

## Choosing the right dog – a guide to breeds

Choosing the right dog to fit your lifestyle and temperament is important. If you live a sedentary life, you don't want a dog that requires a lot of outdoor exercise. If you have an active social life with many friends and visitors, you don't want a highly territorial dog who will threaten your social consorts. You need to answer some important questions: How much time are you willing to give a dog in terms of exercise, grooming, and companionship. What kind of dog would best fit into your living situation? Do you have children who are willing to take on some of the responsibilities? Do you have other pets that might be a problem?

Dogs need companionship, grooming, bathing, nail clipping, exercise, feeding, and training. The responsibility of owning a dog lasts for a long time. Large breeds typically have the best temperaments and live about 10-12 years; smaller breeds are more likely to be high strung and live longer sometimes 18-20 years. Each dog is an individual based on its genetic heritage, training, and environment. Specific dogs of even the most notorious breeds can be friendly, loveable, family companions. Research the breeds you are interested in, and then ask local veterinarians and trainers which breeders are producing the most sound and stable dogs in your area.

Here's a rundown of the different groups:

**Sporting Dogs:** Specifically bred for pointing, flushing, or retrieving game. A few may be used as guide or protection dogs. Most of these dogs need a lot of exercise!

**Pointers:** Brittany, Pointer, German Short-haired, German Wirehaired, Vizlas, Weimaraner, Wirehaired Pointing Griffon **Retrievers:** Chesapeake Bay, Curly-Coated, Flat-Coated, Golden Labrador **Setters:** English, Gordon, Irish **Spaniels:** American Water, Clumber, Cocker, English Cocker, English Springer, Field, Irish Water, Sussex, Welsh Springer

**Hounds:** Includes over twenty breeds adapted for hunting and/or tracking game or humans by sight or smell. These dogs require non-traditional training techniques as they are easily distracted by movement or scent. These dogs vary in size from the

Dachshund (5" tall, 10lbs) to the Irish Wolfhound (3' tall at the shoulder to 7' tall standing, 160lbs).

Afghan, Basenji, Basset Hound, Beagle, Black & Tan Coonhound, Bloodhound, Borzoi, Dachshund, American & English Foxhounds, Greyhound, Harrier, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Norwegian Elkhound, Otterhound, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, Pharaoh Hound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Saluki, Scottish Deerhound, Whippet

**Working:** Used mostly for herding, guarding, guide and rescue dogs. Most are large to enormous in size. Usually territorial, strong, and confident, they need a strong confident leader to master their temperament. Some of the dogs make excellent companions and are commonly used to assist humans. Akita, Alaskan Malamute, Bernese Mountain Dog, Boxer, Bullmastiff, Doberman Pinscher, Giant Schnauzer, Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Komondor, Kuvasz, Mastiff, Newfoundland, Portuguese Water Dog, Rottweiler, St. Bernard, Samoyed, Siberian Husky, Standard Schnauzer

**Terriers:** Vary in size and shape from the very small Norwich Terrier (10", 10lbs) to the Airedale (23", 55lbs) to the American Staffordshire (18", 70lbs). Used for a variety of purposes including guarding, pit fighting, and hunting small predators such as rats, badgers, foxes, and rabbits. Known for their tenacious temperament and admired for their ability to hunt and work relentlessly. With proper training and socialization they can make good house pets.

Airedale, American Staffordshire & Staffordshire Bull, Australian, Bedlington, Border, Bull & Miniature Bull, Cairn, Dandie Dinmont, Smooth & Wire Fox, Irish, Kerry Blue, Lakeland, Standard Manchester, Miniature Schnauzer, Norfolk & Norwich, Scottish, Sealyham, Skye, Soft-Coated Wheaten, Welsh, West Highland White

**Toys:** Tiny dogs weighing from one to eighteen pounds with the average being eight pounds. Bred for pampering and protecting. Usually very sensitive to extremes in temperature as they do not have the body mass to maintain heat. Tiny dogs did not evolve naturally; humans bred and altered them specifically for their small size to be held

## This month...

- the 'Prez' talks
- new product
- your pics!

and cuddled.

Affenpinscher, Brussels Griffon, Chihuahua, Chinese Crested, English Toy Spaniel, Italian Greyhound, Japanese Chin, Maltese, Toy Manchester Terrier, Miniature Pinscher, Papillon, Pekingese, Pomeranian, Toy Poodle, Pug, Shih Tsu, Silky Terrier, Yorkshire Terrier

**Non-Sporting:** Includes all dogs that have not been otherwise classified. Function primarily as companion dogs with some possibly serving as guard dogs or retrievers. Bichon Frise, Boston Terrier, Bulldog, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chow, Dalmatian, English Bulldog, Finnish Spitz, French Bulldog, Keeshound, Lhasa Apso, Miniature & Standard Poodles, Schipperke, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniel, Tibetan Terrier

**Herding:** Relatively new classification of dogs that have had a history of or have been bred specifically for herding purposes. Intelligent, active, and athletic dogs. They can make good house pets with the proper environment and obedience training. Most of these dogs love to work and are eager to please. This group separates some dogs formerly known as Working Dogs into a new Herding Dog group. Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Shepherd, Bearded Collie, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdog, Belgian Tervuren, Border Collie, Bouviers Des Flanders, Briard Collie, German Shepherd, Old English Sheepdog, Puli, Shetland Sheepdog, Cardigan & Pembroke Welsh Corgi

**Miscellaneous:** For dogs that have not been classified into one of the other groups. American Eskimo Dog, Australian Kelpie, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Jack Russell Terrier, Pit Bull Terrier, Spinoni Italiani, Wolf Hybrids, Mutts

## Photo contest winner



### Meet Chia and Skipper

These two are the best of friends and go everywhere together. They go for two walks a day with us, the evening one about an hour long. When they get back, they go right to their bowls of Pets First.

Ron and Angela Skene, 100 Mile House, BC

## From the Prez



Summer is finally over and even though the days are still warm, at least the nights are cooler. It's difficult for us pets with our fur coats. I hope everyone had a great summer and splashed in some cool lakes or went

to some new spots with your people. We had a relaxing time, spent most of it lounging in the back yard, digging holes (especially my daughter 'Halo') and chasing squirrels out of the walnut tree (fun stuff).

We have revamped our retail area to better show off the hundreds of products that we now carry. Come and visit if you are in the neighborhood, we might share a porkette or something. We are now looking at further increasing our product selection so if there is something you think we should have and don't, then have your people give us a call and we'll put it on our list.

Congratulations are in order to our Calgary office. They are now in their new warehouse/office location. Lots of great things coming from Calgary. Keep up the great work Bernice and family and all the IC's and Pet Pros in the Southern Alberta region. We are all looking to you to set the pace for the rest of Canada.

Keep those pictures coming, we'll talk again soon Bandit.

## Contact us

"Paw Prints" is published every two months by Pets First Products and Services Inc. Your comments, submissions and suggestions are very welcome. Contact us at:

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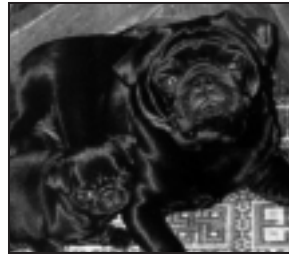
## Meet us

We thought we'd take an opportunity to introduce some of the 'movers-and-shakers' at Pets First. Watch for more introductions.



Meet Ralph Snell, our Kelowna area manager.

## Some happy clients



James and his six week old daughter Brandi. He is a very devoted daddy. James the Pug is the proud owner of Ms. J.M. Wright.

George Blackstocks's buddy Bailey. Doesn't he look the picture of health!



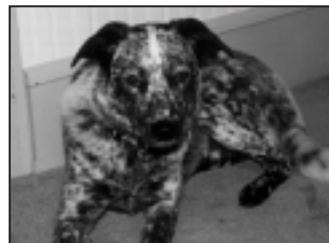
Here's Morgan, guarding the toilet paper! Her mom is Debbie Oddleifson.

Here's Tobi, a Dobi cross, and friend Clio



Meet Christianne Roy's pal Silika

Ashley is a Blue Heeler Border Collie cross. She shares her life with Penny & Eric Doornberg



## your pet pic here

Send in those pet pictures, and your pet could be featured here!

First prize is 40 lbs of dog food, or 20 lbs of cat food.

*Sorry, no pictures can be returned.*

## Mark on your calendar

Not just another Saturday, September 11th is National Iguana Awareness Day. Don't miss it again!! (Phil... this one's for you!...EDITOR)

## Feature product

### Senior Paste by Beaphar

As dogs get older they are more susceptible to stiff joints. Many food manufacturers are now putting Glucosamine in their food to help alleviate this concern. The problem with putting Glucosamine in the food is that the amount that is ingested is often too small to have any positive effect.

Beaphar has solved this problem by producing a product that is high in Glucosamine and easily given to your pet. The results can be astounding, your pet will not only love the taste but may act like a puppy again. He won't have as much difficulty getting up and you should be able to enjoy longer walks.

## Cross promo program

We wish to send out a big thank-you to all those businesses involved in our Cross-Promo program.

- Luna Loca Restaurant
- Old Surrey Restaurant
- BC Shock & Strut
- Showtime Tuckets
- F-440 Racing
- Kiwanis Care Centre

And we send out a very 'special' thank you to Mackers Bistro and Bar in Sunpeaks. Kent McDonnell and family have done an excellent job promoting Pets First!! Hugs & kisses to Malika!!

## How many dogs does it take to change a lightbulb?

**Golden retriever:** "The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned-out lightbulb?"

**Border collie:** "Just one, And I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code."

**Dachshund:** "I can't reach the stupid lamp!"

**Poodle:** "I'll just blow in the Border collie's ear, and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry."

**Lab:** "Oh, me, me!! Pleeeeze, let me change the lightbulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Can I?"

**Cocker spaniel:** "Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark."

**Australian shepherd:** "First put all the lightbulbs in a little circle..."

**Old English sheep dog:** "Lightbulb? Lightbulb? That thing I just ate was a lightbulb?"

*from the internet*

## Year 2000 calendar

We would like to thank all those that have submitted favourite pictures for our Year 2000 calendar, unfortunately we were unable to collect enough pictures to make up the seasonal collages that we had planned. We will not be producing a calendar this year.

Thanks again to those that sent in pictures.