



Anatolian Shepherds

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The Anatolian Shepherd Dog

About the Anatolian Shepherd Dog:

If it's a guard dog you looking for, the Anatolian Shepherd may be the dog for you. The Anatolian Shepherd originated in Turkey and made its way into the United States around 1950. However, it did not become a registered member of the AKC until 1995. This breed's main purpose was to serve as an active working guard dog for both livestock and property. Historically, this breed is known for guarding farms and ranches that contain livestock such as sheep, goats, rabbits, ostriches, geese, ducks, and llamas. If raised from a puppy, this capacious dog could also make a loyal family pet.

General Characteristics

Anatolian Shepherds are large, strong, muscular dogs weighing between 80-150 pounds and reaching a height between 27-32 inches. The coat is available in white, brindle, pinto, and fawn, and is either short (approximately 1") or rough (approximately 4") and made of two thick layers to withstand extreme weather conditions. Their bodies are firm, muscular, and evenly proportioned, allowing them to have superb balance and coordination. They are powerful and have the capability of reaching astonishing speeds. American Shepherds are attractive and intimidating. Life expectancy is 11-13 years and the average litter is 5-10.

Although highly independent, active participation by the owner is required to raise this alert and intelligent creature. Early training and socialization is necessary, and dominant, persistent leadership is required to keep this hardheaded dog in line. If raising as a family pet, it is best to purchase an Anatolian Shepherd as a puppy, especially if children are in the home. They are usually friendly with well-behaved kids, but an adult should be present. When raised as a puppy, they have a tendency to treat other animals in the home as part of their "flock." Strangers should be introduced with the company of the owner and be warned about entering uninvited. Even if an Anatolian Shepherd is properly introduced to outside members of the family, they usually remain suspicious and can pose a threat.

Selecting a Method: Adoption or Breeder

There are several ways of obtaining your perfect canine friend. Adoption is one of them. One of the benefits of adopting is the amount of money you will save. Purchasing a pet from a reputable breeder is often expensive and frequently requires a waiting period. Another benefit is that you will be preserving the welfare of a wonderful creature. The downfall of adopting is you may not find exactly what you're looking for. There are often limited choices when searching for an Anatolian Shepherd to adopt. Normally they are full-grown and often do not come with background information. Coincidentally, you may not be fully satisfied.

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Purchasing an Anatolian Shepherd from a breeder is another option. You will likely pay more than if you were to adopt, but you will have access to background information such as health history, bloodline, and characteristics. A health guarantee and registration papers are usually included with the purchase price. When you pick up your pet, you will have the opportunity to see the type of environment he or she was raised in. The downfall is that many breeders are selective of who they choose, and you may have to go through a screening process and waiting period.

Regardless of which method you choose, there are several resources to aid in your search. If adopting, try your local humane society or animal rescue shelter. If you decide to go with a breeder, try to find a reputable one by visiting dog shows and talking to exhibitors and judges. You can find both adoption agencies and breeders by searching the Internet, looking at bulletin boards, in newspapers, or by talking to veterinarians or other dog lovers.

Selecting Your Anatolian Shepherd

Before seeking out your new pet, there are some factors you should consider and questions you want to answer. The first question to ask yourself is whether you want a specific breed. Does sex, age, color, show quality, or health condition matter? What kind of lifestyle do you have? Are you active? What is your schedule? What type of personality do you have? Are there certain characteristics that you would like your pet to have? How do you plan to use the dog? Based on that information, you will be able to determine if adoption or a breeder is right for you.

When choosing your Anatolian Shepherd, pay close attention to the appearance of the animal. Does it seem to be in good physical and mental condition? Is the canine clean and well groomed? What type of environment is the animal living in? Has the dog had all of the required vaccinations, screening, and worming sessions that are recommended and does the owner have supporting documentation? Has the canine seen a veterinarian and, if so, who? Is there a return policy or a guarantee health contract? Look at the parents of the canine and note their condition. Quiz the breeder on knowledge of the Anatolian Shepherd and ask how long they have been breeding or how long they have owned the dog. It also helps to take a list of questions with you.

Your Anatolian Shepherd: From Birth to Senior

Raising a well-behaved and healthy Anatolian Shepherd requires love and attention but also a high level of assertiveness. These early years are crucial times and demand a clean, stable, and welcoming environment. Puppies require a lot of attention from birth up to the first year. During the first three weeks of life they are totally cared for by the mother. She will provide them with nourishment and will keep them clean and tidy. The atmosphere should be warm and cozy and the puppy's nails should be kept short to prevent injury and discomfort. It is the pet owners responsibility to make sure that they are adequately cared for by the Dam. Puppies should visit the veterinarian within 5 days of birth.



[Elevated Dog Bowls](#)

You'll need these basics before your Anatolian Shepherd comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Crate](#)
- [Crate Pad](#)
- [Dog Bed](#)
- [Food Dish](#)
- [Squeaky Toy](#)
- [Dry Food](#)
- [Collar](#)
- [Lead](#)
- [Puppy Pads](#)
- [Chew Toy](#)
- [Shampoo](#)
- [Brush](#)
- [Toothbrush](#)
- [Nail Trimmer](#)

EXPERT TIP

Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a Anatolian Shepherd Dog puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Terrier and choose a crate based on those specifications.

[Click here to see our crates.](#)

Within the first 4 weeks, the eyes will open, teeth will erupt, and hearing and smell develop. Puppies will start gaining independence between their 5th and 6th week. During this time, you should start weaning them from breast milk and establish a regular potty schedule. Gradually separate mother from pup during the day and replace the liquid diet with an approved commercial dog food made specifically for puppies. The average pup needs to be feed between 3-5 times per day. A puppy is ready to be introduced to a new home between his 8th and 12th week of life.

The first year requires frequent trips to the veterinarian. During the first 16 weeks they will need a series of vaccinations. The Anatolian Shepherd immune system takes longer to develop than other dogs and requires an extra parvo-virus vaccine. Be sure that your pet is parasite free, has been checked for worms, and that his body temperature is within normal levels. Check with your veterinarian for a complete and accurate schedule that fits the requirements of your state and your dog.

Around 6 months your dog will begin puberty. He may behave differently and forget concepts that he has already learned. This can last up to 6 weeks. During this time, be patient and reinforce what you have already taught him. This type of breed is not usually fully developed until 3- 4 years of age, although it is ready for breeding at 24 months. For the first few years, your canine will go through many different stages and will develop his unique personality. He will go through periods of chewing, challenging and dominant behavior, and sexual behavior if not spayed or neutered.

You may notice physical, mental, and emotional changes in your pet as it ages. These changes may be attributed to medical reasons, age, and stresses from health and environment.

- Behavioral – your pet may become more temperamental with age and less tolerant of children. They may exhibit anxiety or a sudden fear of something.
- Elimination Pattern – urination frequently increases and incontinence may occur.
- Sleeping Pattern – may become restless or lethargic.
- Skin, Hair, and Nails– skin may become thin, dry, take longer to heal, and less resilient. The hair may thin, turn gray or white, and become dull. Nails may become thin and brittle and crack or chip.
- Decreased Organ Function – the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys start to dysfunction.
- Endocrine Changes – glandular functions increase and decrease hormone levels.
- Muscular System Changes – muscle mass deteriorates over time.
- Dental Problems – become more prone to oral diseases and tooth decay.
- Impaired or Loss of Vision and Hearing
- Metabolism Slows
- Weakened Immune System
- Decreased Activity Level
- Dehydration

Can't miss gifts for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog owner:

- [Laser Toys](#)
- [Decorative Coffee Mug](#)
- [Dog Training Guide](#)
- [Blank Dog Themed Note Cards](#)



**[Corner Bed
W/Bolster](#)**

Items to suit your senior Anatolian Shepherd Dog:

- [Vitamins](#)
- [Senior Formula Food](#)
- [Orthopedic Bed](#)
- [Dental Kit for Dogs](#)



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Anatolian Shepherds are prone to certain health conditions such as eyelid entropion, hip and elbow dysplasia, and hypothyroidism. They are also sensitive to anesthesia. Be conscious to illness related symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, incontinence, runny nose and eyes, altered sleep patterns, loss or increase of appetite, rapid weight loss or gain, sores, unusual stool, blood in urine, cloudy eyes, skin discoloration, wounds that won't heal, loss of balance, persistent scratching, unusual discharge, coughing or sneezing, and behavioral changes. It is vital that you seek immediate medical attention if your dog experiences any of these symptoms. Do not attempt to self-treat.

It is important to always be observant and attentive to the changing needs of your pet. In order to optimize your dog's health, keep it active and provide it with a well balanced diet. Because Anatolian Shepherds are sensitive to beef and may acquire an allergy, feed your dog a low protein diet consisting of lamb, chicken, rice, healthy treats, and supplements for deficiencies. Take your canine in for routine checkups and maintain good grooming habits. Keep the environment safe and clean and provide your dog with stimulating toys, teething bones, exercise, and furniture for comfort.

Caring For a Anatolian Shepherd

The coat of an Anatolian Shepherd consists of two protective layers that need very little grooming. Although this dog is a heavy shedder, it only requires periodic brushing and occasional baths. If your dog spends the majority of the time indoors, it will be worth taking the extra time to brush him once or twice a week to keep shedding at bay. More frequent grooming sessions may be required during the shedding months. When brushing, extend the bristles to the skin to promote blood circulation and to remove dead skin.

Nails should be kept short by trimming regularly. These dogs are prone to ear infections so it is important to keep your dogs ears clean by using a mineral oil soaked swab or q-tip. Keep eyes healthy by removing mucous and debris immediately. Maintain oral hygiene by brushing teeth and gums regularly with dog approved toothpaste and special teething biscuits made to remove plaque and tarter

Keep your Anatolian safe by providing a dog friendly environment. Keep loose wires hidden and hazardous items out of reach. Sterilize toys often and keep your home clean and free of clutter. Toxic plants and materials need to be placed in an unreachable location. This dog is relatively inactive indoors and should not be confined to an apartment. A large fenced in yard is recommended for exercise and play. Post watchdog signs to warn others of entering uninvited and never let your dog roam around freely.

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[Striped Ceramic Dog Bowl](#)

[Beef Liver Jerky](#)



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Now That You Are A Pet Owner

Being a pet owner is a rewarding experience. Over the years, you will build a strong relationship with your dog and he or she will become part of your family. If you treat your American Water Spaniel with love and respect you will build a trusting and devoted friendship that will bring you laughter and joy. The memories you and your Anatolian Shepherd share will touch your heart and last a lifetime. Remember to always look out for the best interest of your new companion and to be a responsible pet owner.

Popular Products for Your Anatolian Shepherd

- [Dog Sweater](#)
- [Dog Raincoat](#)
- [Safety Dog Gate](#)
- [Canned Dog Food](#)
- [Dog Food Storage](#)
- [Ear Care](#)
- [Dog Electronic Collar](#)
- [Odor Control](#)
- [Dog Biscuits](#)
- [Natural Chews](#)
- [Personalized Dog Tag](#)
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- [Dog Shampoo](#)
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