

*词汇: animal welfare 动物福利*

For some people, there's no better **companion** than **man's best friend** – a dog. This four-legged **canine** can bring comfort and joy and provide much-needed exercise for you when it needs walkies! This probably explains why dog ownership increased last year because people spent more time at home during the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

It was demand for **puppies** in particular that saw the biggest increase. Who couldn't resist their playful personalities, adorable eyes, and super-soft **coats**?

However, as demand for a new **pooch** increased, so did the price tag. Popular **breeds**, such as **Cockapoos** and **Cocker Spaniels**, saw even sharper price increases, and puppies have been selling for £3,000 or more.

Animal welfare charities fear that high prices could encourage **puppy farming**, **smuggling** or dog theft. And a BBC investigation found some **breeders** have been selling puppies and kittens on social media sites – something charities have called “extremely **irresponsible**”.

But despite some new owners purchasing a dog **legally**, maybe from a **rescue centre** or **registered** breeder, they've proved to be ill-prepared for life with a new **pet**, and the pet itself has found it hard to come to terms with life in a new home. **Animal behaviourists** in the UK have reported a surge in requests to help dogs suffering from **fear-aggression** after their **lives have been turned upside down**.

Looking to the future, there are concerns about the welfare of these much-loved pets. Ian Atkin, manager of the Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary in the UK, told the BBC: “At the moment, the dogs are having a great time, but **separation anxiety** could still surface when people go back to work.” And Claire Calder from the UK's Dogs Trust rescue charity says “the economic situation also means that some people may find they can't afford to look after a dog.” The message is not to buy a puppy in haste and to pick one that fits into your lifestyle.

## 词汇表

<b>companion</b>	伴侣
<b>man's best friend</b>	狗
<b>canine</b>	犬
<b>puppy</b>	小狗, 幼犬
<b>coat</b>	(动物的) 皮毛
<b>pooch</b>	狗
<b>breed</b>	品种
<b>Cockapoo</b>	可卡颇犬
<b>Cocker Spaniels</b>	可卡犬
<b>puppy farming</b>	幼犬养殖
<b>smuggling</b>	走私, 贩卖
<b>breeder</b>	饲养动物的人
<b>irresponsible</b>	不负责任的
<b>legally</b>	合法地, 依法
<b>rescue centre</b>	救援中心
<b>registered</b>	已注册的
<b>pet</b>	宠物
<b>animal behaviourist</b>	动物行为学专家
<b>fear-aggression</b>	害怕受攻击
<b>lives have been turned upside down</b>	生活变得一团糟
<b>separation anxiety</b>	分离焦虑症

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why did dog ownership increase during the coronavirus pandemic?
2. What caused the increase in the price of puppies?
3. True or False: *All new dog owners were totally prepared for their new pets.*
4. How might going back to work affect the behaviour of a dog?
5. Where have some puppies been sold that have caused charities to be concerned?

### 2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. He was very \_\_\_\_\_ to drive after drinking alcohol.

irresponsible	irresponsing	irresponsable	irresponsed
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2. My brother is a good travelling \_\_\_\_\_ – we love the same places and have so much fun together.

adorable	breed	companion	personality
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3. My favourite dog is a sheepdog – I love their \_\_\_\_\_.

smuggling	walkies	personalities	behaviourists
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4. They say dogs are \_\_\_\_\_ and it's true: Rover is my best friend!

men's best friend	man's best friend	men's friend	man's bestie
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5. I am \_\_\_\_\_ for this race – I haven't done any training.

fear-aggression	turned upside down	ill-prepared	haste
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## 答案

1. Why did dog ownership increase during the coronavirus pandemic?

**Because people were looking for something to give them companionship and exercise.**

2. What caused the increase in the price of puppies?

**As demand for a new puppy increased, so did the price tag.**

3. True or False: *All new dog owners were totally prepared for their new pets.*

**False. Some new dog owners were ill-prepared for life with a new pet.**

4. How might going back to work affect the behaviour of a dog?

**Dogs could suffer from separation anxiety when people go back to work.**

5. Where have some puppies been sold that have caused charities to be concerned?

**A BBC investigation found some breeders have been seen selling puppies on social media sites.**

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. He was very **irresponsible** to drive after drinking alcohol.

2. My brother is a good travelling **companion** – we love the same places and have so much fun together.

3. My favourite dog is a sheepdog – I love their **personalities**.

4. They say dogs are **man's best friend** and it's true: Rover is my best friend!

5. I am **ill-prepared** for this race – I haven't done any training.