



Afghan Hounds

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The Afghan Hound Dog

About the Afghan Hound Dog

Just one look at this elegant breed and you will understand why they are called “a king of dogs”. The Afghan Hound is a beautiful creature that carries itself with pride and is often a favorite in dog shows. First believed to have originated in Afghanistan, this breed was able to run freely through the hills without confinement.

General Afghan Hound Characteristics

The Afghan Hound is a very sweet and sensitive breed. Best known for their tall, slender frame and long, flowing hair, these dogs will require an owner that has plenty of time to spend working with them on good behavior traits and keeping their coat well-groomed. Afghan Hounds are also quite active and require plenty of open space where they can run and play, at least for 30 minutes a day.

Weight	58-64lbs pounds	Temperament	Gentle, playful, affectionate, and loyal
Height	27-29 inches	Good with Children?	Older children are best.
Coat	Long, thick hair; Weekly bathing is recommended.	Health Concerns	No specific health issues. Have a low pain tolerance.

Selecting Your Afghan Hound – Adoption or a Breeder?

Adopting an Afghan Hound is a great option for those wishing to help out a local shelter or rescue. Afghan Hound rescues are available by doing a quick search on the Internet, or talking to a veterinarian. The process for adopting your Afghan Hound might seem a little difficult at first, but this is to ensure that a good match is made for both the dog and owner. Most rescues will require you to fill out an application that will be used to find an Afghan Hound the best suited for your home. If geographically possible, many rescues like to visit your home beforehand to understand the environment that the dog will be residing in (young children, other pets, fenced yard). Finding the right Afghan Hound may take some time, but it will be well worth the wait!

Others may decide to purchase directly from a breeder, especially if there is interest in showing the Afghan Hound professionally. Be prepared to go through a similar screening process as with adoption.

Can't miss gifts for the Afghan Hound Dog owner:

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Breeders are just as concerned that their Afghan Hound will go to the perfect family and will want to ensure that you are ready for this particular breed. Locating an Afghan Hound breeder can be done by visiting the AKC website, searching your local newspaper, or conducting other breed searches on the Internet. Always do a thorough check on your potential breeder to ensure that they have a good history of doing business, and that they provide a good health guarantee.

How to Choose Your New Afghan Hound

The adult Afghan Hound should have a thick, flowing coat, long ears, and dark eyes. Coloring can vary from grays and deep blacks, with the light cream coloring being the most popular. Afghan Hounds that have a lot of white on the head, or striping throughout the body, is not desirable. If you select an Afghan Hound puppy, their appearance will be quite different. The coat is short and fluffy, and the face has not yet developed the long, slender muzzle like the adult. Like all puppies, they are very playful and carefree and have not yet developed their elegant stride.

If you are selecting an older Afghan Hound, check for signs of neglect, such as severe matting, poor dental care and weight issues. While these are all issues that can be remedied, they may ultimately be tied to other behavior and financial challenges for you and your new dog in the future. Just as with any older dog, it can be difficult to develop new routines, such as grooming or training.

Before You Bring Your Afghan Hound Home

As stated previously, it is very important that your new Afghan Hound have plenty of room to run everyday. Large, fenced yards are the best for your new dog. Apartment living is not the life for this breed. Purchase a good book on Afghan Hounds to better understand their personality and needs from puppy to adult. Of course, you will need some basic supplies for your new dog that are all ready to go when you both come home. Some of the essentials are:

- Dog or puppy food
- Collar/Leash
- Grooming supplies (pin or slicker brush works well; shampoo)
- Crate
- Various chew toys
- Treats

A dog door would be a plus for this breed, making it easy for them to gain access to the yard to exercise. If you plan to transport your Afghan Hound in the car often, it might be a good idea to get a blanket or car seat cover to protect your upholstery from their hair.



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Your Afghan Hound Adult

Afghan Hounds require plenty of exercise, consistent training, and regular grooming. Even though the breed is quite independent, they will enjoy your companionship and the attention of older children. Houseguests will appreciate that your Afghan Hound does not bombard them with licking and jumping, but rather is very gentle and can wait for you to approach them.

Your Afghan Hound Senior

Keep your Afghan Hound feeling young by continued regular exercise and plenty of attention. Dental care can become important as your pet ages. Be sure to continue with regular visits to your vet to monitor potential health issues. If necessary, food may need to be changed to match your Afghan's slowing activity. The life expectancy for the breed is around 13-15 years.

Afghan Hound Medical Considerations

For the most part, Afghan Hounds are a pretty healthy breed. There are three notable conditions to watch for, mainly as they age:

- Cataracts (clouding of the lens) – Some can be corrected with surgery.
- Hip Dysplasia – Have your vet x-ray the hip joints early on to detect possible issues. Some can be minor, while others very painful and only remedied by surgery.
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Hypothyroidism - low production of hormones by the thyroid gland. This condition can cause poor skin conditions, lethargy, and constant scratching/itching.



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Popular Products for Your Afghan Hound

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