy Experts is committed to a structured, collaborative approach to successfully complete the Emotional Support Dog Recommendation Letter.

Appendix B - Glossary

Dander

Microscopic flecks of skin shed by animals, similar to human dandruff. The most common cause of pet allergies.

De-matting (see definition of matting)

The act of undoing matting in a dog's fur. Usually performed by professional groomers.

Elbow Dysplasia

A genetic condition in dogs that affects the development of the elbow joint, causing the bones to not fit together properly.

Grooming

Basic grooming includes bathing, brushing, ear cleaning, and nail trimming of a pet. Full-service grooming may include a blow dry. The cost depends heavily on the breed, size, coat condition, and groomer.

Hip Dysplasia

A genetic condition that causes abnormal development of the hip joint, resulting in instability and pain.

Hypoallergenic Coat

A coat of a dog that does not shed or has minimal shedding. Hypoallergenic dogs do not produce as much dander as other dogs, making them suitable pets for people with pet allergies.

Matting

Dense tangles and knots in dog fur that can be painful for the animal. Can cause health issues if treatment is neglected. Prevention can be done through regular grooming.

Patellar Luxation

A condition in dogs where the kneecap shifts out of place.

Separation Anxiety

A condition that causes a dog to become distressed and exhibit behavioral problems when separated from their owner.

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