



# ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of Animals Since 1957

## DOG BREED CHARACTERISTICS

**WHEN TRYING TO DECIDE** if a particular dog breed is right for you, it helps to know a little bit about the care the animal will require. This information was designed to give you a general idea of how a dog will behave as an adult. Not all dogs will conform to these guidelines (there's an exception to every rule), but usually a dog follows some basic breed characteristics.

Dogs generally do not view a human under the age of thirteen as being a leader (dominant pack member) and usually do not take commands from a young person for this reason. Do not get a dog for a child and expect the child to train the dog. A child and dog should be allowed to play together as peers, but the training should be the adult's responsibility.

The following is a list of codes for adult dog size, exercise requirements, coat care and temperament characteristics to help you decide if a particular breed is right for you.

### Size

<b>Giant:</b> 100 lbs. and up	<b>Medium:</b> 20 lbs. up to 49 lbs
<b>Large:</b> 50 lbs. up to 99 lbs	<b>Small:</b> 19 lbs. and under

### Exercise: Walks, Games, Trips to Dog Park and any activity with a human

**Extreme:** More than an hour a day spent running free in a fenced area.

**Maximum:** At least an hour a day, half of which should be spent running free in a fenced area.

**Moderate:** Half an hour a day, some of which should be a fast game of fetch in a fenced area.

**Minimum:** All dogs need some exercise, fresh air and a change of scenery, but these dogs can manage with just a daily game with their owners in a fenced area.

### Coat Care: Brushing and Combing

**Maximum:** Groom at least 20 minutes each day; professional grooming every 6 to 8 weeks

**Moderate:** Groom at least 30 minutes twice a week and professional grooming every 6 months

**Minimum:** Grooming once a week to keep skin and coat healthy, bath no more than once every four months

**Shedding:** (E) Extr<sup>e</sup>me shedding, (S) Sea<sup>s</sup>onal extreme shedding, (H) Heavy shedding  
(M) Moderate shedding, (L) Light shedding, (N) No shedding.

### Behavior Characteristics

**Friendly:** Greets everyone as a friend; can rapidly bond with anyone who is friendly and may even bond with people who dislike dogs; good in large crowds and accepts a lot of handling

**Social:** Usually a "one family" dog; bonds well with family members; can accept a family friend after some playful interaction; comfortable in medium-sized crowds, but learns to avoid people who don't like dogs

**Tolerant:** A small family dog that is usually described as “accepting” of attention; slow to accept family friends, but will form a weak bond after many pleasant experiences; uncomfortable in crowds greater than five and will ignore strangers or sniff them and walk away

**Solitary:** Usually a one-family dog; shy with most strangers and can become a “fear-biter” if not properly socialized when young; will form a permanent bond with its owner, but will avoid most small children

**Good with children:** Very good with children, more so than adults

**Good with dogs:** (G) Good, (M) Moderately (P) Poor

**Good with cats:** (G) Good, (M) Moderately (P) Poor

**Good with small pets:** (G) Good, (M) Moderately (P) Poor

**Trainability:** (VT) Very Trainable, (T) Trainable, (DT) Difficult to train

**Barks/Digs:** (B) Tends to Bark, (D) Tends to Dig

Breed	Size				Exercise			Coat Care				Behavioral Characteristics											
	Giant	Large	Medium	Small	Extreme	Maximum	Moderate	Minimum	Maximum	Moderate	Minimum	Shedding	Friendly	Sociable	Tolerant	Solitary	Good w/ children	Good w/ dogs	Good w/ cats	Good w/ small pets	Trainability	Barks / Digs	
Affenpinscher				*		*			*			L		*				M	M	M		T	B
Afghan Hound		*				*			*			L				*			M	M	M		DT
Airedale Terrier		*				*			*			L		*					P	P	P		T
Akita		*				*				*		H			*				M	M	M		T
Alaskan Malamute		*				*				*		S		*					P	P	P		DT B D
Am/Eng Foxhound			*			*					*	H	*				*		G	M	M		DT B
Am/Eng Staffordshire Bull Terrier			*				*				*	H M			*				P	P	P		DT
Am Water Spaniel			*			*				*		L			*				M	G	G		T B
Australian Kelpie			*			*				*		H			*				G	P	P		VT B
Australian Shepherd			*		*					*		M		*					M	M	M		VT
Australian Terrier				*		*				*		L			*				M	M	M		T D
Basenji			*			*				*		H			*				P	P	P		DT
Basset Hound			*				*				*	M			*				M	M	M		DT B
Beagle			*								*	E	*				*		G	G	G		DT B
Bearded Collie			*			*			*			M		*					M	M	M		T
Bedlington Terrier			*			*				*		N			*				M	P	P		DT
Belgian Malinois		*			*					*		H			*				M	M	M		VT
Belgian Tervuren		*			*					*		M			*				M	M	M		VT
Bernese Mtn. Dog	*					*				*		H			*		*		M	G	G		VT
Bichon Frise				*		*			*			N	*				*		G	G	G		VT B
Blk/Tan Coonhound		*				*					*	H			*		*		M	M	M		DT B
Bloodhound	*	*				*				*		H		*					M	G	G		DT
Border Collie			*		*					*		M				*			M	P	P		VT

Breed	Giant	Large	Medium	Small	Extreme	Maximum	Moderate	Minimum	Maximum	Moderate	Minimum	Shedding	Friendly	Sociable	Tolerant	Solitary	Good w/ children	Good w/ dogs	Good w/ cats	Good w/ small pets	Trainability	Barks / Digs
Breed	Size				Exercise			Coat Care					Behavioral Characteristics									
Border Terrier				*			*			*		L		*			*	M	P	P	VT	BD
Borzoi	*						*			*		M			*			M	M	M	T	
Boston Terrier				*			*				*	M	*	*				G	G	G	T	BD
Bouvier de Flandres	*					*				*		H			*		*	M	M	M	T	
Boxer			*				*				*	M	*					M	M	M	T	
Briard	*				*					*		M			*		*	P	M	M	DT	
Brittany Spaniel			*		*						*	M	*					M	M	M	VT	
Brussels Griffon				*			*				*	M		*				M	M	M	T	B
Bullmastiff	*						*				*	L			*			P	G	G	DT	
Bull Terrier			*				*				*	L			*			P	M	M	DT	
Cairn Terrier				*			*			*		M			*			M	P	P	DT	BD
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel				*			*			*		M	*					P	M	M	T	
Chesapeake Bay Retriever		*				*				*		M		*				M	M	M	T	
Chihuahua				*				*			*	M			*			P	M	M	DT	B
Chinese Crested Dog				*				*			*	L		*				G	G	G	T	
Chow Chow			*					*	*			H			*			P	M	M	DT	
Clumber Spaniel			*				*			*		M			*			M	M	M	T	
Cocker Spaniel, Am			*				*			*		M			*			G	G	G	VT	B
Cocker Spaniel, Eng.			*				*			*		M		*				G	G	G	VT	
Corgi, Cardigan Welsh (tail)			*				*				*	L			*			P	M	M	T	B
Corgi, Pembroke Welsh (no tail)			*				*				*	L			*		*	M	M	M	T	B
Collie, Smooth Coat		*					*			*		L		*				M	M	M	T	B
Collie Rough Coat		*					*			*		M		*				M	M	M	T	B
Curly-coated Retriever		*					*					M					*	M	M	G	T	
Dachshund (all)				*			*				*	L		*				M	M	M	T	BD
Dalmatian		*			*						*	L		*				M	M	M	T	
Dandie Dinmont Terrier				*			*			*		M						M	M	M	DT	D
Doberman Pinscher		*				*					*	L			*			P	M	M	VT	
Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff)	*						*				*	M				*		M	M	M	T	
English Bulldog				*				*		*		M	*				*	P	M	M	DT	
English Setter		*				*				*		M	*				*	M	M	M	T	
Eng. Springer Spaniel			*			*				*		M	*					M	G	G	VT	
English Toy Spaniel				*				*		*		M			*			G	G	G	T	

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Breed	Size				Exercise			Coat Care					Behavioral Characteristics									
Field Spaniel			*			*				*		M		*				M	G	G	VT	
Flat-coated Retriever		*				*				*		M	*					M	G	G	VT	
Fox Terrier (smooth)				*			*				*	L		*				M	P	P	VT	B D
Fox Terrier (wire)				*			*			*		M		*				M	P	P	VT	B D
French Bulldog				*			*				*	L	*					M	G	G	T	
German Shepherd		*				*				*		H			*			P	M	M	VT	
German Shorthaired Pointer		*			*						*	L		*				M	P	P	T	B
German Wirehaired Pointer		*			*						*	L			*			M	P	P	T	B
Golden Retriever		*				*				*		M	*				*	G	G	G	VT	
Gordon Setter		*				*				*		M			*			P	M	M	T	
Great Dane	*					*					*	L	*				*	M	M	M	VT	
Great Pyrenees Mtn. Dog	*						*		*			H		*			*	M	M	M	DT	
Greyhound		*					*				*	L			*			M	P	M	T	
Harrier			*			*					*	L			*		*	G	M	M	DT	B
Ibizan Hound			*			*					*	L			*			G	P	M	DT	B
Irish Setter		*			*					*		M	*					G	M	M	T	
Irish Terrier			*			*				*		L			*			P	P	P	DT	
Irish Water Spaniel		*				*				*		L			*		*	M	M	M	T	
Irish Wolfhound	*						*				*	M		*			*	M	M	M	DT	
Italian Greyhound				*			*				*	L		*			*	G	G	G	T	
Jack Russell Terrier				*	*						*	L		*			*	P	P	P	T	B D
Japanese Chin				*				*		*		M	*				*	G	G	G	T	
Keeshond			*				*			*		H	*				*	M	G	G	T	
Kerry Blue Terrier			*				*				*	L			*			P	P	P	DT	B
Komondor	*						*			*		M			*			P	M	M	T	
Kuvasz		*				*				*		H			*			P	M	M	DT	
Labrador Retriever		*				*				*		M	*				*	G	G	G	VT	
Lakeland Terrier				*			*				*	L			*			P	P	P	DT	
Lhasa Apso				*				*		*		M			*			M	M	M	DT	
Maltese				*			*			*		M			*			M	M	M	T	B
Manchester Terrier				*			*				*	L		*				M	P	P	T	D
Mastiff	*						*				*	M			*		*	M	G	G	T	
Miniature Pinscher				*			*				*	L			*			P	P	P	DT	
Newfoundland	*							*	*			H	*				*	G	G	G	T	
Norwegian Elkhound			*				*		*			H		*				P	P	P	DT	B

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Norwich Terrier (ears up)				*			*			*		M		*				M	M	M	T	
Norfolk Terrier (ears down)				*			*			*		M		*				M	M	M	T	
Old English Sheepdog	*						*		*			H		*				M	G	G	DT	
Otter Hound	*						*		*			M		*		*	*	M	M	M	DT	
Papillon				*				*	*			M	*			*	*	G	G	G	VT	
Pekingese				*				*	*			M			*			M	M	M	DT	
Petit Basset Griffon				*			*		*			M		*		*	*	G	M	M	DT	B D
Pharaoh Hound			*			*				*		L		*		*	*	G	M	M	T	
Pomeranian				*				*	*			M		*				P	M	M	DT	B
Poodle, Toy/Mini.				*			*		*			N		*				M	M	M	VT	B
Poodle, Standard			*				*		*			N	*			*	*	M	M	M	VT	
Pug				*			*			*		L		*				M	M	M	T	
Puli			*				*		*			N			*			P	P	P	DT	B
Redbone Coonhound		*				*				*		H		*		*	*	M	M	M	DT	B
Rhodesian Ridgeback		*				*				*		L		*		*	*	P	P	P	T	
Rottweiler		*				*				*		L		*				P	P	P	T	
Saint Bernard	*					*			*			M		*				M	M	M	T	
Saluki			*			*			*			M			*			M	M	M	T	
Samoyed			*			*			*			S		*		*	*	M	M	M	DT	
Schipperke				*		*			*			H		*				M	M	M	DT	
Scottish Deerhound	*					*			*			M		*		*	*	G	M	M	DT	
Scottish Terrier				*		*				*		M		*				M	M	M	DT	B D
Schnauzer, Mini				*		*			*			L		*		*	*	M	M	M	T	B
Schnauzer, Standard			*			*			*			L		*				P	M	M	T	
Schnauzer, Giant		*				*			*			L		*				P	P	P	T	
Sealyham Terrier				*		*			*			M		*				M	M	M	DT	B D
Shar Pei			*			*				*		L			*		*	P	P	P	DT	
Shetland Sheepdog			*			*			*			M		*		*	*	G	G	G	VT	B
Shih Tzu				*		*			*			M		*		*	*	G	G	G	T	
Siberian Husky			*			*			*			S		*				M	M	M	DT	B D
Silky Terrier				*		*			*			M		*				M	M	M	T	B
Skye Terrier				*		*			*			M		*				P	P	P	T	
Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier			*			*			*			M		*		*	*	M	M	M	T	D
Sussex Spaniel			*			*			*			M		*				M	M	M	T	B
Tibetan Spaniel				*			*			*		M		*				G	G	G	T	
Tibetan Terrier				*		*			*			M	*					M	M	M	T	

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Breed	Size			Exercise				Coat Care				Behavioral Characteristics										
Toy Manchester Terrier				*				*			*	L		*				P	P	P	DT	
Vizsla			*		*						*	L			*			M	M	M	T	
Weimaraner		*			*						*	L			*			P	P	P	DT	
Welsh Springer Spaniel			*			*				*		M		*				M	M	M	T	
Welsh Terrier			*				*				*	L		*				M	P	P	DT	B D
West Highland White Terrier				*			*			*		M	*					M	P	P	VT	B D
Whippet			*			*					*	L		*			*	G	G	G	T	
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon		*				*					*	M		*				M	M	M	T	
Yorkshire Terrier				*				*		*		M				*		P	P	P	DT	B

For more information, please visit  
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