

15 BEST DOGS FOR CHILDREN



SANDY OBERREUTER

<http://www.small-dogbreed.com>

“The dog was created specially for children. He is the god of frolic.”

Henry Ward Beecher

So your child wants a dog or maybe you do but you need to get one that is good with children.

There are considerations you need to make before going out and getting a puppy or dog.

- ❖ What age is your child? (Under six, you need to consider the size of your child and their unpredictable behavior. For example, if you get a small dog they could unintentionally hurt it.
- ❖ Dog’s behavior. If you get a large, high-energy dog, your child could be knocked down easily.
- ❖ Do you have time to train a puppy?
- ❖ What kind of room do you have for a dog?
- ❖ Do you want a dog that needs a lot of exercise?
- ❖ Do you want to housebreak a puppy?
- ❖ What is your lifestyle?
- ❖ Can the breed you want be alone all day if you work?
- ❖ Do you want a dog that never shed, shed a little, or do you care if he shed a lot?

There are many breeds of dogs that are good with children. You need to research the different breeds you are interested in getting. Read books, magazines, talk to vets, talk to breeders, talk to groomers, go to dog show and talk to someone who has that breed. Actually, try to spend some time with that breed of dog.

Decide what characteristics you want in a dog – what suits you.

Realize all dogs are individuals so this report is about generalists.

If you pick out a puppy, have a vet look at him. You can test the puppy for certain behavioral characteristics.

The best choice for young children is a dog that was raised with young children and loves them. It is best to find a dog that prefers kids to adults. If you want a puppy, you need proper training for both the child and the puppy.

Another good choice would be a dog around one year old. The dog shouldn't be afraid of children and you should see his tail wagging when he is around them. Some dogs prefer adults, some seem stressed by kids and if they growl, you do not want that dog. So introduce your child to a dog before you purchase him to make sure they like each other.

TIDBITS

- ❖ Small breeds usually are more temperamental.
- ❖ Ask breeder that has the breed you want how long it would take to get one.
- ❖ You need to teach your child to respect the dog.
- ❖ How much does that breed cost?
- ❖ Teach your child never to tease a dog.
- ❖ Herding dogs are more protective so not good for children under five.
- ❖ A two year old and a big active dog is not a good combination.
- ❖ The dog should be tolerant of petting, ear pulling (it does happen), be patient and have energy to play.
- ❖ There are good dogs and bad dogs in every breed so get to know the individual dog's personality.
- ❖ You want a dog that is alert, calm and confident.

A note – if you decide not to get a pure breed dog but a mixed breed they act most like the breed they resemble. Therefore, you still need to research that breed.

IRISH SETTER

The Irish Setter, originally from Ireland, is described as “rollicking” and that is why kids find them such great buddies.

They are natural clowns that like to play games, love attention and loved to be petted. Irish Setters are excellent with children and they are not aggressive. They will bark to protect their families from strangers although they don’t make good guard dogs. They love human company.

However, note that young setters like most puppies may be too boisterous for small children. They will need responsible handling and socialization.

These dogs are substantial yet elegant in built. A beautiful dog with rich shade of chestnut to deep mahogany sometimes with splashes of white on their chest and feet. They have long triangular ears with chestnut or dark hazel eyes and a black or brown nose.

Their coat is profusely feathered, silky, straight and glossy. In winter, they have an abundant undercoat. They need daily brushing to keep their coat mat free and to prevent tangles. However, only use dry shampoo when necessary. An average shedder.

Dog Height: 26” – 28”
Dog Weight: 60 - 70 pounds
Female Height: 24” – 26”
Female Weight: 53 – 64 pounds

Life Span: 11 – 15 years

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Lovable
- ❖ Happy-go-lucky
- ❖ Friendly

- ❖ Fun loving
- ❖ Sense of humor
- ❖ Wants to please
- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Housebroken easily
- ❖ Energetic
- ❖ Affectionate
- ❖ Even-tempered
- ❖ Swift
- ❖ Excellent sense of smell
- ❖ Clean dogs
- ❖ Likes other dogs to play with
- ❖ Generally good with other pets



Disadvantages

- ❖ These dogs do require a lot of attention.
- ❖ Some are high strung.
- ❖ Some are more reserved.
- ❖ Some are difficult to train.
- ❖ Stubborn

You need to start early training with Irish Setters to prevent development of bad habits. Just give him firm handling and have lots of patience. Early obedience classes that teach basic manners will make a happy well-adjusted dog and one that will be a joy to own.

This breed is slow to mature mentally and physically, usually not mature until 2 years old. They will slow down and mellow with age.

They need lots of exercise, which makes them a good choice for active families. They love to be active and run in open areas so best suited for country life.

DISEASES (They are prone to)

- ❖ Dip dysphasia
- ❖ Progressive retinal atrophy
- ❖ Epilepsy
- ❖ Bloat – feed 2-3 small meals a day
- ❖ Hypothyroidism
- ❖ Skin allergies
- ❖ Elbow dysphasia
- ❖ PRA
- ❖ Check for ear wax

BOXER

The Boxer is an entertaining and has a unique personality. They are a very enjoyable and family oriented dog.



They make an outstanding, protective, patient and devoted babysitter. They love to play, have enthusiasm and willingness to roughhouse with them. Of course, as with all dogs and children you will have to supervise small children.

They are a high-energy dog and require a lot of attention plus interaction with their families. They will follow you from room to room just to be with you.

A Boxer also makes good companions for the physically challenged because of their devotion and willingness to serve.

Boxers are a medium sized athlete dog with a square built. Their broad blunt muzzle is considered their distinctive feature. They have a chiseled head with dark brown eyes and ears that are set at the highest point at the side of the skull.

Their coat, which comes in fawn or brindle, is short, shiny or smooth. They need little grooming just an occasional bath and brushing. Something different about them – they lick their coat to get clean like a cat. They are a seasonal shedder.

Male Height: 21 1/2” – 23 1/2”

Female Height: 21 1/2” – 23 1/2”

Weight: 55 – 70 pounds

Life Span: 11 – 14 years

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Playful
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Dignified
- ❖ Self-assured
- ❖ Not aggressive but will bark at stranger and protect family if needed
- ❖ Energetic
- ❖ Loyal
- ❖ Friendly
- ❖ Bright
- ❖ Generally good-natured
- ❖ Bold and pushy by nature
- ❖ Wary with strangers

Boxers make great family dogs if trained properly. Since they can be somewhat stubborn and self-confident in character they need obedience training to control their exuberance.

They need mental stimulation so training and learning new things is needed. They learn quickly and are eager to learn but they can think on their own too. Food and praise are good motivations for these dogs.

This breed needs to be exercised at least twice a day like taking walks. They love to be off their leash to run but be sure it is a secure area.

They need to be challenged and properly exercised so they do not become destructive.

DESEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Hip dysphasia
- ❖ Hypothyroidism
- ❖ Allergies
- ❖ Bloat – feed 2-3 small meals a day, premium dog food
- ❖ Don't tolerate extreme heat or cold
- ❖ Boxer cardiomyopathy – BCM- electrical condition disorder causes heartbeat erratically.

When purchasing a puppy from a responsible breeder be sure, he is alert and confident. You don't want a hyperactive or aggressive boxer.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Newfoundland or “Newfs” make devoted companions and have an outstanding temperament “Gentle Giant” is their nickname. The sweetest temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland; this is the most important single characteristic of this breed. – AKC description.

Newfs are considered nature’s babysitter since they are so protective of children. They prefer children to adults actually. They are playful, patient, very sociable, attentive and loving with children. They love to pull kids in carts and play in snow.

They however are huge and can easily knock a child down. Some children might not like the slobbering kiss a Newf likes to give them.

They are strong, massive, with broad heavy head, small triangular ears, dark brown eyes, black nose, long bushy tail and webbed feet.

Their outer coat is long, flat and oily. It is slightly wavy with a stiff and thick oily undercoat. They usually come in black, brown, grey, black head, white and black body.

They are a heavy seasonal shedder in spring and fall. They need a thorough combing once a week and more during shedding season. Use dry shampoo if a bath is needed. Bathing strips away their coat’s natural oils.

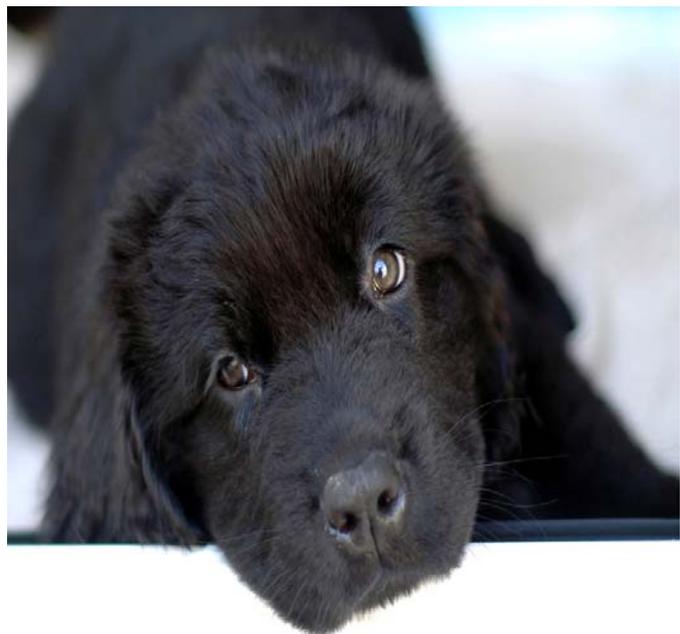
Male Height: 27” – 29”

Male Weight: 130 – 150
pounds

Female Height: 25” – 26”

Female Weight: 100 – 120
pounds

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT



- ❖ Generous
- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Very loyal
- ❖ Courageous
- ❖ Patient
- ❖ Peaceful
- ❖ Brave Dignified
- ❖ Calm Sweet disposition
- ❖ Good with other pets

Newfoundland's enjoy being outdoors so they are good for a family that lives in the country. They love water and getting wet. They are powerful swimmers and have natural instincts for rescuing people having difficulties in water. Newfs require companionship and become attached to their owners/families. They are intelligent and will act on their own. They will place themselves between an intruder and their family. He recognizes dangerous situations and if his family is threatened, he will act.

This breed goes quickly and can weigh 100 pounds in a year or less. They are not fully grown until they are 2-3 years old. Puppies require a lot of food but as an adult, less like a normal bigger dog like a retriever would need.

Newfs like to lie around but do need regular exercise, like swimming since they love it so much. They need lots of room to run around since they are so big. Puppies need to be exercised up to 2 times a day.

Newfs need to be trained in a calm manner because they are sensitive to your tone of voice. Remember he moves slowly during training so have patience. Repetition bores him so keep training varied.

They do drool a lot. They are sensitive to heat – prefer cool climates.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Hip dysplasia malformed ball socket in big joint
- ❖ Elbow dysplasia
- ❖ Sub-aortic stenosis (heart condition)
- ❖ Cystiunic (hereditary defect from calcium stones in blood)

Newfoundland's need a family that can deal with all the hair, the slobber and hugeness. They cannot adapt to a new home and they need lots of time. Many of them end up in shelters because they are so large. So visit a Newfoundland dog and decide if he would fit in with your family and home, they need a commitment for life.

“A man is not a good man to me because he will feed me if I should be starving, or warm me if I should be freezing or pull me out of a ditch if I should ever fall into one. I can find you a Newfoundland dog that will do as much.” Henry David Thoreau Walden

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

An English Springer Spaniel is a warm, sweet-tempered dog with a happy outlook on the world. They make an easy-going family dog and they love and need to be with people.

English Springer Spaniels enjoy children. They are sweet, bouncy and well-meaning tail wagger. However, to be that dog they need to be socialized and accustomed to children.

A medium sized, compact, sturdy but well proportioned with a proud carriage. They have long pendent ears, docked tail, hazel or brown eyes with a gentle expression. They have feathering on their legs and ears.

Their coat comes in many color: rich red and white, blue, liver roan, black and white with tan markings. Their outer coat is waterproof, naturally soft, straight, and moderately long. They are an average shedder.

They need to be combed frequently, bathe only when necessary and have hair on feet trimmed.

Dog Height: 19" – 21"
Dog Weight: 45 – 55 pounds
Female Height: 18" – 20"
Female Weight: 40 pounds

TEMPERAMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS

- ❖ Delightful
- ❖ Good natured
- ❖ Sociable
- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Loyal
- ❖ Trustworthy



- ❖ Eager to please
- ❖ Outgoing
- ❖ Friendly
- ❖ Lively
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Affectionate
- ❖ Quick to learn
- ❖ Good with other pets

Springer Spaniels have a high energy level with unlimited stamina so they need plenty of exercise. They need long walks, a fenced in area to run and play or take them swimming which they love.

These dogs do need proper training to learn to be obedient.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Hip dysplasia
- ❖ Progressive retinal atrophy
- ❖ Prone to ear infection – ears need to be checked and kept clean.

Some English Spaniel Springer's have a severe personality problem called "Rage Syndrome". It is a rare disorder, which also occurs in other breeds, this disorder is not evident until dog is 1-2 years old. A normal dog suddenly goes into a rage, viciously attacking people and does not respond to commands. It is a form of epilepsy but can be treated.

Some spaniels go through a period called the "teenage" stage when he may be diagnosed as "Rage" but have your dog tested to be sure.

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

The Bernese Mountain Dog originated in Switzerland and they were working dogs in Swiss farm villages.

Their temperate make them a great family pet with their tongue lolling grins. They love children and are sweet and gentle with them. They however are best with older well-mannered children because of their size. If a child cries, do not be surprised if they get a Berner kiss. They love to pull cart and sleds giving kids rides. As in all breeds it comes down to the individual dog, some are excellent with children and some aren't.

Bernese Mountain dogs are striking, sturdy, strong and agile. They have dark brown slightly oval eyes; medium triangular sized ears set high, broad head and black nose.

They have two coats with the outer coat being durable, thick, rich moderately long and with slightly wavy or straight hair. The outer coat is dirt and weather resistant. They come in tri-colored with symmetrical markings of rust and white.

Brushing every week or two is enough expect when shedding when they need to be brushed daily. It is recommended to clean ears and teeth.

Dog Weight: 25" – 27 1/2"
Female Weight: 23" – 26"
Weight 80 – 130 pounds

Life Span: 6 – 8 years

TEMPERAMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS

- ❖ Self-confident
- ❖ Faithful
- ❖ Stable

- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Loving
- ❖ Patient
- ❖ Loyal
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Good-natured
- ❖ Adaptable
- ❖ Easy-going
- ❖ Lovable
- ❖ Friendly to people
- ❖ Likes company of other dogs

These dogs need human contact and will happily join family at work or play but also content to be at your feet. They are outdoor dogs but well behaved at home too. They do need exercise and enjoy hiking.

They are easily trained but do need patience and consistent training. They like to please but do think things through. They do not respond to harsh treatment so a gentle training method is needed.

Kindergarten classes are good for them but low-key ones. Food is a good reinforcement to use when training.

Bernese Mountain Dogs are renowned for their versatility. They find the lost, protect police officers, guard the blind and watch over your home.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Several cancers
- ❖ Hip dysplasia
- ❖ Elbow dysplasia
- ❖ Aortic stenosis
- ❖ Kidney problems
- ❖ Retinal atrophy



STANDARD POODLE

The Standard Poodle is calmer than the smaller poodles. They have a delightful springy gait and make a great watchdog.

They are excellent with children and make a great companion for them. Poodles are tolerant, full of energy and sweet. Like any other dog, you need to teach kids to treat dogs with respect and kindness. Small children always should be surprised with any dog.



Standard Poodles are squarely built, well proportioned and carry themselves proudly. They definitely have an air of distinction about them.

They are medium-large size with a long head, ears are wide and hanging close to head, almond shaped eyes, which are usually very dark with an intelligent expression.

Their curly coats come in blues, grays, silver, browns, café au lait, apricots and cream. They do not shed.

These dogs need to be bathed regularly and clipped every 6-8 weeks. Their ears need to be checked for mites and ear hair should be pulled out.

Weight: 45 – 70 pounds
Height: 15” or over
Life Span: 12 – 15 years

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Happy
- ❖ Comical
- ❖ Active
- ❖ Pleasant
- ❖ Good natured
- ❖ Adaptable
- ❖ Eager to please
- ❖ Bored easily

Poodles are one of the most trainable breeds but they need positive training. They can be overly protective of their owners so training can prevent that.

If you train them yourself, get a good training book and be sure to use positive reinforcements. Group training classes are good because your poodle will learn how to behave around other dogs and you can get expert answers for your questions.

You do need to socialize your Poodle to expose him to all kinds of people and places when he is a puppy. Expose him to the sounds in your house and noises and people by taking him for walks.

Poodles crave human companionship and want to be part of your family. They like to go in the car with you so expose him early to being in a car.

Just start with short rides but restrain him in a seat belt harness for dogs or in a crate.

Poodles love water and walking, they need to run and play off their leash in a safe area.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Hip dysplasia – femoral head does not fit properly in hip socket.
- ❖ Rummy eyes
- ❖ Ear infections
- ❖ Von Willebrand disease
- ❖ Bloat – feed 2-3 small meals a day

BULLDOGS

There are two different bulldogs, the English bulldog and the American Bulldog.

We will start with the **American Bulldog**.



The American bulldog is high in the leg, more agile and swifter than the English bulldog. The tribute used to describe them is: True grit and True devotion.

He is a medium-large size and sturdy dog. He is powerful, athletic and strongly muscled but light on his feet. He has a large head and powerful jaws.

His coat is stiff to touch and comes in all white or white with patches. They need to be brushed with firm bristle brush and bathe only when necessary. They are an average shedder.

Dog Height: 22" – 28"
Dog Weight: 70 – 120 pounds
Female Height: 20" – 26"
Female Weight: 60 – 100 pounds

Life Span: 8 – 16 years

This gentle and loving dog makes a great family companion. He generally loves children and is a marvelous playmate. He doesn't mind having his ears pulled, he is every easy going and loves to play. He thrives on love and affection. Of course as with all small children, they need supervision around dogs.

He is a fighter – wild dogs, bulls, and acts of heroism for his master but when called off he obeys his master.

Since he has such a strong protective instinct and somewhat dominant attitude for his family they need to be socialized and obedient training early in life. They do need a firm hand.

A Bulldog is a working dog breed with a high-energy drive so they need exercise and a backyard.

CHARACTERISTIC AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Fearless
- ❖ Gentle
- ❖ Loving
- ❖ Brave
- ❖ Determined
- ❖ Self-confident
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Not hostile
- ❖ Happy
- ❖ Friendly
- ❖ At ease with family and fine with strangers.

They are a pretty healthily breed but prone to hip dysplasia



The **English Bulldog** was developed in Great Britain. He has a marvelous temperament and gentlest dog.

He is a medium size dog that has a waddle like gait. His body is stocky, short and compact. He has a massive head with cheeks that extend to the sides of his face. He has wide shoulders, sturdy limbs, and round very dark eyes, small ears, broad and black nose with large nostrils. His skin on his skull and forehead is full and in dense folds.

This breed's coat is smooth and straight and comes in: white, fawn, red, red brindle, piebald and can have white markings. Clean his face every day to clean under wrinkles with dry cloth. Bathe when necessary. They are an average shedder.

The English Bulldog is loyal to his family – a people dog. He is fond of children and wonderful with them. He is gentle, dependable and affectionate with them. He makes a great companion because he is laid-back, good-natured, affectionate and dependable animal. He is known for his courage and guarding abilities. He makes a wonderful companion for the elderly too because of these qualities. He loves human attention.

They mature slowly and will be a playful puppy-like until over 2 years old.

He does well in an apartment – an indoor dog – requires daily exercise to stay fit however.

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Affectionate
- ❖ Dependable
- ❖ Sweet tempered
- ❖ Kind
- ❖ Good with family pets
- ❖ Courageous – only barks when there is a reason
- ❖ Excellent guard dog
- ❖ Friendly

English Bulldogs do snore loudly and some have a tendency to drool and slobber.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Poor eyesight
- ❖ Susceptible to heat stroke
- ❖ Cold sensitive
- ❖ Skin infections
- ❖ Hip and knee problems
- ❖ Breathing problems

BOSTON TERRIER



The Boston Terrier is a very popular dog in the United States. A non-sporting breed that make excellent dogs for first time owners.

He is a distinctive and dapper looking dog with a jaunty-self importance gait. They are an outgoing friendly dog with an excellent character. They are very devoted to their owners. Boston Terrier's are easy to love, make great companions, are affectionate but not fawning.

They are great with children, best if raised with them and can become a child's protector and even babysitter. They are affectionate and playful. Of course, children need to be taught how to be around a puppy and supervision is always recommended. For young children an older puppy or grown dog might be best (one raised with children).

They like to be part of a family and like to go everywhere with you. They like to learn, pick up things quickly and are not difficult to train. Maybe difficult to housebreak though.

They make excellent watchdogs – they are fearless and usually bark only when necessary.

This breed has small, strong, sturdy and compact bodies. Their muzzle is short and square, broad chest, muscular legs, large round eyes, short tail, and ears that sit erect and sit at the corner of their skull.

Their coats are very short and shiny and come in either brindle and white or black and white. The placements of the markings are called tuxedo patterning. They have minimal shedding.

Little grooming is needed for the Boston terrier because of their short coats. Wipe their face with damp cloth everyday and clean eyes carefully. Check ears and eyes for grass seeds and ticks.

Height: 15” – 17’
Weight: 10 – 25 pounds
Life Span: 15+ years

CHARACATERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Devoted little dog
- ❖ Outgoing
- ❖ Friendly
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Gentle
- ❖ Well mannered
- ❖ Playful
- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Sense of humor

A regular walk or a fenced in yard is recommended. A box of toys for the indoors is a good idea for them to play with.

Boston terrier's are very trainable; they like to learn but are sensitive to the tone of your voice. They need to be properly socialized to get along well with children, the elderly and other pets.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Eye problems
- ❖ Epilepsy
- ❖ Thyroid
- ❖ Auto immune

PUGS

Pugs are said to be “A lot of dog in a small space”. They are a clown at heart with a sense of humor but carries himself with great dignity.

They make good family pets because they are easygoing and adorable. They normally adore children and are wonderful with them. Children however need to be taught to be handle a Pug gently. Small children need supervision because they can unknowingly hurt the Pug’s eyes.

This breed is clever and mischievous with a heart-winning personality. They are anxious to learn and love you. This dog does need companionship and attention and tends to get jealous if he doesn’t get it. You will find they are a very devoted dog. He is always doing something funny and he wants to please you. They behave as a puppy a long time into maturity.

A Pug, an indoor dog, is a great dog to live with and fits any lifestyle. He fits if apartment, condominium or house. He gets along well with other pets.

The Pug is a square, compact and short little dog. He is muscular and well balanced. He has a large round head with a black mask on his face and ears. His roguish face is wrinkled which gives him an expression of great wisdom. He has dark lustrous eyes that are close to his black nose. His ears are folded over and brush the side of his face.

They have a short double coat with a fine undercoat and a fine smooth and glossy outer coat. Colors they come in are: black, silver, fawn, apricot, and fawn. A moderate shedder

A low maintenance dog you just need to brush loose hair occasionally except when shedding with a brush. Clean his wrinkles everyday and put on lotion in his creases.

Weight: 14 – 18 pounds
Height: 10” – 14”
Life Span: 12 years

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Fun loving
- ❖ Perky
- ❖ Loyal
- ❖ Affectionate
- ❖ Charming
- ❖ Even-tempered
- ❖ Friendly
- ❖ Easygoing
- ❖ Happy-go-lucky
- ❖ Outgoing disposition
- ❖ Playful



A Pug needs moderate exercise like a walk around 2-3 blocks and he does like to play outside if the weather is favorable. They cannot take extreme heat or cold.

They can be stubborn and a bit willful so owner needs to make it clear what behavior is wanted and reward him. Since he is highly intelligent he get bored easily with repetitive training. When training be gentle because he is extremely sensitive to the tone of your voice.

Pugs need socialization to expose them to different people, places and objects.

They love to eat and will become overweight which can cause health problems. They also snore.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Breathing problems
- ❖ Patella luxational (dislocating kneecaps)

BEAGLES

Beagles are one of the smallest hunting breeds. They have a keen sense of smell and strong hunting instincts. Fans of the Beagle like their good look, sweet disposition and adaptable nature.



Beagles are excellent with children, they are patient and love to play and romp with them. They are a fun dog, willing to try anything, have a cherry and upbeat personality they will bond with everything in the family and they make an entertaining companion. They are easy going, have great curiosity and have problem solving abilities.

They are a sturdy compact hound with long drooping ears, soft pleading eyes that are dark brown. Tips of their tails and feet are white with sturdy and a moderately long tail, which merrily wags.

They have short coats and are an average shedder. The most common colors are: black, tan, white variety and pale tan and white.

Dog Height: 14" – 16"
Dog Weight: 22 – 25 pounds
Female Height: 13" – 15"
Female Weight: 20 – 23 pounds

Life Span: 14 – 17 years

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Gentle
- ❖ Sweet disposition
- ❖ Lively
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Curious
- ❖ Active
- ❖ Outgoing
- ❖ Even-tempered
- ❖ Stubborn

Since they were bred to hunt when they are on the scent, they will block out everything, even you. It is important that the owner establish himself as the “pack leader” and set rules or your Beagle will find opportunities to run your household.

Beagles are constantly in need of companionship because they were bred as a pack dog and because of this, they get along with other dogs. They do not like to be left alone so owners have found it is a good idea to have two beagles.

They should have lots of time outside otherwise they will find destructive ways to entertain themselves. This not saying they do not like being indoors because they do. In addition, they can become overweight when they get older so they need exercise to control their weight. Beagles need to be fenced in because they like to roam.

This breed is very smart and trainable but do require patience because they are ruled by their noses making them not as easy to train as other breeds. They need early training so they do not develop an independent streak so you need to become the “boss” and then they will follow.

Housebreaking needs to be consistent and the most successful method as in other breeds is to crate train.

DISEASES (prone to)

- ❖ Glaucoma
- ❖ Epilepsy
- ❖ Intervertebral disc disease
- ❖ Congenital heart disease

GOLDEN RETRIEVER

The Golden Retriever is affectingly known as a “Goldie” or “Yellow Retriever.” He is the most common family dog registered consistently in the United States. They have a personality that is eager to please and are self-confident, alert and active. He does not have an unkind bone in his body.



The “Goldie” is a wonderful family pet and is extremely loving, well mannered, gentle and patient with children. His rapport with children is outstanding and he loves to play. He does need to be obedient trained to curb his enthusiasm and strength. Of course, supervision of small children is recommended. He is known as a dog that can please everyone.

He makes a great companion and needs people around to be happy. He loves to hike, jog, swim and fetch so an active family is ideal for him. He is friendly with everyone so he does not make a good guard dog but a good watchdog.

This breed is a sturdy middle-size dog with a broad head, muscular neck and thighs and a broad chest. He has a tapering and wide muzzle, black nose, brown eyes with dark iris, medium-sized ears. His lustrous coat is feathered, medium-length, cream to golden-colored. The outer coat is water-repellent and the undercoat is dense.

They need regular brushing with a bristle brush or comb. Daily brushing keeps their coat healthy and decreases shedding since they shed a fair amount. Bathe as needed.

Dog Height: 22' – 25"
Dog Weight: 60 – 80 pounds
Female Height: 20" – 22"
Female Weight: 55 – 70 pounds

Life Span: 10 – 13 years

Although he is easily trained, he still needs to be trained with a gentle but firm hand. These dogs want to please their masters so obedience training is easy and they like to learn. Early socialization is recommended and they excel in obedience competition.

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Forgiving
- ❖ Happy
- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Sweet
- ❖ Loyal
- ❖ Biddable
- ❖ Consistent
- ❖ Lovable
- ❖ Well-mannered

DISEASES

Generally, the Golden Retriever is a healthy dog but like all dogs, they can be prone to disease. They are prone to:

- ❖ Hip dysplasia – most common
- ❖ Epilepsy
- ❖ Cataracts
- ❖ Intropion – eyelid problems
- ❖ Skin allergies
- ❖ Elbow dysplasia
- ❖ Von Willebrand's – blood disease

Bichon Frise

In French, a Bichon Frise means curly lap dog. He is the best-known member of the Bichon Family of dogs and is a white powder puff with a merry temperament.

Bichon Frise likes children more than many other small breeds. They are great with well-behaved children and love to play if child is not rough with them. As with any dog, supervision with young children is recommended so they do not hurt him since he is small.

These dogs are good for therapy work on children's hospitals and nursing homes because of their gentle natures.

This breed is small and sturdy with round dark eyes that have an inquisitive expression. Their ears are dripped and covered with long flowing hair. Their skull is slightly rounded with a black nose and plumed tail is carried over their back.

Their coat is loosely curled consisting of a textured outer coat with a soft undercoat, which is curly, thus the powder pull look. The coat should spring back if touched. They come in white but can have shades of buff, cream with apricot around the ears or body.

They are a non-shedding dog so they are popular with people who have allergies.

Regular brushing is needed and they require a thorough shampoo and rinse with combing its curly coat while blow drying it and use a slick brush. You will need to wipe around their eyes because of eye discharge as mucus accumulates in the fur in front of their eyes. Trim around the eyes and ears with a blunt nosed scissors. A professional grooming is recommended to achieve the Bichon 'look'. You need to brush their teeth 2-3 times a week with a yearly check-up. An occasional crunchy treat helps clean tartar.

Height: 9 1/2" – 11"

Weight: 7 – 12 pounds

Life Span: 15 years

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Affectionate
- ❖ Sensitive
- ❖ Non-shedding



- ❖ Energetic
- ❖ Very trainable
- ❖ Happy
- ❖ Gentle
- ❖ Rarely aggressive
- ❖ Charming
- ❖ Dignified

Bichon Frises can live in an apartment, condominium or house but they do enjoy some exercise like walks. Sturdier than most dogs of their size they adapt to any environment as long as they are with people. These little guys are affectionate, playful, charming yet dignified. The cheerful attitude is the hallmark of this small dog breed. His merry temperament makes him a good companion.

They require a great deal of attention and love activity around them. They enjoy socializing with people and dogs.

A Bichon is easy to train but should be gentle and firm – no scolding. They need to have socialization training as a puppy to learn manners since he is a highly sociable dog. They are easily housebroken by using the crate method. They are intelligent but not always cooperative with this chore. Just establish a routine and stick to it but do add praise to further motivate them.

DISEASES

Bichon Frise is generally healthy but is prone to:

- ❖ Cataracts
- ❖ Knee dislocations
- ❖ Ear infections
- ❖ Eye infections
- ❖ Skin allergies
- ❖ Early tooth loss
- ❖ Bladder infections and stones

They love to eat so their diet must be watched so they do not become fat. A responsible breeder will give you instructions on feeding your puppy.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER

The Labrador Retriever is a very popular dog and most widely owned dog in the world. They were the top dog registered in the AKC last year with 149505 registrations.

Labs maybe one of the most even-tempered dog breeds there is. They are dependable, intelligent and exceptionally friendly. These dogs are an obedient companion.



The Labrador Retriever is a great family dog. They are gentle with children, have an easy-going nature and love to play with them. They are patient, forgiving and bond with children. They are not an aggressive dog but will bark to alert you to strangers. They don't have a vindictive bone in their bodies. They are a people oriented dog and happy to be with you. They make great hunting dogs but their disposition makes them loved by the entire family. As always-small children, need supervision with dog's especially big dogs. Even puppies could injure your child just by knocking them down playing with them.

This breed is relatively large but compact but a strongly built. They have a broad skull, thick nose, and wedged feet, friendly and kind eyes with a scissors bite. Their trademark tail is called the "otter tail" that is relatively short in length with a thick covering.

These dogs have a double coat with the undercoat being soft and downy to keep them warm and dry in cold weather. The outer coat is weather resistant which help them repel water. It comes in solid black, yellow or chocolate.

Male Height: 22" – 24"
Male Weight: 65 – 90 pounds
Female Height: 21" – 23"
Female Weight: 55 70 pounds

They are easy to groom – just comb and brush regularly. They are considered an average shedder.

Labs bred in England are a medium-sized, shorter, stockier and slightly calmer nature than the American breed, which is a larger and lighter build dog.

These dogs are used for service, search and rescue work and good for police work like bomb narcotic and arson. They are suitable for these activities because of their nose, disposition and trainability.

Since they are fun-loving, boisterousness and have a lack of fear, they can get into mischief, which may require training and firm handling at time.

These energetic dogs need lots of exercise and love to play especially in water – they love to swim. They love to retrieve things like balls and sticks. They are very accommodating and will do what the owner does – walking, jogging, swimming, hunting, chase Frisbees and even curl up with you.

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Adaptable
- ❖ Loving
- ❖ Friendly
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Outgoing
- ❖ Lively

- ❖ Affectionate
- ❖ Good with other dogs
- ❖ Good watchdogs but not guard dogs

DISEASES

Labs are healthy dogs but are prone to certain diseases.

- ❖ Hip dysplasia
- ❖ Elbow dysplasia
- ❖ Eye disorders
- ❖ Epilepsy

They are also big eaters, which you need to monitor. An overfed dog that becomes overweight may develop diabetes later in life.

BRITTANY SPANIEL

The Brittany Spaniel is referred to as a Spaniel but this breed's working characteristic is more like a setter or pointer.



His friendliness and athleticism make him a hunting buddy or a first rate companion. He is happiest when hunting however they are excellent with children too. Brittany Spaniel's love to play but need supervision with small children since they are an accelerant breed.

They are wonderful pet for an active family but they usually will settle down when inside with their family. They are happy to curl in your lap. They do need attention.

This breed is a medium-size, solidly built (not heavy) dog with a leggy appearance. They are agile and light on their feet but elegant. Their ears are short and triangular, lying flat against the skull, short tail with an expression of intelligence.

Their dense moderate length coat is either flat or wavy with slight feathering on the ears and legs. The most common color is white with orange patches. Other color is: liver and white, black and white, liver tricolor and black.

They do shed light to moderate and need regular brushing.

Height: 17 1/2" – 20 1/2"

Weight: 30 – 40 pounds

Life Span: 12-13 years

CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

- ❖ Athletic
- ❖ Gentle
- ❖ Hardy
- ❖ Even-tempered
- ❖ Happy
- ❖ Alert
- ❖ Energetic
- ❖ Vigorous
- ❖ Sweet-natured

They are naturally sociable and have a very outgoing nature so not a good protector.

Brittany Spaniels are highly trainable. They need socialization training so they become well mannered and accustomed to noise. An obedience class is a good place to establish ground rules and form a bond with him.

They are eager to please and have a natural attitude of cooperation. You however need to be gentle during training with him. It will only take a stern look or a cross word to chastise him so take care when training so you do not break his spirit.

They are prone to roaming if not on a leash so train them to obey your command.

These dogs need plenty of exercise and room in which to roam in an open area and they love to play with other dogs. Brittany's become hyperactive and destructive if they do not get enough exercise. Therefore, they do not make good apartment dogs.

DISEASES

These dogs are generally healthy but prone to some diseases.

- ❖ Hip dysplasia
- ❖ Epilepsy
- ❖ Ear infections

Brittany Spaniels are a breed you cannot generalize as far as they range from mellow to extremely active, big to small and soft-tempered to stubborn.

Therefore, as I have said before get to know the individual dog.

In conclusion, there are so many breeds and mixed breeds of dogs you just have to do your research and have the dog checked out. You need to meet and play with the dog you want and take your child with you. Every one of them has their own personality and temperament. If there is a dog breed, you want but is not on the list I have done don't decide you cannot have him, check them out. This is just a list of dogs that is always considered to be the best dogs for children.

We had a Cocker Spaniel when my kids were growing up (they were 4 and 7) and they aren't on the list. Some say inbreeding has caused personality defects in some pups. So again, you need to check out individual dogs because we never had a problem with him and my kids were in high school when we had to have him put to sleep because he had cancer.

I hope this reports helps get the information you needed and the dog you want. Happy puppy looking!

‘Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are the focus of their love and faith and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made.’

Roger Caras

“He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be your, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.”

Unknown

Some breeds that are best with older conscientious children.

- ❖ Basenji
- ❖ Fox Terrier
- ❖ Yorkshire Terrier
- ❖ Westie
- ❖ Standard Schnauzer
- ❖ Cain Terriers
- ❖ Corgi

Some breeds you should avoid altogether with children.

- ❖ Chihuahuas
- ❖ Chow Chows
- ❖ Dobermans
- ❖ Giant Schnauzers

❖ **Pekinese**

❖ **Pit Bulls**

❖ **Rottweiler**

❖ **Toy Poodle**

WHERE TO PURCHASE THAT PUPPY REPUTABLE BREEDERS!

I want to advise you to be peculiar where you get your new puppy or dog especially a pure bred.

Always go to a reputable breeder! Other places could have dogs that have been bred for financial gain only; they are usually unhealthy and unstable dogs.

A reputable breeder is one who genuinely cares about his dog breed and is continually improving the quality of his dogs. A reputable breeder wants to produce the healthiest and happiest puppy possible. Therefore, he puts time, knowledge and dollars into his breeding program.

By choosing a breeder that is responsible, he will tell you the lineage that your puppy came from so you will know the father's and mother's heritage and have the papers to prove it. You will know your puppy is from good stock.

He will want to know things about you before he will sell you one of his puppies. He cares what kind of home his puppy is going to. He may ask you your work schedule, about your household, your ability to care properly for a puppy and even about your yard. He expects you to ask him questions too.

SO HOW TO FIND A REPUTABLE BREEDER.

- **Local dog club**
- **Veterinarian** - ask him if he knows any breeder, which has the kind you want, what type of care they give their puppies.
- **Local dog trainer** - go to a class and watch, if you see a dog you like talk to the owner and talk to the instructor.
- **Dog shows** - observe the breed you want and get the name of the breeder and call him later to talk to him.

- **Other breeders** - can give you recommendation for the breed you want.

Purebred Breeders of Dogs Directory - a web site that helps you find dog breeders in your area and helps guide you through the process.

Once you choose a breeder you think you want to get your puppy from you need to visit with questions in hand. Ask him questions related to the dog breed you want. Find out his philosophy on breeding, puppy qualities and lineage of the puppies. You should feel comfortable with him and someone you feel cares about his dogs.

Ask him if he involved in any dog or breed clubs. A reputable breeder is involved in these activities to keep informed about what is happening in his dog breed and health concerns.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN YOU VISIT THE BREEDER.

- Is the kennel clean?
- Are the puppies clean?
- Are the older dogs clean and groomed?
- Are the puppies happy, healthy, well cared for?
- Do the other dogs look happy, healthy, friendly and well cared for?
- How are the puppies being raised? Do they have human contact? Socialization with people and environment is critical for puppies. They need constant contact with people and household sounds especially in those first few weeks.

WHEN YOU PURCHASE YOUR PUPPY, YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Pedigree
- Feeding instructions and schedule.
- A booklet or packet of information on puppy care, on books, etc.

- Registration papers - may hold until proof of spaying or neutered.
- Health papers - puppies immunization records updated
- Written and signed contract - specifying rights of buyer and breeder's rights.
- Signed veterinary health certificate with a written healthy guarantee, which includes one about congenital defect.
- ACVD eye screening, OFA or Penn Hip certificate completed.

Ask breeder if he allows set time to return puppy in same condition as time of sale with full refund. Take him to your vet to check him out in this time period. A responsible breeder will always take puppy back although you might not get a refund after your time period is up.

He should always be **willing to answer your questions** now and in the future. He should be interested in any problems that develop with your puppy if they arise.

Now which puppy in the litter should you take home?

- Ask the breeder which ones are shy, most curious, more mischievous or dominant. Watch them to see how each puppy is at play with his littermates, how he is around his mother and by himself.
- Is he friendly and eager to greet people? Does he like to climb on you, lick or kiss you and follow you around? If you call him and snap your fingers, does he come to you? All of these things are good signs.
- If he growls at you he might be dominance or fear induced, cringes at your touch, bites, runs from loud noises and does not come back - you don't want him!
- Be sure he moves around easily, has no discharge from nose, ears or eyes.

Just be patient and take your time picking out the right puppy for you.

