



All About the **German Shepherd**

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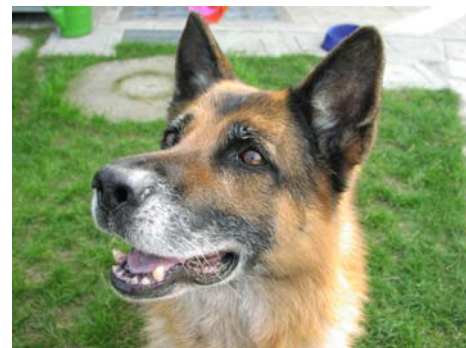


The German Shepherd

About the German Shepherd

German shepherds make great companions. They are known best for their intelligence, versatility and loyalty. The German Shepherd is a popular breed for many reasons. One is that these dogs are widely used as guides for the blind, in search and rescue operations in law enforcement and in herding.

Average Weight	55-80 Lbs	Temperament	Gentle, playful, affectionate, and loyal.
Average Height	20-24 inches	Good with Children?	Yes. Protective and gentle with children.
Coat	Shiny double coat with dense undercoat	Health Concerns	Hip dysplasia, cataracts, heart disease, and prone to allergies and ear infections.



- [Toys for Your Shepherd](#)
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German Shepherd Characteristics

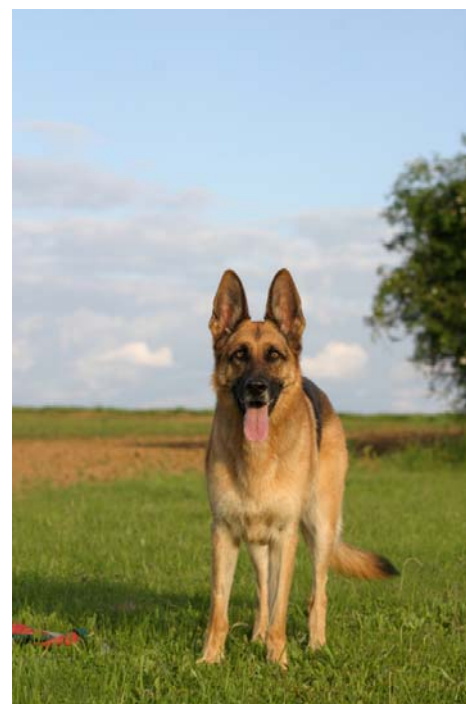
German shepherds are happy, loving, loyal and obedient. German shepherds are one of the most popular breeds in the United States, according to AKC rankings. Their beautiful coats are made up of varying shades of gold and beautiful brown. They tend to be lighter in color as pups and turn a richer shades as they age. This very active breed requires a medium-sized yard for play or frequent trips outside if kept in an apartment. They are frequently used as service dogs, hunters and trackers. They excel in agility training and can be easily trained to perform tricks. This is a reliable and trustworthy breed that tends to have a life expectancy that is well suited for a family pet. Proper diet, exercise, grooming, and proper veterinary attention will benefit you and your German shepherd.

Selecting Your German Shepherd Puppy

Making the decision to either adopt or purchase your puppy from a breeder is a matter of personal choice. Both options are discussed here, along with some positives and negatives for both.

A Few Words About Adoption

Every year, thousands of animals are either captured or turned in by their owners to be adopted. These pets can make wonderful companions and desire a loving home to call their own. When considering adoption, you should chose an animal shelter or rescue in your nearby community that you trust and one that has a long-standing reputation for providing exceptional care to the animals. Shelters that have an on-site vet clinic are a plus. Many facilities will require the pet to be spayed or neutered before the adoption is complete. This fee will be included in the adoption costs.



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A Few Words About Breeders

Perhaps you prefer a German Shepherd 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 German Shepherds 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 a 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 home. Make sure the breeder's 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 adopting or purchasing from a breeder is viable based on your own knowledge, expectations, and personal conviction. The most important thing to remember when choosing your pet is to select the pet right for you. Pet ownership is a big responsibility. Select a pet that fits your lifestyle.



How to Choose your German Shepherd

Choosing a new puppy can be one of the most exciting events in your family. It is important that you have done your homework up front and know what kind of dog you are looking for. Some things to look for when selecting your new pup are:

- No major skin conditions; clean, healthy coat
- Clean and clear eyes
- Coughing or difficult breathing (signs of respiratory infections)
- Paw pads soft and no deep cracking or infections
- Limping, little or no movement (signs of injury or birth defects)
- Proper weight/size

Bringing Your German Shepherd 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.

It's also a good idea to pick up a book on your puppy, so that you can further understand the breed and what sort of things to expect as they grow. Once your puppy comes home, you will want to make an appointment with your vet, if you have one already, or chose one based on a recommendation or by locale. If you have purchased your puppy from a breeder or animal shelter, they have most likely had their first set of shots. Regular visits to the vet will ensure your pet has a happy and healthy life. Your vet will also be able to address any concerns, behavior issues, or other questions that you might have.

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

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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 German Shepherd puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Shepherd and choose a crate based on those specifications. The average size of an adult German Shepherd is 70 lbs and 22 inches tall. Choose a sturdy steel or plastic crate for large sized breeds such as the German Shepherd.

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

The German Shepherd Pup

Each stage of your pet's life is 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.

The German Shepherd Adult

With your Shepherd being well established now, he has become the king of his kingdom. Even though he is not considered a puppy anymore, there are still several times throughout the day where his behavior states otherwise. The adult Shepherd still requires much playtime and enjoys getting out for frequent walks through the park. You need to pay special attention to your Shepherd's weight and adjust the diet as necessary. Regular check-ups at the vet are a must, watching for good dental hygiene and up-to-date shots.

The German Shepherd Senior

As your German Shepherd becomes even older, he may become more content watching you run around and do the fetching; however, there is still playfulness on his mind. Like many dogs at an older age, there is a need to be more attentive to their behaviors, especially around young children. Older pets can become more irritable, especially when napping or eating. While German Shepherds overall are known to have very good temperaments, you should remember that all pets have their own individual personalities, and everyone can have a bad day. Hip and elbow dysplasia are common in this active breed, therefore maintaining a regular exercise routine and proper diet may help ward off aching hips and elbows. Just remember that dogs age in some of the same ways that humans do. You can help them manage aches and pains with the proper pet health care aids, knowledge, and care.

German Shepherds are a wonderful breed with a lively personality, and an almost human-like sensitivity. With their love for children and overall charm, they are a great addition to almost any family.

Medical Considerations

German Shepherds have an overall good health record. Regular exercise is important, especially since German Shepherds are prone to hip dysplasia. Exercise will keep your Shepherd's hips and legs healthy. Shepherds can also be prone to heart disease, cataracts, and have a tendency to develop allergies and have ear infections. However, with regular visits to your veterinarian, these conditions can be identified and treated early on.



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Items to suit your senior German Shepherd:

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