



Belgian Malinois

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The Belgian Malinois:

Introduction

The Belgian Malinois, also known as Malinois and Chien de Berger Belge is one of four Belgian Sheepdogs. This breed produces elegant and muscular dogs. These dogs make excellent police and guard dogs, and this type of work is currently their main type of work. They do, however, also make excellent pets, as they are ever-watchful, alert, and loyal. They thrive on loving companionship. This breed is good with children if socialized well with them. This is a very demanding job that needs an experienced owner; be sure to talk to someone experienced with the breed before you take your Malinois home.

As with any decision that will have a long-term impact on your life, it is important that you make an informed decision when choosing a pet. The purpose of this informational eBook is to introduce you to the Belgian Malinois and the characteristics unique to this breed. We will touch on adoption versus engaging a breeder and trace a few key points that are important to note in each stage of your dog's life. Our hope is that you will come away from this book with a number of helpful tips and pieces of advice. This complimentary book is packed full of information to fulfill your dog parenting needs. You will be given access to checklists and handy vet tips to ensure that you are taking proper care of your beloved pet.

General Belgian Malinois Characteristics

The Belgian Malinois's short-haired coat can be fawn, red, mahogany, black with black tips, mask, and ears and a thick undercoat. Some white is allowed on the chest and feet. The hair around the neck is a bit longer and forms a collar. The small, dark, almond-shaped eyes have an alert and questioning expression. This breed varies in height from 22 to 26 inches and in weight from 55 to 65 pounds; their average life expectancy is 12 to 14 years.

Although this breed is not for everyone, this high-energy dog makes an excellent family companion if properly socialized and trained. This is a very smart and obedient breed. Serious and watchful with strong protective and territorial instincts; some are very shy or sensitive. This breed needs extensive socialization from an early age, and firm, but not harsh, training from an experienced master. If you are harsh or overbearing, the Belgian Malinois will become uncooperative. It is instinctively protective, so it should be trained and socialized very well from an early age. The Belgian Malinois needs to be part of the family and not locked up in a kennel; it tends to bond strongly with one or two people. It does best given ample time, attention, training and companionship. If this breed is ignored, it will find ways to entertain itself, often at the owner's expense. The Belgian Malinois has a lot of energy and needs a job to do. Take care when introducing this dog to small non-canine pets, and keep in mind that they can be rather dominant with other dogs. Provided they are correctly socialized with cats and other pets, they should not present any problems. Belgian Sheepdogs may instinctively display herding behavior such as chasing and circling, moving effortlessly for hours and nipping at people's heels. Sheepdogs can be difficult to control, unless the owner knows how to handle them. There can be wide differences in temperament and aggressiveness. Although Belgian Sheepdogs are often



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should not present any problems. Belgian Sheepdogs may instinctively display herding behavior such as chasing and circling, moving effortlessly for hours and nipping at people's heels. This is a very demanding dog and it needs an experienced owner. He can easily be difficult to control unless the owner knows how to handle him. There can be wide differences in temperament and aggressiveness. Although Belgian Sheepdogs are often impressive, don't base your purchase solely on achievement records and appearances. Animals displaying excessive aggression or fearfulness should be avoided.

The Belgian Malinois will do okay in an apartment if it is sufficiently exercised. It is moderately active indoors and will do best with at least an average-sized yard. Due to its acclimation for an active outdoor life, they prefer to be off leash as much as possible. This breed prefers cool climates, but adapts well to others. It can live outdoors but would much rather be with his people.



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Selecting Your Belgian Malinois Puppy – Adoption or a Breeder?

It is usually a matter of personal preference when it comes to adopting a dog or choosing to seek out a breeder that is familiar with your breed.

A few words about adoption:

Look for a pet adoption shelter or rescue center in your community. Use your community resources, such as your library, newspaper, and any online information to understand the reputation of the shelter before you go there. Take time when selecting the shelter or rescue group you will adopt from and ask questions of other people who may have used their services before. Pay visits to each of the shelters and rescue groups you are considering and speak with the staff and volunteers about their organization and the pet or pets that you are interested in. Also inquire as to whether or not the rescue has a foster parent program that will let you bring the pet into your home for several weeks to see how it will fit with your current living situation. In any case, before making a final decision, find out as much as you can about the history of the pets you are considering. Go into adoption knowing that some pets are up for adoption because they have been left behind due to divorce or families having to relocate; not all pets in shelters or rescue centers come from abused or neglectful situations. Pet adoption or rescue is less expensive than purchasing from a dog breeder and for families who face economical challenges this option is worth considering; you have the satisfaction of providing a home for a deserving pet.

A few words about breeders:

Perhaps you prefer a Belgian Malinois that comes from a reputable breeder in order to raise your pet as a show dog or breed your pet to further the advancement of new Belgian Malinois in your community. Breeders are very knowledgeable about the breed's overall health and characteristics. You can find dog breeders by looking in the newspaper, searching on the internet, or checking with the local vet. Make sure the breeder is associated with the AKC. Dog breeders can be very particular about the person wanting to purchase the dog. They may want to know what other animals are in the home, if you have a yard for the dog to play in, or if there are any children living in the

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EXPERT TIP

Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a Belgian Malinois Dog puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Belgian and choose a crate based on those specifications. The average size of an adult Belgian Malinois Dog is 15 lbs and 16 inches tall. Choose a sturdy steel or plastic crate for medium sized breeds such as the Belgian Malinois Dog.

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home. Make sure the breeders facilities are clean and always ask to see the mother and father of the puppy you want to buy. The breeder should be able to provide a written health guarantee and all shot records.

Either option is viable based on your own knowledge, expectations, and personal conviction. The most important thing to remember when selecting your pet is to select the pet that is right for you. Pet ownership is a big responsibility; select a pet that fits your lifestyle.

How to Choose Your New Belgian Malinois Pup

Choosing a dog can be a difficult decision because there are many different personalities and aesthetic qualities you may want to look for. Do you prefer to have the runt of the litter or the huskiest brute? Or, would you prefer a kiss of white sugar on the tips of your pup paws? Are you keener on a specific color combination? Sometimes you can make a decision based on the adorable facial expressions a pup makes. Can you resist those sweet puppy dog eyes that pierce right through to clench hold of your heart? Pet adoptions or rescues are viable options for selecting your Belgian Malinois. Of course, finding a good breeder is always a good option too. Make sure you look for the following signs of a healthy dog:

- Bright and clear eyes
- Clean ears that are free of parasites
- Healthy coat and skin conditions
- History and lineage are necessary as the genetics of animals are much like that of humans
- Make sure paw pads are soft and well taken care of
- Plump bellies are common in healthy puppies, but be sure they're not too plump
- Tails and facial expressions can give strong clues about the pup's personality and disposition

Before You Bring Your Belgian Malinois Home

It is important to puppy proof your home and be as prepared as possible to provide a safe and secure environment for your new friend. In an effort to prepare for the care of your new best friend you should create a checklist and learn about the special needs of your pet. Make sure that your floors are free of clutter. This includes shoes and electric cords, as puppies like to chew. Use the rule "out of sight, out of mind" when introducing your puppy to his new environment.

Create a list of items that you need for your new pet. You will need the essentials to care for your pet such as a good puppy food, a brush for grooming, toys for playtime, and crates or kennels for containment. Puppy pads and treats or other training products will come in handy, as well. You will also want to have a selection of toys and training items. The reward system is great for teaching your pet important lessons. Some toys double as treat holders so that when playing games with your pet they have a fun way to get to their reward. Your pup will soon discover what you want from him if you use a loving manner to convey your messages.

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It is really important to start your pup with a good health regimen. Keep accurate health and immunization records throughout the life of your pet. This will make it much easier for you to maintain proper health standards for your animal. Be sure to introduce him early to his vet and his grooming process. These are good practices for new owners as well as the pups. Of equal importance is a healthy diet for your pet. It is a good idea to follow your breeder or vet's guidelines for all of your pet's nutrition needs. Puppy food has different nutrients than adult or senior foods. Allergy sensitive animals require special dietary ingredients, as well. Being prepared is the most important aspect of introducing your new family member to his or her new environment. Purchase books about your breed, ask questions of the breeder and your vet, and read about your pet online or at your community library. Pay attention to the details for true success and your new family member will make a quick and happy adjustment to his new home.



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Your Belgian Malinois through the Years

Your Belgian Malinois Puppy

Each stage of your pet's life will be characterized by special needs. Puppies' lives are full of learning experiences. Enjoy the time you spend with your puppy. Use chew toys, or balls to keep your puppy active and know that you can use these toys not only to play but also to train your pet. Puppies learn quickly and can develop bad habits if they are not properly stimulated. Conversely, they can learn good habits if trained lovingly and early on.

Healthy habits are established at this stage of life as well. Vaccinations, dietary standards, and proper grooming regimens are very important for puppies. Your Belgian Malinois should have its own clean bowls for food and water. Sometimes it is helpful to place the bowls on a non-slip surface. There are many decorative bowls and placemats available to make your pets feeding time special for him. Take extra time to get your pup used to regular grooming. Use shampoos, nail clippers, brushes, and toothbrushes to keep your pup shiny and squeaky clean. When you introduce a new grooming device to your puppy it is important to remember to let the pup become acquainted with the item before using it. Remember to put the item away when you are no longer using it or the pup might mistake it for a toy.

Your Belgian Malinois Adult

As your dog begins to age, his needs begin to change. Keep surprises to a minimum by, yep you guessed it, being prepared. Keep your dog active and healthy. Change out his toys often to keep his interest. Sometimes adult dogs develop allergies. If you notice changes in the skin, or fur you may need to change their diet. If your pet develops allergies you will see changes in his coat, skin, eyes or ears. If you suspect your dog has allergies, the best thing to do is take your dog to the vet. There are excellent remedies that will become an important part of your dog's routine.

As your dog ages his nails, paw pads, coat, skin, eyes and ears need special attention. Make grooming a happy time for your dog. You should keep the coat clean and free of dander, fleas, and tangled or matted hair. Also keep nails trimmed, check the pads on their paws frequently for spurs, and keep tooth tartar under control. Keep up with all of your adult pet's needs by



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frequently checking supplies and making sure that you have the most efficient tools handy to keep your dog in good health.

Your Belgian Malinois Senior

When your pet climbs the hill into his senior years his needs will change again. Dietary changes are the most prevalent at this life stage. As your dog ages, so does his digestive system. Make sure your Senior Malinois maintains a proper diet and receives proper nutrients by starting him on a daily vitamin. Keep abreast of the latest trends in dental products. There are many tartar control products on the market today. There are bones, toys, and toothbrushes essential to older dogs' health and happiness. You may want to provide a more appropriate sleeping and lounging area for your pet, or an orthopedic dog bed. Maintaining a regular exercise routine and proper diet may help ward off aching hips and elbows. Just remember that dog's age in some of the same ways that humans do. You can help them manage aches and pains with the proper pet healthcare aids, knowledge, and care.

Senior pets have many changes in disposition and could easily be stressed by active young children. They may show signs of irritability when eating or when encouraged to do something they would rather not do. Belgian Malinois are genuinely lovable animals, but grumpy seniors have a way of making sure that you are aware when they are unhappy. It is important to know that senior animals tend to do things their own way and in their own time. Care for your senior in a loving, gentle manner mixed with a little patience and understanding.

Most importantly, remember to cherish the special moments with your pet and keep them close to your heart. Display pictures of your dog around your home or office. Develop family traditions that include your pet; some families even hold birthday parties, specifically for their Malinois.

Belgian Malinois Medical Considerations

This hardy, healthy breed has no major health concerns. Some minor concerns that have been seen are skin allergies, eye problems, excessive shyness, excessive aggressiveness and occasionally seen hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia. As with any breed, if you notice significant changes in your pet's eating habits or general movement, a call to your vet may be merited.



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