

# MARNI

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malamutes he's known, for instance, all would rather sleep on the floor. Dobermans, on the other hand, don't do floors. To learn what your dog likes, take your dog to the pet store. Lay several bed styles down and see what he or she picks.

## Identify your pooch's sleep style

Whether your dog is a curler, sprawler, nester, lounge, leaner or cuddler (I'm not making this up) will shape his bed preference. Sprawlers like large, flat pads; leaners like bolsters for back support. Curlers and nesters like the deep sides of a donut bed.

## Pick your placement

Put your dog's bed in a cozy corner or against a wall, where no one can sneak up from behind. Because they're pack animals, dogs like to hang with you. So have beds where you spend time, like in the kitchen or family room.

## Get the size right

Basically you want a bed that's a little bigger than your dog. Measure your pup from nose to tail, then add 6 to 12 inches.

## Factor in fabric

Dunbar likes leather because it stays clean. His second favorite dog bed material is sheep fleece. Both are neutral and go with almost every interior. Look hard enough and you can luck into dog beds in fashionable fabrics you can live with, too. Or buy some water- and stain-resistant fabric, like Crypton, and make your own. To meet shedding halfway, choose a fabric that includes the color of your pet's fur. Regardless, look for removable covers you can wash, or beds that are completely washable.

## Check contents

A soft, non-stuffed pad might be enough. "My big concern with filling is, if your dog is a chewer, the dog might consume the foam or other stuffing and that can be dangerous," said Dunbar, adding that beds with orthopedic or memory foam support mattresses for aging and arthritic dogs are overkill. "That might help the owner rest easier, but come on."

## Try training

"You can train a dog to use any bed," he said. "Put him on the bed, then praise, pet, and feed him. Treat, treat, and pretty soon he'll think, 'I like it here.'"

"Here, Peapod and Pippin, I have something for you!"

Syndicated columnist Marni Jameson is the author of three home and lifestyle books, including "Downsizing the Family Home - What to Save, What to Let Go" (Sterling Publishing). You can reach her at [www.marnijameson.com](http://www.marnijameson.com).

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