

Dog Breed Characteristics & Behavior

Why is it important to know about the characteristics and behavior of different breeds?

All dogs are individuals and have their own personalities. At the same time, different breeds tend to also have certain characteristics that help define that particular breed. This information can be helpful to you when you are choosing a dog or trying to understand his behavior.

The AKC (American Kennel Club) places dog breeds within seven different groups. In order to account for the different behaviors within a particular group, some groups can be further subdivided into families.

Herding group:

Breeds in this group were bred to herd sheep and cattle. They do this by stalking and staring, barking and/or nipping at their charges. They are bred to be intelligent, athletic and diligent and they are very trainable. Dogs from this group will do best with lots of exercise. They do even better if they have a job such as agility where they can use their natural athletic ability to navigate an agility course. Barking can be a problem if they are bored and they may attempt to “herd” their people-pack by nipping and chasing.

Characteristics:

- Alert
- Smart
- Independent
- Confident
- Trainable
- Loyal
- Affectionate

Herding breeds:

- Collies
- Sheepdogs
- Cattle dogs
- Corgis
- Shepherds
- Belgian Malinois
- Belgian Tervuren

