

Pets Rule

Pets love us just as we are. They don't care about our hair, house, grades, age, weight or shoes. You can read and sing and talk to them about a-n-y-t-h-i-n-g! They are not free from expense and effort, but they'll reward you many times over. From hamsters and horses to birds, fish, kitty cats, dogs and more, you'll find need-to-know basics and fun facts every month right here at Pets Rule.

Medium-Size Dogs ~ a perfect family fit

By Joanne M. Anderson / jmawriter.com

Having a dog can be a fun-filled, happy kind of experience, and for those who find the big dogs, well, too big, and the little ones, uh, too little, there's a whole bunch of medium-size dogs looking for a home. For an apartment, condo or small house situation, a medium dog is a cool compromise when a big dog might be cramped, but you're not in the market for a cat-sized toy dog.

Many medium dogs are smart, and several have interesting - or annoying - skills built into their breed. Border collies, for example, are bred to round up things. They have tons of energy and may try to corral children and other pets, making them not the best choice for small kids. There's the story about one border collie which would not let the cat off the bed, circling it endlessly to keep it rounded up. It's in their nature. Terriers are known for digging, and dalmatians originally ran for miles - or kilometers - beside stagecoaches in England to deter thieves and strangers from approaching. They are a very high-energy breed.

With a little homework and research, you can find the perfect dog in the medium category, which is approximately 40 to 60 pounds full grown. Their life span ranges from 10 to 12 years, and their overall food expense is less than for large breeds. Many are quite sturdy for rough and tumble kind of play. These medium pets need good, adequate exercise for muscle tone, energy release and mental stimulation.

Some of the most popular medium-size dogs include:

- bulldog
- husky
- standard poodle
- hound including beagle and basset
- some breeds of terrier
- spaniel
- pointer
- setter
- dalmatian

- sheep or cattle dog
- dachshund
- boxer
- and more ...

Another consideration is fur. Dogs, like many animals, shed according to light, not temperature. As the days get shorter, dogs, horses and many animals exhibit thicker coats for keeping warm, and as the days lengthen into spring, they shed their hair or fur. Because dogs are indoors year-round, the artificial light changes this natural cycle, and they tend to shed year-round.

Medium dogs may take up less space in the house than the big dogs, but they are very active and need a lot of exercise. They can be good city dogs because many of them are non-threatening to people and play nicely with other dogs. Most of them enjoy jogging, dog parks and walking often. Many hotels permit only dogs under 30 pounds, so that's something to consider if you plan to travel extensively with Fido.

Canine companionship is wonderful with a medium-size dog. They come in all kinds of shapes, sizes, colors, temperaments and energy levels. Choose wisely, and you'll have a long-time friend and faithful pup at your side ~ or in your bed, if your parents don't mind. Woof! Woof!