

Is this Dog for You

Thinking about adopting a puppy or dog? Here are some things to keep in mind before you choose!

Provided by the Ramona Humane Society

Breed	ASPCA Group	OK with Kids?	Energy level	Grooming	Size	Traits	Train-ability	First dog?
Australian Shepherds & Australian Cattle Dogs	herding	not typically; their drive does not make them the best "family pets"	Very high. They need agility, etc. or actual herding work. Walks @ the block aren't enough.	Every-other-day brushing	large	Protective; playful; easily bored (can be destructive); loyal; reserved w/strangers	Very high. These dogs want to work, plain and simple.	Purebred, no. Mixes maybe, depending on the mix.
Basenji	Sight hound	Usually	medium	brush occasion-ally	small to medium	Fiercely independent; chases; gentle; yodels; wanders	Low. They need pos. training early and w/ a pro.	No. They are too much work, esp. w/training.
Beagle	Scent hound	Yes	Medium	Occasional brushing	Medium	Friendly; independent; easily distracted; wandering; laid-back; noisy	Low-medium. Their noses take precedence over almost everything.	Yes, except that training will be a bit harder than with most other dogs.
Border Collie	herding	yes	Very high. They need agility, etc. or actual herding work daily.	Brush occasion-ally	medium-large	Intelligent; loyal; focused; easily bored	Very high. These dogs HAVE to work, plain and simple.	Only if you have a working farm! Mixes may do OK, depending.
Boston Terrier	companion	yes	Low-medium. Loves a good lap.	brush occasion-ally	small (a "big dog in a small package")	Think they are bigger; playful; outgoing; affectionate; can be noisy	High; and they love to learn.	Yes
Bouvier	herding	not typically	High. They need more than a daily walk.	Every-other-day brushing	large-XL	Protective; loyal; assertive; one-owner	High. Smart dogs, they will try to take the upper hand.	No.

Boxer	Guardian	yes, the more mature, the better	High. These dogs have energy to burn, & are incredibly exuberant.	Brush occasion-ally	large	Wound up; happy; forceful with feet when playing; sweet with people	Medium-high. They love to learn, but are a handful.	Maybe, if you want a playful power-house!
Chihuahua	companion	maybe older ones	Low-medium. Loves a good lap.	brush occasion-ally	small (a "big dog in a small package")	Think they are bigger; playful; reserved; can be snappy (and noisy)	Medium. You have to be firm but gentle. Can be hard to housebreak.	Yes, generally. Resist the urge to coddle, though!
Chow	Northern	purebred, not recommended; mix, OK with older kids	moderate; daily walks essential	daily brushing	medium-large	aloof, independent, watchful, one-owner; wary of kids	Low-medium. Need a firm, gentle hand.	Purebred, no; mix, possibly
Cocker Spaniel	Sporting	Sometimes. Tend to be snappish.	Medium	Brush often; their coats mat. Ears need special care.	Small-medium	Playful; assertive; snappy; exuberant; noisy	Medium. They get distracted easily.	No if you have young children; mixes OK
Collie	herding	yes	medium	Everyday brushing	large-XL	gentle; responsive; intelligent; sensitive; reserved w/strangers	High. They love to please. Pos. methods ONLY!	Yes (but the grooming needs are a big deal).
Dalmatian	Companion	not typically	High. They need more than a daily walk.	Brush daily. These dogs shed-a lot.	Large	Stubborn; aloof; loyal; protective; must be leashed	Medium-high. Their stubbornness makes it a challenge.	No
Doberman Pinscher	Guardian	Yes, generally	High.	Brush occasion-ally	large-XL	Playful; not prone to sloppy love; can be fearful; gentle	High. These dogs are smart and ready to learn w/ pos.	No, only because they have greater training

							methods.	needs.
German Shepherd Dog	Herding	8+ OK if socialized. Mixes should be good with kids, depending on the mix	high-they get bored easily	Daily brushing; they shed	large to XL	intelligent; wary; protective; sometimes prone to fear/SA episodes	High. Respond well to positive training; do not like rough treatment	Purebred, no; mix, yes (depending on the mix)
Golden Retriever	Sporting	Yes, typically	High. These dogs need more than a daily walk.	Twice-weekly brushing	large to XL	playful; oral; outgoing; intelligent; tend to wander	Very high. Positive methods are best.	Yes
Jack Russell Terrier	terrier	yes	High! They need LOTS to do.	brush occasionally	small-medium (a "big dog in a small package")	Playful; outgoing; distracted; noisy; diggers	High. They love to learn w/positive methods.	Yes, but are a lot of work! Wait 'til the kids are older.
Labrador Retriever	Sporting	Yes, typically	High. These dogs need more than a daily walk.	Twice-weekly brushing	large to XL	playful; oral; outgoing; intelligent	Very high. Positive methods are best.	Yes
Lhasa Apso	Companion	not typically; can be nippy	Low to medium	Brush daily. Mats easily.	Small	Friendly but not demon-strative; wary; even-tempered	Medium. Do well with a firm, gentle hand. Socialize!	Yes, usually.
Malamute	Northern	Probably	High. These dogs have energy to burn, and were bred to PULL	Weekly brushing. Sheds profusely twice a year.	large to XL	Independent; loyal to "pack;" noisy; assertive.	Medium. They have little desire to please people.	No. Mixes, possibly.
Pit Bull	Terrier	Older could be fine	High. These dogs need more than a daily walk.	Occasional brushing	large to XL	Assertive; powerful; independent;risky; sweet w/ people they know	Medium-high. Positive methods ONLY!	Absolutely not, purebred or mixed.

Poodle	Companion	Yes	Low-medium	Brush daily, keep clipped	small	playful; outgoing; affectionate; intelligent; can be noisy	High, and they love to learn.	Yes.
Rottweiler	Guardian	Over 10-ish, usually	High. They need more than a daily walk.	Brush occasion-ally	large-XL	Powerful; protective; assertive; confident; calm	High. These dogs are smart and ready to learn w/ pos. methods.	No.
Sheltie	herding	older, quiet children: yes	Medium	Brush daily. Mats easily.	Small-medium	Bright; noisy; shy; sensitive; willing	High. Do well in structured obedience if not too fearful. NO choke chains!	Yes, but they are sensitive, and need gentle guidance
Shih Tzu	Companion	Yes	Low. Love a comfy lap.	Brush daily, keep clipped	small	outgoing; affectionate; sometimes stubborn	Medium-high. Can be difficult to housebreak.	Yes, usually. Mixes, yes.
Siberian Husky	Northern	Probably.	High. These dogs have energy to burn, and were bred to PULL	Weekly brushing. Sheds profusely twice a year.	Medium to large	Independent; playful; energetic; escape artists; assertive	Medium. They have "places to go, things to see."	Not preferable. They are time-consuming.
Yorkie	companion	yes	Low-medium. Loves a good lap.	brush often, and keep clipped	small (a "big dog in a small package")	Think they are bigger; playful; assertive; can be snappy (and noisy)	Medium. You have to be firm but gentle. Can be hard to housebreak.	Yes, generally. Resist the urge to coddle, though!