# [Australian Shepherd](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/australian-shepherd/" \o "Australian Shepherd):

# The Aussie breed is an energetic [dog](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dog/) that requires exercise and mental stimulation to be happy and to avoid becoming destructive. They need a minimum of 20 min hard running twice per day. Aussies love working, whether it is herding livestock, performing tricks, competing in [dog](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dog/) agility, or any other canine sport. They do exceptionally well in frisbee catching competition, and they love to retrieve items from water. Aussies want to accompany their favorite [humans](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) and see and do whatever you are doing. After sufficient exercise they enjoy being couch potatoes. It is usually a sweet and affectionate [dog](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dog/) which is faithful to its owners and great with children if raised with them. They typcially are friendly with the owner's friends and [family](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family) that they see often but protective when strangers are around. Socialization from puppyhood is necessary to get the very best from them. Most Australian Shepherds make wonderful [family](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family) [dogs](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dog/), provided there is a [human](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) pack leader to guide them. They generally get along with other [dogs](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dog/) and are not quarrelsome.

# Australian Shepherd Facts:

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| [Common Name](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-common-name): | Australian Shepherd |
| [Origin](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-origin): | North America |
| [Average Size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-size): | 58cm (23in) |
| [Average Weight](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-weight): | 32kg (70lbs) |
| [Average Lifespan](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-lifespan): | 14 years |
| [Group](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group): | Herd Dog |
|  | |
| [Colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour): | Tan, Red, Black, Brown, Grey |
| [Average Litter Size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-litter-size): | 7 |
| [Temperament](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-temperament): | Confident and independent yet loving and responsive, |
| [Training](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-training): | Should be trained from an early age and they are easy to train but it takes time |