

Dog Breeds & Characteristics

Dogs are known to be faithful and loyal companions, protective of their masters and territory. There are several breeds, each possessing its own characteristics. The basic characteristics of 12 different breeds are given below:

Akita:

The Japanese Akita is basically a type of spitz and was initially bred as a hunter of deer and wild boar. It is easily trained and has an equable temperament. Does not need much exercise and is a good swimmer.

Characteristics:

- Good guard dog
- Good temperament
- Intelligent
- Easily trained

Boxer:

A faithful protector of the family and well-balanced guard dog, having both courage and control. It somehow takes longer than most to grow up but is an exuberant and fairly powerful dog. Clean and not too noisy.

Characteristics:

- Good family pet
- Affectionate and playful
- Courageous
- Suitable as guide dog/ assistance animal

Bulldog:

Although it may look quite ferocious, this breed has a docile temperament and enjoys children. It is active and learns easily. However, it cannot withstand strenuous exercise as its nose does not allow for rapid breathing.

Characteristics:

- Courageous
- Intelligent
- Good tempered
- Loyal guard dog

Chow Chow:

This breed, a member of the Spitz family, needs gentle but firm handling as it is unlikely to obey without coaxing. It tends to devote itself to its master though it will accept other family members.

Characteristics:

- Loyal companion
- Good endurance
- Aloof temperament
- Strong-willed

Dachshund:

Still bred as hunting dogs in some countries as they will bravely face a larger opponent. As companions, they can be affectionate and good-humored. They have a loud bark for their size and are very good watchdogs.

Characteristics:

- Courageous
- Loyal family pet
- Fiercely protective
- Affectionate and possess a sense of fun

English Cocker Spaniel:

A manageable and intelligent animal that makes an ideal family pet. It is admired for its beauty and is an active dog, requiring regular exercise. With proper diet and exercise, this dog will be healthy and have a long lifespan.

Characteristics:

- Affectionate and gentle
- Good with children
- Intelligent
- Merry temperament

German Shepherd:

One of the most courageous and intelligent of dogs. Popular as a guard dog, police and military dog, and also as assistance animal/guide dog for the blind and handicapped. Needs plenty of exercise and work, whether in service or competing in obedience trials.

Characteristics

- Loyal and fiercely protective of owner
- Excellent worker and guide dog
- Large and strong dog
- Admired for its intelligence and resourcefulness

Labrador:

The Labrador Retriever is an excellent retriever (hence its name) and can be trusted with children. It performs well in obedience training competitions and is much favoured as an assistance animal and guide dog. It requires a sufficient amount of exercise to keep healthy and fit.

Characteristics:

- Possesses patience, intelligence and gentleness
- Equable temperament
- Good family pet
- Popular as assistance and guide dog

Pug:

This breed makes a good family pet and devoted companion. It is an energetic dog and enjoys exercise. Care should be taken to prevent it becoming overweight as it has a natural passion for food.

Characteristics:

- Happy disposition
- Good with children
- Affectionate
- Intelligent

Rottweiler:

This breed is of high intelligence and good temperament. It is sought after as a guard dog, police dog and mountain rescue dog. It responds best to kind, firm handling and should not be kept chained or in the kennel for long.

Characteristics:

- Good temperament
- Makes good household companion/guard dog
- Reliable working dog
- Does well in obedience tests
- Tough dog and can endure any weather

Shih Tzu:

A small breed that is extremely intelligent, arrogant and loves luxury. It enjoys human company and is a happy, attractive little pet. Regular grooming is necessary to keep hair neat and free of tangles.

Characteristics

- Affectionate
- Hardy
- Fiercely loyal
- Loves children and other animals

Spitz:

This is a beautiful and intelligent small breed. It makes a good companion and does not need a great deal of exercise. However, it is quite noisy (tends to bark a lot) and is suspicious of strangers.

Characteristics:

- Loyal companion
- Excellent guard dog
- Intelligent
- Adaptable