

## **DOG BREED CHARACTERISTICS & BEHAVIOR**

The following are some general behavioral attributes of different breed types. These are not meant to be rules of behavior. All dogs are individuals and have their own personality. This information may be useful when choosing a dog, or understanding its behavior.

### **...PROTECTION DOGS...**

Most protection dogs were bred originally as herding dogs or flock guards. We now use them for a variety of purposes, including police work, guarding homes or property, or for specific leisure activities or sports, such as Schutzhund work.

- **BREEDS INCLUDE:** Akita, Rottweiler, Doberman pinscher, Bull Mastiff and Mastiff, Great Dane, Boxer and Giant Schnauzer. German Shepherd is included in this group as well as the herding group the Rhodesian Ridgeback is used as a combination guard, protection and hunting dog.
- **TYPICAL BEHAVIORAL PROFILE:** Confident, dominant, extremely trainable, ability to work well with humans
- **TYPICAL PROBLEMS:** Dominant aggression, separation anxiety, possessiveness

### **...FLOCKING DOGS & MOUNTAIN DOGS...**

Flock guards were bred to protect their herds of sheep or cattle from marauding predators. Many of them were bred to be white, so they would blend into the flocks. They tend to be quite protective of their families and fear very little. The most well known in this country are the Great Pyrenees, Komondor, and Kuvasz. Closely related to the flock guards are the Mountain Dogs - St. Bernards, Newfoundland and Bernese Mountain Dogs. Also quite heavy-boned, with large, domed heads, these animals tend to be sweet-tempered, if stubborn.

- **TYPICAL BEHAVIORAL PROFILE:** Confident, dominant, protective, independent, tolerant, ability to work well with humans.
- **TYPICAL PROBLEMS:** Dominant aggression, wanderlust, possessiveness.

### **...HERDING BREEDS...**

It's thought by some that herding dogs retain more "wolf" behaviors than any other type of dog except the Northern Breeds. This is because they stalk and chase (herd) on a regular basis. Herding breeds are used to herd sheep and cattle. They are often flock protectors as well. They are usually medium sized, agile, sensitive, and quick to use their teeth to move their flock.

- **BREEDS INCLUDE:** Border Collie, Collie, Old English Sheepdog, German Shepherd, Belgian Shepherd (3 varieties), Australian Shepherd, Heeler or Cattle dog, Kelpie, Corgie and Shetland Sheepdog, Puli, Bearded Collie and Bouvier.
- **TYPICAL BEHAVIORAL PROFILE:** Anxious, demanding, dominant, protective, sensitive, loyal, great obedience dogs, ability to work well with humans
- **TYPICAL PROBLEMS:** Fear-based aggression, separation anxiety, destructive, noisy