

The following information is designed to give you a general idea of the dog breeds on this list- please do further research on the breed you choose. Remember, each dog is an individual, and all breeds will not demonstrate all traits of their breed. Also, if you decide to adopt a dog who is a mixture of breeds, be sure you can live with the traits of each breed in doggy's heritage.

Also, remember: dogs require a lot of human interaction. If you don't have the time to devote to a dog, some cat breeds require less attention, and may be a better option for you.

This information was gained from some research and a lot of personal experience.

Breed	Personality Description	Appearance	Health/Average Lifespan	Maintenance
Affenpinscher (Germany)	Stubborn, adventurous, loyal, loves to be with his humans.	Coarse black, shaggy coat. 7-9 pounds.	Predisposed to hip dysplasia and collapsed trachea. Lifespan 12-16 years.	Groomed 2-3 times a week.
Afghan Hound (Afghanistan)	Intelligent, dignified, independent, make good therapy and companion dogs.	Thick, fine, silky coat in any color. 45-60 pounds.	Prone to allergies and cancer. Lifespan 12-18 years.	Require daily long walks/jogs.
Airedale Terrier (England)	Intelligent, active, loyal. Good with other pets. Good watchdogs.	Short, wiry coat. Black saddle on tan. 40-50 pounds.	Prone to eye problems, hip dysplasia, skin infections and gastric torsion. Lifespan 12-14 years.	Brush 3 times/week. They need lots of exercise. Best with an active family.
Akita (Japan)	Devoted, loving, very protective. Some think they are small dogs, and can be rough without meaning to be. They are a very dominant breed, and not for everyone- research alpha dogs before adopting.	Coarse, straight fur with dense undercoat (blows twice yearly) in red, fawn, brindle, black and white. 90-120 pounds.	Can be prone to thyroid issues, bloat, blindness, and sensitivity to anesthesia. Lifespan 11-15 years.	Frequent combing. Bathe as necessary. Exercise often. Need a strong owner.
Alaskan Malamute (United States)	Can be stubborn, but loving, pack oriented, loyal.	Thick, double coats in black, gray or red with white. 75-85 pounds.	Prone to hip dysplasia and day blindness. Lifespan 11-14 years.	Weekly brushing, more when they blow coat. Require plenty of daily, vigorous exercise. A large, fenced yard is good.
American Bulldog (United States)	Athletic, loving, devoted, determined, fiercely protective. Good with kids and pets.	All white, or white with patches of red or brindle. 75-100 pounds.	Rarely hip dysplasia. Lifespan 10-15 years.	Socialize pups early. Brush only when necessary.
American Cocker Spaniel (United States)	Gentle, fun, adaptable, good with older kids, loving. Can be defensive with biting. Very trainable.	Usually black and tan. Soft coats. 24-28 pounds. English version slightly smaller.	Eye problems, hormonal problems, skin diseases. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Daily brushing, frequent trims.

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American Pit Bull Terrier (United States)	Courageous, energetic. Should be socialized well and early.	Short coats in all colors. 30-60 pounds.	Prone to mange and heart murmurs. Lifespan 12-14 years.	Bathe only when necessary. Need vigorous exercise often.
American Staffordshire Terrier (United States)	Gentle, loving, protective, devoted.	Short coats in red, brindle, white, brown. 40-50 pounds.	High strung and prone to hives resulting from stress. Some prone to hip dysplasia. Lifespan about 12 years.	Bathe only when necessary. Stern hand required in training.
Australian Cattle Dog/Blue Heeler (Australia)	Very energetic. Happy, affectionate, playful. Wonderful guard dogs. Not vocal dogs.	Muscular bodies. Short fur in red or blue with patches of white. 30-60 pounds.	Some are predisposed to hip dysplasia, deafness or juvenile cataracts. Lifespan 12-15 years.	They need frequent, engaging activity, such as agility training. Weekly brushing.
Australian Shepherd (United States)	Very intelligent, energetic dogs. They excel at dog sports (agility, Frisbee, herding, etc.) Protective and loving to those they know. Good guard dogs.	Large boned, muscular bodies. Medium to long fur in blue or red, with white. May have blue or brown eyes. Bobbed or docked tails.	Predisposed to back, hip, vision, pancreatic problems and epilepsy. Many have bladder/urinary issues. Lifespan 11-13 years.	Don't let them get bored- they do easily, and can be destructive, as any bored dog can be. Weekly brushing.
Beagle (England)	Gentle, loving little dogs. Moderately energetic as pups, but less so as they grow up.	Sweet faces, short coats in white with black, tan or gray. 20-30 pounds.	No known health issues. Lifespan 10-15 years.	Once weekly brushing. Bathe only when necessary. Clean ears and paws weekly.
Belgian Shepherd Dog (Belgium)	Alert, sensitive, loyal, fun, good for families.	Strongly resembling the German Shepherd, but coat is longer. Typically black with some tan. 65 pounds.	No known health issues. Lifespan 13-15 years.	Daily brushing required.
Bernese Mountain Dog (Switzerland)	Willing to please, easy to train. Must be socialized early in life.	Medium length coat is black, rust and white. Muscular body. 80-115 pounds	Tend to overheat easily. Predisposed to hip and elbow dysplasia, bloat, cancer and kidney problems. Lifespan 7 years.	Heavy shedder. Needs twice weekly brushing.
Bichon Frisé (Spain)	Intelligent, but not always easy to train because of being stubborn. Can be good with well-mannered children and other animals who are gentle. Can be good for people with allergies	Dense pure white, curly coat. Small and sturdy body. Between 7-17 pounds.	Can be prone to liver issues. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Daily brushing so coat doesn't mat.
Bluetick Hound (United States)	Intelligent, natural hunter, great guard dog. Firm, consistent hand needed for training this dog, as they can be stubborn.	Muscular, lithe body. Mottled, thick, short coat. 45-80 pounds.	Predisposed to hip dysplasia, cataracts. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Daily vigorous exercise such as a long walk or walking beside a bike or jogger. Regular ear cleaning is a must. Weekly brushing will suffice.

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Boston Terrier (United States)	Friendly, active, loving.	Short, smooth coat in black, brindle, seal and white. 10-25 pounds.	Cataracts, heart murmurs, deafness, floating kneecaps, allergies, overheating easily. Lifespan 10-14 years.	Bathe only when necessary.
Boxer (Germany)	Playful, intelligent, patient, very good with children. Courageous guard dogs. Cautious with strangers.	Muscular body, short coat. Fawn and brindle colors, sometimes with a little white. 60-75 pounds.	Usually healthy, but some have heart murmurs, digestive problems and tumors. Lifespan 8-12 years.	Weekly brushing.
Bullmastiff (England)	Should be socialized early to be good with kids and other animals, loving, loyal, brave.	Short coat in red, fawn, brindle, muscular body. 90-130 pounds.	Predisposed to hip dysplasia, gastric torsion and cancer. Lifespan 8-12 years.	Needs lots of room to run. Minimal brushing and bathing.
Cairn Terrier (Scotland)	Active, loyal, alert, intelligent.	Dense, short to medium gray/brown coat. 13-16 pounds.	Susceptible to allergies, eye problems, blood and kidney disorders and dislocating kneecaps. Lifespan 13-15 years	Twice weekly grooming is recommended.
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (England)	Affectionate, playful, good with children, eager to please, adaptable. Intelligent.	Long feathered coats in black, tan, white and any combination thereof. 10-18 pounds.	Some are predisposed to heart issues. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Twice weekly brushing is recommended, as well as twice weekly attention to their ears.
Chihuahua (Mexico)	Not good for homes with small children. Protective, loyal, desire excessive amounts of attention from their humans. Longhair Chihuahuas tend to be mellower than shorthairs. Must be well socialized as pups.	Coat is either long or short, in many colors such as sable, black, white, brindle, tan or masked. 2-7 pounds.	Predisposed to epilepsy and eye problems.. May have trouble giving birth. Lifespan 10-17 years.	Longhairs require twice weekly brushing. Require a LOT of human interaction.
Chinese Crested Dog (China)	Intelligent, likes to perform tricks. Like to climb and dig. Good with other animals.	Available in all colors. Powder puff variety has a long, soft coat. Hairless has no fur other than on head, tail and feet. 5-12 pounds.	Hairless variety is prone to skin issues, including sunburn. Prone to teeth troubles. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Need a strong leader in their human. Brush powder puffs often, wash/moisturize hairless often.
Chow Chow (China)	Intelligent, protective, independent, loyal, stubborn. Not good for first time dog owners.	Fluffy, sturdy coats. Blue/black tongues. 45-70 pounds.	Many are prone to an eye condition (fixable with surgery), hip dysplasia, stomach cancer, hot spots and ear infections. Not good in heat. Do not require a lot of exercise- suitable for apartments or small homes/yards. Lifespan about 15 years.	Need a strong leader. Coats require frequent brushing.

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Collie (Scotland)	Friendly, intelligent, watchdogs. Very trainable. Very good with children, cats and other dogs.	Short and long hair varieties available in sable, blue merle, and white.	Prone to sinus conditions, eye problems, skin disorders and deafness. Lifespan 10-15 years.	Weekly brushing, daily exercise.
Dachshund (Germany)	Good for first time dog owners. Cuddly, energetic, loving, playful, clever.	Short and longhair varieties available in red, black and tan, chocolate, gray, and dapple. 11-18 pounds.	Prone to back issues, so keep dog at healthy weight and prevent jumping onto furniture, beds, etc. Take to vet immediately if you notice abnormal behavior! Also prone to teeth/gum problems. Lifespan about 15 years.	Can be difficult to housetrain. Can be stubborn to train, and need a firm hand.
Dalmatian (Croatia)	Extremely energetic. Trainable, friendly, loving, intelligent. Consistent, gentle training and early socialization recommended.	Short white coats with black or brownish (liver) colored spots. 45-70 pounds.	Prone to deafness and skin allergies. Lifespan 10-15 years.	Need daily exercise for about 2 hours. Brush every few days. Be sure to rinse well after bathing to prevent possible skin irritation.
Doberman Pinscher (Germany)	Bold, energetic, assertive, intelligent, Not a good first dog. Need a strong owner.	Short coats in black, red, tan, gray or white. 65-90 pounds.	Prone to congenital heart defects, bloat, skin issues. Lifespan up to 13 years.	Need frequent mental stimulation and daily exercise.
English Bulldog (England)	Gentle, loving, friendly, and stubborn. Great with kids.	Very short, coarse hair. Colors include red, brindle, all with black muzzle. Very muscular, stocky bodies. 50-55 pounds.	Prone to overheating easily. Loud snorers. Lifespan 8-10 years.	Powder folds/wrinkles in hot weather.
Fox Terrier (England)	Lively and playful. Fun. Early socialization is important. Natural hunters, they are not good with smaller animals.	Dense, short coat in white, black and brown. 15-20 pounds	Can be prone to deafness, diabetes, cataracts and epilepsy. Lifespan 12-14 years.	Do not leave these dogs alone- they can become destructive. Coats require minimal brushing and bathing.
French Bulldog (England)	Laid back, good with kids and other pets. Loving, gentle.	Black or brindle short coats with a little white. 22-28 pounds.	Prone to snoring, eye problems and overheating. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Maintain teeth and nails regularly.
German Shepherd Dog (Germany)	Intelligent and strong. Protective and loving. Must be socialized properly when pups.	Short, coarse coats in black, tan or white. 60-77 pounds.	Prone to ear infections and arthritis. Lifespan 10-13 years.	Frequent brushing and bathing required.
Golden Retriever (Scotland)	Good with kids and other pets. Loving, fun, playful, loyal family dogs.	Long, flowing coats in red and blonde (almost ivory color). 50-80 pounds.	Prone to hip displaysia and ear infections. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Daily brushing required for these heavy shedders. Need frequent exercise such as playing fetch, swimming or playing with other dogs.

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Great Dane (Denmark)	Patient, gentle, loving, great with children, courageous, loyal. Great guard dogs. Good for apartment living since they are rather inactive.	Short coats in black, white, tan, brindle or fawn. 100-200 pounds.	Predisposed to hip dysplasia, heart disease, bloat, tumors and tail injuries. Lifespan 7-10 years.	Frequent brushing is best to keep the dog clean, since bathing them is such a chore. Require daily exercise.
Great Pyrenees (France)	Very good guard dogs! Good with children. Loving, patient, fun, gentle.	Long, coarse double coat in white, some have bits of gray. 90-140 pounds.	Prone to hip dysplasia, hot spots, epilepsy and bloat. Lifespan 10-13 years.	Best in homes with a large yard and a job to do (such as living on a farm). Daily brushing.
Greyhound (Italy)	Reserved with strangers, laid back with family. Loving, intelligent, gentle, bond strongly with their family.	Very short coats in gray, white, or spotted. Lanky build. 60-70 pounds.	Best to feed them in several small meals daily than large ones to keep their stomachs healthy. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Weekly brushing recommended. Daily walks. Big yard best to run free.
Irish Setter (Ireland)	Energetic, intelligent, fun loving. Good with pets and children. Do not respond well to harsh discipline.	Flowing, long reddish brown coats. Trim, muscular bodies. 55-75 pounds.	Predisposed to bloat, skin allergies, and eye problems. Also prone to ear infections. Lifespan 11-15 years.	Daily long walk or a large, fenced in yard are best. Daily brushing.
Irish Wolfhound (Ireland)	Intelligent, loving, patient. Bad watch dogs- they love all people.	Coarse, medium length coat in shades of white, fawn, gray and brown. 90-150 pounds.	Prone to cardiomyopathy, bone cancer and hip dysplasia. Life expectancy 6-8 years.	Twice a week brushing. Daily walks.
Jack Russell Terrier (England)	Loving, fun, energetic, obedient, fearless, good with children. Like to explore. Socialize pups well!	Short coats in white with brown marks. 14-18 pounds.	Predisposed to dislocating knee caps, eye problems and deafness. Lifespan over 15 years.	Brush twice a week. A medium sized fenced in yard is best, or daily walks.
Keeshond (Netherlands)	Friendly, intelligent, affectionate, good with other pets and children.	Medium to long coats in shades of gray and cream. They blow coat twice a year. 35-65 pounds.	Prone to hip dysplasia, skin problems and heart disease. Overheat easily- be careful when weather is hot. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Daily walks/runs in open area or large fenced yard daily. Daily brushing.
Labrador Retriever (Canada) Including	Affectionate, intelligent, eager to please, good family dogs. They love water.	Short coarse coats in yellow, chocolate, black or silver. 60-75 pounds.	Predisposed to hip and elbow dysplasia and eye disorders. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Daily long walks. Brush weekly.
Lhasa Apso (Tibet)	Friendly, intelligent, good watch dogs. Not always good with children. Prone to separation anxiety. Great for apartments or small yards. Daily walks or running in enclosed yard will help keep the lhasa behavior good.	Sturdily built little dogs with dense, soft coats. Coats in gold, cream, smoke, white or black. 13-15 pounds.	Prone to kidney problems, or eye problems. Keep coat clean to avoid skin problems. Lifespan over 15 years.	Daily brushing. Some owners prefer to have their lhasa's hair cut short for easier grooming. Often clean eyes, ears and paws.

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Maltese (Italy)	Gentle, trusting, loving, playful, intelligent, good with other animals. Great for apartments or small yards. Daily walks or running in enclosed yard.	Fine boned little dogs. Soft, silky white or ivory coat. 6-9 pounds.	Prone to sunburn, eye issues and respiratory issues. Get cold and overheat easily. Lifespan over 15 years.	Daily brushing/combing. Be gentle with the fine fur! Shampoo regularly. Clean eyes and ears.
Miniature Pinscher (Germany)	Loyal, energetic, intelligent, brave, loving and very trainable. Need a strong leader. Good in apartments or homes with small yards.	Smooth, coarse, short coat in black, tan, red, or rust. 8-10 pounds.	No known health problems. They get cold easily. Lifespan about 15 years.	Comb/brush twice weekly.
Old English Sheepdog (England)	Protective, loyal, friendly, intelligent, gentle. Good with children. Do fine in apartments so long as properly exercised.	Shaggy, long double coat in white, gray, merle. 60-100 pounds.	Prone to cataracts and hip dysplasia. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Brush daily or (if dog is not being shown) coat can be shaved short.
Papillon (Spain)	Playful, intelligent, loving, energetic. Great family dogs. Easy to train as they love to please. Not always good apartment dogs, because they tend to bark often, although are not "yappers."	Petite dog with soft, single layer coat in white, tan, or black. Large ears resembling butterfly wings. 8-10 pounds.	Some may be oversensitive to anesthesia. Lifespan 16 years.	Clean teeth regularly. Brush twice weekly.
Pomeranian (Germany)	Intelligent, energetic, playful, loving and gentle. Great apartment dogs.	Thick double coats in blue, black, cream, cinnamon, blue or brindle. 3-7 pounds.	Prone to heart and kneecap problems, skin irritations and eye infections. Crunchy food/treats are recommended to help keep teeth in good shape. Tend to overheat easily. Lifespan 15 years.	Clean eyes and ears daily. Brush several times a week. Clean teeth often
Poodle (Germany, France)	Very intelligent, sweet, energetic, loving. Very easy to train. Like to get their exercise outdoors rather than in. Serene inside.	Curly, thick coat in all solid colors (white, cream, gray, apricot, black, etc.) Toy: 6-9 pounds. Miniature: 15-17 pounds. Standard: 40-70 pounds.	Predisposed to diabetes, epilepsy, heart disorders, eye problems, and skin problems. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Frequent bathing and clipping is necessary about every 6-8 weeks. Clean ears and teeth frequently.
Pug (China)	Loyal, affectionate, playful, rambunctious, fun, intelligent and easily trainable. Very good watchdogs. Great family dogs.	Stockily built little dogs with large, round eyes. Short, coarse coats in apricot with black muzzle or black. 12-20 pounds.	They catch colds easily. Not good in too hot or too cold temperatures. They snore, and are prone to breathing problems. Delivery problems common. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Clean face creases daily. Brush/bathe as needed. Require daily play/exercise.

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Rottweiler (Germany)	Calm, trainable, intelligent, excellent guard dogs. Need early socialization and strong, consistent training.	Very muscular , robust bodies. Short, coarse coat in black and tan, rarely in red and tan. 90-130 pounds.	Prone to hip dysplasia. Tend to snore loudly. Be careful with feeding as they tend to overeat. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Very little grooming required. Lots of exercise required.
St. Bernard (Switzerland)	Very gentle, slow moving, patient, helpful, loyal, loving, playful, obedient, protective, intelligent, trainable. Great with kids. Make excellent guard dogs. Must be trained early not to jump or tug on leash, before dog gets too big. Breed is known as "Gentle Giants."	Muscular bodies. Very dense, soft coats in either long or short, both white with black, tan, red, mahogany or brindle markings. 110-200 pounds.	Prone to hip dysplasia, heart problems, skin problems, and bloat. Can overheat easily. Lifespan 8-10 years.	Not a lot of exercise required- a long walk is sufficient. Puppies under age 2 should have only short walks/play periods at a time until their bones are well formed. Coats require twice weekly brushing.
Schnauzer (Germany) All sizes	Intelligent, playful, energetic, great family pets. Good indoors. Early socialization important.	Sturdily built. Coarse, short gray, black or white coats. Miniature: 10-15 pounds Standard: 30-40 pounds Giant: 50-80 pounds	Prone to liver disease, kidney stones, diabetes, eye problems and cysts. Lifespan 15 years.	Calm, firm owners required, otherwise the dog will rule the household. Need brisk daily walks. Daily brushing, trim frequently around eyes and ears.
Shar Pei (China)	Loyal, intelligent, playful, brave, energetic, devoted, can be stubborn, good watchdogs. Good apartment dogs, and good with small yards. Not good for people with allergies.	Very wrinkled skin. Short, soft coats in tan or black. Blue/black tongue, like Chow Chows. 40-50 pounds.	Predisposed to kidney failure. Tend to overheat. Lifespan 10 years.	Daily walks or running in fenced yard required. Bathe weekly, brush often.
Shiba Inu (Japan)	Alert, energetic, loving, trainable, brave, bold. Very good with kids, other dogs and cats.	Sturdy, muscular little dogs with a curved tail and short, coarse coat in red, black, or tan with white legs. Look much like small Akitas. 15-25 pounds.	Prone to patellar luxation and hip dysplasia. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Daily exercise required. Heavy shedding twice a year is only grooming issue.
Shih Tzu (China)	Lively, playful, gentle, loving, intelligent, loyal, affectionate, good with other pets. Good for apartments or homes with little yards. Good for people with dog allergies	Small, sturdy body. Long, dense double coat in many colors such as white, cream, black, etc. 9-16 pounds.	Prone to spinal disc disease, ear infections, eye problems, tooth loss. Overheat easily. Lifespan 15 years.	Daily playing/walk/romping required. Daily brushing required. Trimming helps. Keep eyes clean.

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Siberian Husky (Russia)	Loving, devoted, playful, intelligent, caring, gentle, loving. Not good for apartments or homes with small yards,.	Medium length dense, double coat in white, tan, black, gray, red. Blue, amber or odd colored eyes. 35-60 pounds.	Prone to hip displaysia, eye issues, diabetes, and displacement of the urethra. Lifespan	Very active. Lots of daily exercise required.
Weimaraner (Germany)	Intelligent, loving, affection, good with kids. Can be stubborn and get bored easily. Protective, loyal, brave-good watchdogs.	Light amber, gray or blue-gray eyes. Athletic body. Short, smooth coat in all shades of gray. 50-70 pounds.	Prone to bloat, hip displaysia and tumors. Lifespan 10-12 years.	Daily walk/jog required. They love to run free, so a large yard is a good idea. Coats require very little care- brush and bathe as needed.
Welsh Corgi (Wales)	Loving, intelligent, loyal, willing to please owners.	Long bodied, short legged dogs. Cardigans have long tails, while Pembrokes have no tail. Short, soft coats in black, white, fawn, or red. 25-30 pounds.	Prone to back problems, gains weight easily. Weight gain can cause back problems, so watch the dog's weight. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Weekly brushing. Breed loves long daily walks.
West Highland White Terrier (Scotland)	Friendly, smart, easy to train, good travel companions, love company.	Sturdily built. Long double coat in white. Underside of coat is softer than outer layer. 15-20 pounds.	Prone to hernias, liver disease skin and hip problems. Lifespan 15 years.	Exercise daily. Brush twice weekly. Keep fur around eyes and ears trimmed.
Yorkshire Terrier (England)	Adventurous, fun loving, intelligent, loyal. Love to play inside. Can be somewhat demanding of their human's time.	Silky, long coat in gray and tan. 7 pounds.	Prone to eye infection, bronchitis, poor tolerance of anesthesia, and tooth problems. Sensitive to cold. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Keep teeth clean with hard treats/food. Weekly combing/brushing.