



101 DOGS

*An Illustrated
Compendium of Canines*



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*Romy Blümel
Nicola Jane Swinney*

Pekingese



This is a little dog with a lot of personality. Pekingese — as they're known — were bred in ancient China for royalty, and they have never forgotten this! Behind those melting brown eyes and long silky hair is a strong and sometimes stubborn personality; the Pekingese likes to get its own way. It is also brave — and doesn't seem to realise how small it is, squaring up to much bigger dogs in your defence. But Pekingese are jolly little dogs who are affectionate and loyal, and ideally suited to apartment living.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 15-23cm at the shoulder | Trainability Good, but watch for that stubborn streak | Exercise Required Very little | Grooming Lots of hair! | Most likely to say Peel me a grape | Least likely to say I'd love a seven-mile walk

Basenji

Tibetan Mastiff

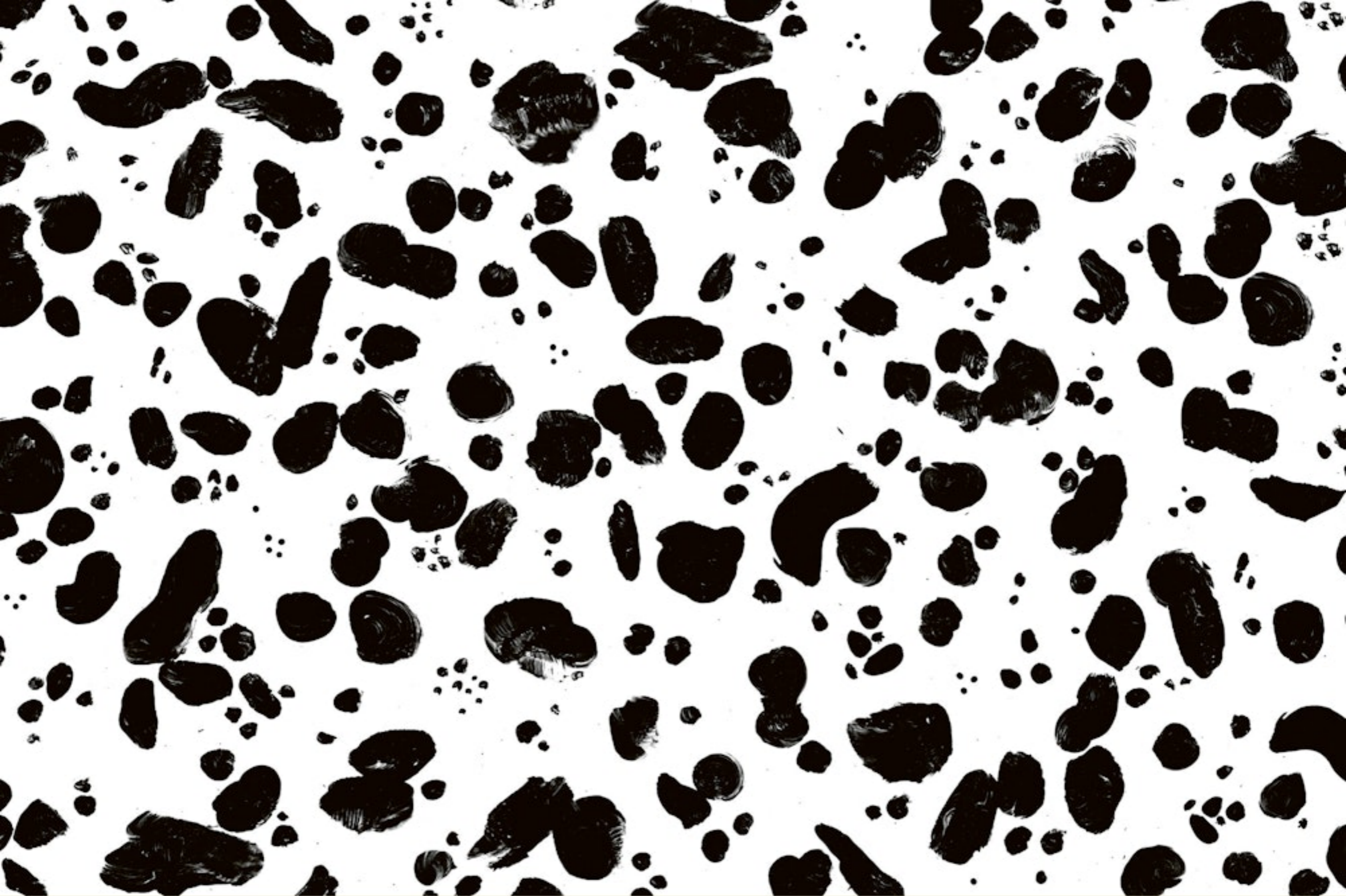


In its native Africa, the Basenji is known as ‘the dog that doesn’t bark’. While many dogs are often said to be ‘eager to please’, that just doesn’t apply to this one. It is lively, inquisitive and playful, but it does have a stubborn streak. The Basenji will easily learn what you want to teach it, but whether it will obey your commands depends entirely on its mood. That inquiring mind can be a problem, too, as anything you leave lying around is likely to be investigated by your Basenji – usually by means of chewing! All that said, the Basenji makes a lovely pet as it adores people and playtime.

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 40–43cm | Trainability Intelligent, but may not obey! | Grooming Little needed | Exercise Plenty of stimulation | Most likely to say I wonder what those shoes would taste like... | Least likely to say Your wish is my command

It may look like a giant teddy bear but this mighty mastiff is not the dog for everyone. While it has a gentle and loving nature, its sheer size can be a bit off-putting, and it is strong-willed. The Tibetan Mastiff sees itself as an equal, rather than a pet, and can be very stubborn. It is thought these amazing dogs lived in Tibet thousands of years ago and were used as guards (not many people would stand up to a 64kg dog!) for monks, known as ‘lamas’. This is where they developed their thick coat to cope with the harsh climate.

Life Expectancy 10–14 years | Height Up to 66cm | Trainability Clever but stubborn | Grooming Needs brushing but doesn’t shed much | Exercise Regular walks | Most likely to say I will let no one past | Least likely to say Can I sit on your lap?



Tibetan Spaniel



This little dog likes to climb! Almost cat-like, it will try to find the highest perch from which it can watch over everyone and everything. Resembling a small lion (a powerful symbol in Tibet), it was highly prized as a watchdog. This watchful quality has been bred into the Tibetan Spaniel for thousands of years and it takes its role very seriously – don't even think about farting and blaming it on someone else in its presence! But don't expect your dog to be happy on its own. Tibetan Spaniels like company and get bored quickly – left to themselves they are likely to bark.

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 25cm | Trainability Learns quickly if it wants to | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise An occasional walk | Most likely to say I bet I can get up there | Least likely to say No, I'm fine, you go off and leave me all alone...

Afghan Hound



With its slender, exotic face, long silky hair and lithe body, the Afghan Hound is surely the supermodel of the dog world. And as well as being one of the most beautiful breeds in the world, the Afghan is possibly the oldest. It comes from Afghanistan, where it was known as the Tazi, and was used to hunt dangerous animals, such as leopards. It was not only brave, but also extremely fast, capable of running at speed for many kilometres. Its independent nature means it does like attention, but on its own terms.

Life Expectancy 10–12 Years | Height 60–66cm | Trainability That independent mind can be challenging | Grooming Lots of brushing | Exercise It needs plenty of room to move | Most likely to say Look how beautiful I am! | Least likely to say Give me a cuddle

For Tricia Johnson, who has rescued
many abandoned dogs and
filled their lives with love
- N.J.S.

To Lenny & Benno
- R.B.

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101 DOGS



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B P P

Lhasa Apso



Also from ancient Tibet, the Lhasa Apso was once a watchdog, guarding palaces and monasteries. It therefore has a very protective nature. It has been said that when a Lhasa Apso looks in the mirror, it sees a lion! But alongside this loyal and watchful nature is an affectionate little dog that loves to play. One of the most delightful things about this breed is that it stays puppyish until it's about three years old. But be warned – the Lhasa Apso does like to do its own thing and may not be as easy to train as you'd like. It's not a breed for those who lack patience.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 22-28cm | Trainability This little dog has its own opinions | Grooming Lots of brushing | Exercise Plenty of play | Most likely to say I need to check that out! | Least likely to say Of course, I will do as you say

Siberian Husky



It's clear that pet dogs are related to wolves when looking at this handsome breed, which often howls instead of barks! The most striking features of the Siberian Husky are its bright blue eyes and 'face mask' – markings that frame the eyes and muzzle, and change as the breed gets older. Selectively bred by the Chukchi – a Siberian travelling tribe – the Siberian Husky was trained to pull sleds for long distances across snow. It is therefore obedient, but has a lot of energy. It's well-known as being an escape artist if its physical needs are not met, so it needs a well-fenced garden.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 50-58cm | Trainability It's smart, but doesn't always want what you want | Grooming Regular brushing | Exercise Lots! | Most likely to say What's on the other side of that wall? | Least likely to say I don't want a walk, thanks

Contents

IX About this Book	13. Greyhound	32. Cavalier King	50. Lagotto Romagnolo
X From Wolf to Weimaraner	14. Saluki	Charles Spaniel	51. Great Dane
XII Groups	15. Alaskan Malamute	33. Caneaan	52. Beagle
XIV Doggy Details	16. Shih Tzu	34. Papillon	53. Maremma Sheepdog
XV Characteristics	17. Chow Chow	35. Norwegian Elkhound	54. Bichon Frise
XVIII Designer Dogs	18. Xoloitzcuintli	36. Swedish Vallhund	55. Vizsla
	19. Samoyed	37. Canadian Eskimo Dog	56. Poodle
1. Pekingese	20. Pug	38. Basset Hound	57. Saint Bernard
2. Basenji	21. Pyrenean Mountain Dog	39. Bernese Mountain Dog	58. Bedlington Terrier
3. Tibetan Mastiff	22. Pomeranian	40. Schnauzer	59. Briard
4. Tibetan Spaniel	23. Mastiff	41. Foxhound	60. Bracco Italiano
5. Afghan Hound	24. Chihuahua	42. Corgi	61. Irish Wolfhound
6. Lhasa Apso	25. Neapolitan Mastiff	43. Bloodhound	62. German Pinscher
7. Siberian Husky	26. Maltese	44. Ibizan Hound	63. Old English Sheepdog
8. Japanese Chin	27. Borzoi	45. Newfoundland	64. Havanese
9. Akita	28. Chinese Crested	46. Dachshund	65. Komondor
10. Shiba Inu	29. Keeshond	47. Puli	66. Collie
11. Pharaoh Hound	30. Yorkshire Terrier	48. Schipperke	67. Boxer
12. Shar-Pei	31. English Bulldog	49. Dalmatian	68. West Highland Terrier

Japanese Chin



In Japan, the Chin was regarded not as a dog (*inu*) but as a separate being (*chin*), bred to have a higher status among dogs and ideal for noble companionship. Modern Chins make charming pets as they are loving and playful, and are one of the most cat-like breeds. They like to climb, and often clean their face with their paws. Looking at their lovely, long fluffy coat, you might think this pretty little creature needs lots of brushing. Not so – the Chin is a ‘wash and go’ kind of dog, only needing a weekly tidy up.

Life Expectancy 10–14 Years | Height 20–25cm | Trainability Intelligent but it gets bored easily | Grooming The occasional brush and an ear trim | Exercise Very little | Most likely to say Shall we have a cuddle? | Least likely to say I want to be alone

Akita



A strong and sturdy dog, the Akita once guarded Japanese royalty. It is fiercely loyal and, for such an imposing breed, very loving. One Akita famously waited for his owner at the train station every day for nine years after he had died. One thing that can be startling is its habit of holding things in its mouth – including your wrist! It isn’t going to bite you, it simply wants to take you to where it wants you to go: often to its lead to go for a walk or to its bowl because it wants feeding. The Akita doesn’t often bark but it does make a lot of cute noises. Some owners say their dog mutters under its breath!

Life Expectancy 10–12 Years | Height 60–70cm | Trainability Intelligent but wilful | Grooming It sheds a lot | Exercise Lots of long and interesting walks | Most likely to say Come and see this! | Least likely to say I’m not at all interested in whatever you’re doing

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 69. Irish Setter | 88. Dandie Dinmont Terrier |
| 70. English Bull Terrier | 89. English Setter |
| 71. American Cocker Spaniel | 90. English Springer |
| 72. Boston Terrier | 91. Staffordshire |
| 73. English Cocker Spaniel | Bull Terrier |
| 74. Affenpinscher | 92. Kerry Blue Terrier |
| 75. Spinone Italiano | 93. Rottweiler |
| 76. Hamiltonstövare | 94. Border Terrier |
| 77. Leonberger | 95. Large Münsterländer |
| 78. Pumi | 96. Fox Terrier |
| 79. German Shepherd | 97. Golden Retriever |
| 80. Jack Russell Terrier | 98. French Bulldog |
| 81. Border Collie | 99. Barbet |
| 82. Dobermann | 100. Coton De Tuléar |
| 83. Black Russian Terrier | 101. Rhodesian Ridgeback |
| 84. Sealyham Terrier | |
| 85. Labrador Retriever | 102. Index |
| 86. Kooikerhondje | 104. About the Author |
| 87. Weimaraner | 105. About the Illustrator |

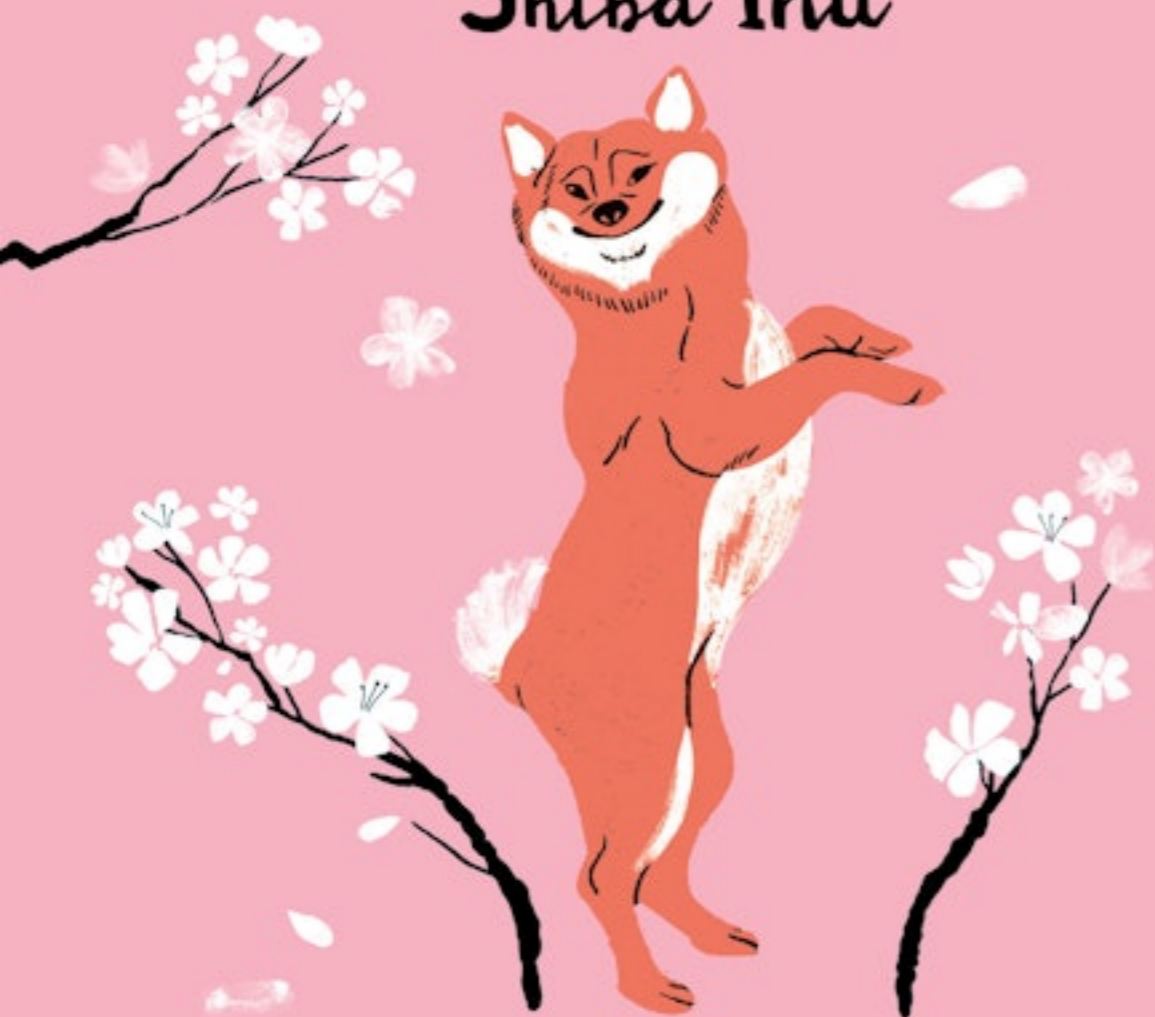
About this Book

There are about 350 breeds of dog in the world, so this book does not cover all of them. Instead, we have picked out the best-known breeds, with a little bit of the exotic thrown in, and have chosen to celebrate their differences. So you will find a Shar-pei – with its extraordinary folds of skin – next to the sleek Greyhound, and the fabulously named Xoloitzcuintli (how *do* you pronounce that?) next to the flufftastic Samoyed.

We should point out that the illustrations of the breeds are also not to scale. All measurements have been taken at the shoulder.



Shiba Inu



The smallest of six dog breeds native to Japan, the Shiba Inu greets the world with quiet dignity. But it's like a little ninja warrior, moving quickly and nimbly. The Japanese have three words to describe this breed, *kani-i* (spirited boldness), *ryosei* (good nature) and *soboku* (alertness). It also tends to be possessive – like a moody toddler, the Shiba Inu doesn't like to share and if it could speak, its first word would be 'mine'. It's also a natural hunter, so if you let it off the lead while out on a walk, it will probably disappear in the direction of the nearest squirrel.

Life Expectancy 12–16 Years | Height 33–43cm | Trainability It has a stubborn streak | Grooming Very little | Exercise It needs a good daily workout | Most likely to say Paws off, that's mine! | Least likely to say Of course, I'm happy to share

Pharaoh Hound



This elegant hound was developed to hunt gazelle with pharaohs in ancient Egypt, more than 4,000 years ago. Despite its noble past, the Pharaoh loves people and simply loves life. It's a natural clown – you can even teach a Pharaoh to smile! And it's possibly the only breed that can blush – when it's happy or excited, its nose and ears will turn a deeper shade of pink. But as a hunting hound, it has a strong prey drive and is likely to chase anything it sees, so keep it on the lead at all times.

Life Expectancy 11–12 Years | Height 53–66cm | Trainability Easy | Grooming Very little | Exercise At least 30 minutes a day | Most likely to say Watch this! | Least likely to say I don't want to play, thank you

From Wolf to Weimaraner

There is no other creature on Earth that will love you more than it loves itself. Anyone who has ever owned a dog will know this to be true – your dog will be delighted to see you, whether you've been away for five minutes or five months. Just got up? Can't be bothered to shower? Whatever you do, whatever you look like (or smell like) your dog will be happy with you exactly as you are.

We don't know when exactly humans first tamed the wolf – the ancestor of all today's dog breeds – but we do know that our desires shaped those breeds into what we needed. Fisher dogs of the Canada coast, which helped their masters by hauling in nets and leaping into the sea to grab the escaping catch, developed thick, waterproof coats, strong rudder-like tails and even webbed toes to make their job easier. Sledge dogs of the wild north, which used to pull sleds across miles of snow, grew a double-layered coat for extra warmth and were muscular enough to pull heavy loads.

Many of the breeds that have been shaped over centuries no longer do the job for which they were once required. But that doesn't mean all our dogs are pampered pets. So many have become vital to us in our daily lives that life without them would be unthinkable. Guard dogs, police dogs, sniffer dogs, rescue dogs, guide dogs for blind people and hearing dogs for deaf people, gundogs, hunting hounds, sheep-herders, terriers and more.

Today's pure-bred dogs are still in demand, whether an enchanting Bichon Frise, a faithful Golden Retriever, or a glamorous Afghan Hound. They come in all shapes and sizes too, from the tiny Chihuahua to the mighty Tibetan Mastiff, which is not only the biggest dog in the world but is also the most expensive, with one selling for more than £1 million in 2014. It's a lot of money, but that enduring, unconditional love all dogs give? That's priceless.



Shar-Pei



This extraordinary breed looks like it needs ironing! Those deep wrinkles serve a purpose, though. The Shar-Pei (whose name translates as 'sand skin') was sometimes called the Chinese fighting dog, and any attacker would have a tough job biting through those loose, thick folds and tough pelt. They were also known as 'tomb dogs', as statues that looked like the Shar-Pei were found in 2,000-year-old tombs. But don't let all that put you off – though it may look like it's permanently frowning at you, the Shar-Pei is intelligent, and makes a loyal and devoted pet.

Life Expectancy 10–12 Years | Height 46–51cm | Trainability Easy | Grooming Very little | Exercise Adaptable – will enjoy long walks but doesn't mind loafing around | Most likely to say I will protect you | Least likely to say (to strangers) Sure, come on in...

Greyhound



This sleek and elegant creature is known as the Ferrari of the dog world. And this is no idle boast; the Greyhound can run at speeds of more than 70 kilometres per hour. Greyhounds were treasured by Cleopatra as well as Britain's great monarch, Elizabeth I. Their love of this breed led to greyhound racing being dubbed the 'sport of queens'. From that title, you might think the breed needs masses of exercise, but the Greyhound is surprisingly laid-back. It is a sprinter, not a long-distance runner, so a daily walk is enough. It will, however, want plenty of belly rubs!

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 63–76cm | Trainability It wants to please you! | Grooming Very little | Exercise A daily walk is plenty | Most likely to say Please rub my belly | Least likely to say Let's go on an eleven-kilometre hike!

Groups

Dog breeds have existed since the early 20th century, when groups of dog owners got together to purposefully breed dogs with special characteristics, or to perform certain jobs, such as hunting or herding. Kennel clubs and registries today work together to create 'breed standards' of the perfect specimen. Below are the seven main groups:

Working Dogs

These strong, intelligent breeds were developed to assist with manual labour – including pulling sleds or carts, guarding and protecting.



Terriers

Feisty, strong-hearted and short-legged, terriers were first bred to go underground to flush out rodents or small animals.



Gun Dogs

This group was bred to track game (both on land and in water), and includes retrievers, pointers, setters and spaniels. They are known for their companionable traits and good natures.



Toy Dogs

Bred to be the perfect companions, and not for working purposes, these little dogs are attentive and sensitive.



Pastoral Dogs

These dog 'shepherds' were bred to herd and protect livestock. They are known for their lively and obedient personalities.



Hounds

Bred for both exceptional sight and hearing, hounds are natural explorers and hunters, and are highly independent.



Utility Dogs

This diverse group of dogs are tricky to categorise – but the trait that binds them together is that they have not been bred for sporting purposes. Most utility dogs were bred to be useful to humans.



Saluki



Prized by the travelling people of the Middle East, this exotic breed is thought to take its name from the Arabian city of Saluk. To the sheikhs, it was a noble dog indeed and they kept precise records of breeding and hunting prowess. They hunted hare, fox and gazelle from horseback, so their hounds had to be fleet of foot. There were once two different types of Saluki – desert and mountain – but the two have merged into the modern breed. It has, however, retained its beauty and some of its speed, so be prepared to do a lot of jogging...

Life Expectancy 12-14 Years | Height 58-71cm | Trainability Intelligent but opinionated | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Daily runs | Most likely to say Make sure you get my best side | Least likely to say It's okay, I'll sleep on the floor

Alaskan Malamute

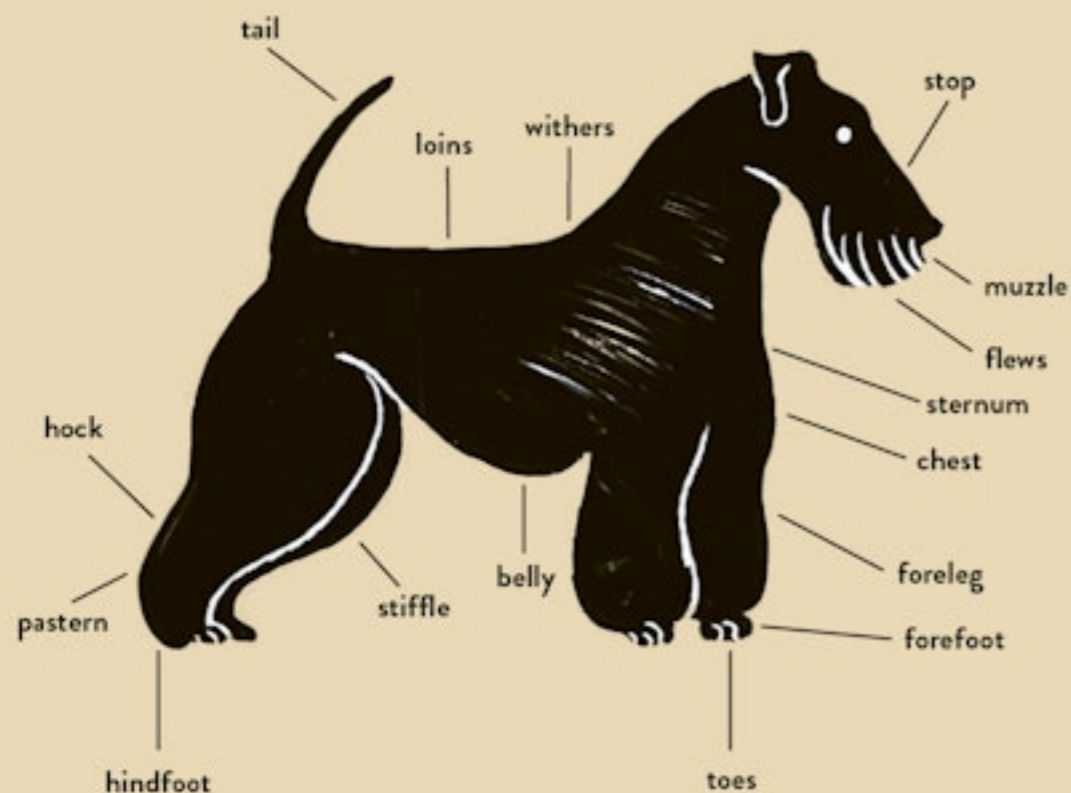


This impressive breed is one of the oldest in the world and has changed very little, still resembling its wolf ancestors. It was used by the Mahlemut people to pull sleds and hunt seals. It is a strong and imposing animal, but it isn't much use as a watchdog – Malamutes regard everyone they meet as friends. They rarely bark, but make a charming 'woo-woo' noise. They're intelligent too, which means they can easily get bored... and a bored Malamute is trouble in waiting. They love to dig holes in the garden, or sniff across the kitchen counters for something tasty, so keep them busy!

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 53-64cm | Trainability Easy, but can get bored | Grooming Needed every day | Exercise Lots! This is an energetic breed | Most likely to say This looks like a good spot to dig! | Least likely to say (to anyone) You shall not pass

Doggy Details

All dog breeds share the same basic make-up, which they inherited from their wolf ancestors.



XIV

Characteristics

Today, there are an estimated 350 recognised dog breeds, ranging from dinky Dachshunds to shaggy Sheepdogs. There are a seemingly endless amount of physical characteristics that make up the perfect pooch, but listed below are some of the most common ones.

Head

Broadly speaking there are three types of head shape:



dolichocephalic
(long and narrow)



brachycephalic
(short and broad-based)



mesaticephalic
(medium proportions)

XV

Shih Tzu



Have you ever seen anything more adorable? The Shih Tzu's origins are thought to be in Tibet, but it's considered a Chinese breed. Its name means 'little lion' but the Shih Tzu is a lover, not a fighter – sweet-natured and affectionate it will happily follow you from room to room. To sum up its personality, it was once described as 'a dash of lion, several teaspoons of rabbit, a couple of ounces of domestic cat, one part court jester, a dash of ballerina, a pinch of old man, a bit of beggar, a tablespoon of monkey, one part baby seal, and a dash of teddy bear'.

Life Expectancy 12-18 Years | Height 23-26cm | Trainability Intelligent but can be tricky to house-train | Grooming A good daily brush | Exercise Very little | Most likely to say I love you! | Least likely to say I am not in the least bit interested in what you're doing

Chow Chow



It may look like a teddy bear but you'd have to be brave to cuddle a Chow Chow. It was once a pet for Chinese emperors and has retained its regal bearing. Aside from its impressive coat, the Chow Chow's unique feature is its blue-black tongue – according to Chinese legend, a Chow licked up a few drops of the colour of the sky when it was being painted at the time of the world's creation. One of its earlier names was *hei shi-tou*, meaning 'black-tongue dog', but when British merchants brought some of the dogs home in the 18th century, they were regarded as 'chow chow', a term used for odds and ends.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 43-50cm | Trainability You will need to be patient | Grooming Brushing needed several times a week | Exercise Daily walks | Most likely to say I was royal once | Least likely to say Come and give me a cuddle

Ears

Dog ears are one of the most endearing and expressive characteristics. There are three main types and a variety of shapes.



erect



drop



semi-erect

XVI

Coats

The range of coat colours, textures, lengths and patterns is huge, and includes hairless, short, long, curly, corded and fluffy.



hairless



curly



long-haired

XVII

Xoloitzcuintli



Let's get that bizarre-looking name out of the way first. It is pronounced 'sho-lo-eats-queent-lee' – or just 'sho-lo' or Xolo, for short. That's the first extraordinary thing about this ancient breed – its appearance is the next. The Xolo used to be known as the Mexican Hairless, which is rather more descriptive. The official name comes from Xolotl, the Aztec god of deformities. The Xolo's lack of hair counts as a 'deformity', though some Xolos do have hair. For those that don't, that sturdy body always feels warm, but you should probably buy a cute coat for when your dog goes outside.

Life Expectancy 14–18 Years | Height 46–58cm | Trainability Loves to learn | Grooming Wipe its skin daily with a damp cloth | Exercise Daily walks on the leash | Most likely to say I'm a little chilly | Least likely to say I've just washed my hair and can't do a thing with it!

Samoyed



If you're not instantly bowled over by that gorgeous, fluffy coat, then you will certainly fall in love with the infamous 'Sammy smile'! The Samoyed comes from Siberia, where it was used by nomadic people to hunt, herd and pull sleds across the snow. It even has ready-made snow shoes – thick hair between the pads – so it doesn't get snowballs building up on its feet. Its coat, which is usually pure white, has a double layer to keep it warm in the harshest weather. The Samoyed's travelling owners weren't silly – they slept with their dogs to keep them cosy at night.

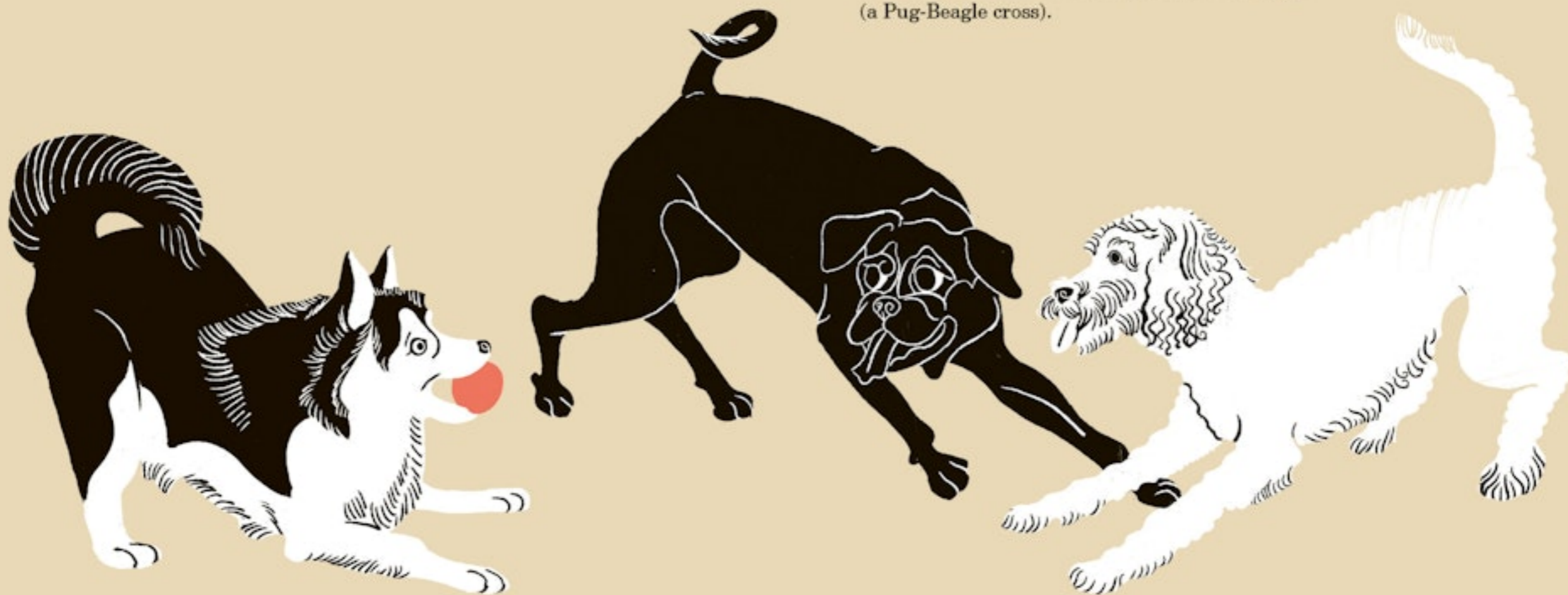
Life Expectancy 12–14 Years | Height 48–60cm | Trainability You need a firm hand | Grooming Daily brushing needed | Exercise Samoyeds get bored easily, so need lots of exercise | Most likely to say Let's go and play in the snow! | Least likely to say I'm too cold

Designer Dogs

Our dog breeds have been shaped over the decades by our desires – for shepherding, guarding, hunting, tracking and retrieving. Yet in recent years we have deliberately diluted those breeds by crossing them. While we tend to think of dogs of mixed breeding as mongrels, which are worth less than pure ‘pedigree’ dogs, these crossbreeds have become very popular and are much loved.

The first notable mixed breed was probably the Labradoodle – a mix of Labrador and Standard Poodle, blending the willing and obedient Lab with the intelligent and sturdy Poodle, making a biddable, friendly pet that doesn’t have some of the health issues that plague Labs.

Other fashionable crosses include the Maltipoo (a Maltese terrier-Poodle cross); Cockapoo (a Cocker spaniel-Poodle cross); Sprocker (a Springer-Cocker spaniel cross); Goldendoodle (a Golden Retriever-Poodle cross); Springador (a Springer spaniel-Labrador cross); Pomsky (a Pomeranian-Husky cross) and Puggle (a Pug-Beagle cross).



XVIII

XIX

Pug



It might not win many beauty competitions but there is something endearing about the Pug's squashed face and large, slightly bulging, round eyes. Its origins date back to China, where flat-faced dogs were popular. Pugs were bred to be companions, and are sweet-tempered and affectionate, but for a little dog it has a lot of personality. Though it is loving it also has a wilful streak, which can make training a challenge, but pug devotees say that's part of their charm. The Latin phrase '*multum in parvo*' sums up the Pug perfectly – 'a lot of dog in a small frame'.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 25-35cm | Trainability Intelligent but challenging | Grooming The occasional brush | Exercise A daily walk | Most likely to say Come on, let's snuggle on the sofa | Least likely to say I'll do anything you like

Pyrenean Mountain Dog



This beautiful breed takes its name from the Pyrenees mountains, which form a natural border between France and Spain. These dogs have been in the region for thousands of years, and were used to guard and herd flocks of sheep and goats. They were also used to smuggle forbidden goods from one side of the Pyrenees to the other, using narrow paths that were inaccessible to humans and avoided checkpoints. In 1645, King Louis XIV named it the Royal Dog of France. Calm and even-tempered, today Pyrenean Mountain Dogs make wonderful pets. And yours will happily lay down its life for you.

Life Expectancy 10-12 years | Height 64-81cm | Trainability Intelligent but independent | Grooming Needs regular brushing | Exercise Lots – this is an energetic dog | Most likely to say Would you like me to round up the children? | Least likely to say No, I don't want to play

Pomeranian



With its foxy little face and fluffy coat, the Pomeranian – known to its devotees as the Pom – is a lively character, with charm and personality in equal parts. The Pom is an extrovert and loves meeting new people. The trouble is, it doesn't know it's a little dog: in its head, it's huge! This can be a problem, because it won't think twice about squaring up to a much bigger dog. But it is undeniably cute, with a pointy muzzle, large eyes that sparkle with intelligence and a proud bearing – see how it trots along with its tail held high over its back.

Life Expectancy 12–16 Years | Height 18–30cm | Trainability Lots of patience needed | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise Surprisingly active, it loves daily walks | Most likely to say (to bigger dogs) Come and have a go if you think you're hard enough!

Mastiff



The direct ancestor of this impressive dog was called the Molossus and lived some 5,000 years ago, which means the Mastiff is one of our most ancient breeds. Mastiffs were around in England when the Romans invaded in 55BCE, and they beat the invaders' dogs easily in fights. That's what the Mastiff was famed for – fighting, as well as bull- and bear-baiting – but it was also used as a guard dog and hunter. Its name comes from the Latin word *mansuetus*, meaning 'tame', and the modern breed, despite its size, is gentle and quiet. The only drawback is drool – and lots of it!

Life Expectancy 6–10 years | Height 69–81cm | Trainability Give it lots of praise and it will do what you want | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Two walks daily | Most likely to say Can I sit on your lap? | Least likely to say Off you go, I'll be fine

Maltese

Borzoi



That pure white coat is extremely glamorous, but the Maltese is much more than a cloud of silky hair. Although it's a little dog, it has plenty of personality and is very much a 'people person'. The Maltese was kept as a companion dog and it loves human company – so much so that it can get quite anxious if separated from its owner. It is intelligent and quick to learn, but can be destructive if bored or left alone. If you want a dog that wants to be with you all the time, pick a Maltese.

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 20–25cm | Trainability This dog is a quick learner | Grooming Regular brushing | Exercise Play and short walks | Most likely to say Take me with you! | Least likely to say I don't miss you at all

The word *borzoi* means 'swift' in Russian, the breed's home country, where this elegant hound was used to hunt rabbits, foxes and wolves, usually working in teams. It is a sprinter rather than a marathon runner, but its instinct to chase anything – and we mean *anything* – that runs, can be a problem if you let it off the lead in the park. Its beautiful silky coat doesn't shed much and it has a naturally sweet manner, so makes a lovely family pet. But despite its hunting heritage, the Borzoi is a couch potato.

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 66–81cm | Trainability Easy | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Less than you might think | Most likely to say I see a rabbit! | Least likely to say I have no intention whatsoever of chasing that rabbit

Chinese Crested



This is the stalker of the canine world. Once a Chinese Crested dog falls in love with you, it's yours for life. It's thought that these little dogs first came from Africa or South America, but in China it was bred to be a small companion dog. There are two kinds: the hairless, with silky hair on the head (the crest), tail (plume) and feet (socks); and the powderpuff, which has a full coat. Both types can be found in the same litter. Its comical appearance is rather endearing and it has a charming character, but it's not a good pet if you are going to be out a lot.

Life Expectancy 10-14 Years | Height 28-33cm | Trainability Can be stubborn | Grooming The clue's in the name! Though its skin needs wiping | Exercise Very little | Most likely to say Can I come? | Least likely to say Let's go and meet lots of new people

Keeshond



From the Netherlands, this breed is also known as the Dutch Barge Dog because it once acted as a guard on boats going up and down the many canals and rivers of this lowland country. Though it will certainly bark to let you know someone is approaching, the Keeshond just loves people, so it's unlikely to stop an intruder – it's more a friend than an enemy. You will be able to tell when your Keeshond is happy because it will spin in excited circles, working up quite a head of steam! Left to its own devices, though, it can become a nuisance barker.

Life Expectancy 12-15 years | Height 41-48cm | Trainability Smart and a quick learner | Grooming Twice-weekly brushing, and shedding a couple of times a year | Exercise A good walk a day | Most likely to say Come and say hello! | Least likely to say I will bite you

Yorkshire Terrier



The Yorkie, as it is affectionately known, is one of the smallest breeds, but also one of the most popular. Its long, silky coat, set off by a jaunty topknot tied with a bow on its head, is its crowning glory, in rich tan toned with steel grey. It has a feisty personality and, like most terriers, is an efficient ratter – no rodent is safe! But it makes a loving and charming companion, well suited to apartment living, and can be carried around with you wherever you go. Like most terriers, it doesn't like to be left alone or left out.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 20-23cm | Trainability Can be tricky | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise A walk or play session once a day | Most likely to say What are we doing today? | Least likely to say Of course I won't chase that squirrel

English Bulldog

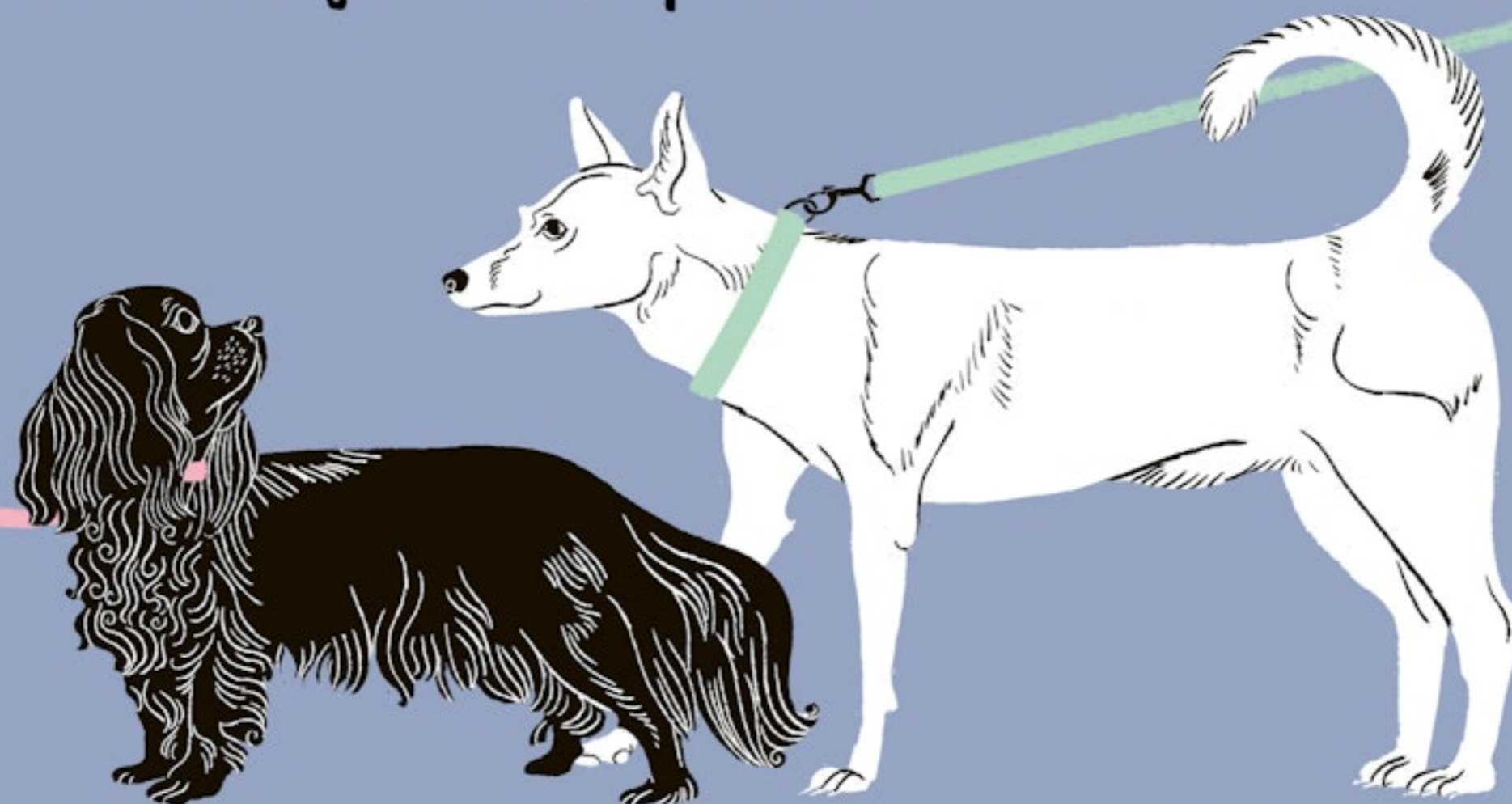


If a dog could illustrate the meaning of the word 'pugilistic', it would be the English Bulldog. It is one of the most instantly recognisable breeds of dog, with a massive head, flat face, bulging eyes, huge chest and shoulders, and narrow hips. Its forehead is wide and it has an undershot jaw, so its bottom teeth are visible when its mouth is closed. It could never be called beautiful but it has dignity, and its sweet temper belies its ferocious appearance. Despite the breed once being used in a sport called bull-baiting, it likes nothing more than to snuggle with you.

Life Expectancy 8-12 years | Height 30-38cm | Trainability Can be slow to learn | Grooming An occasional brush | Exercise Daily walk to maintain weight | Most likely to say Shall we spend the day in bed? | Least likely to say Do you want a fight?

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Canaan



The Cavalier has got the 'puppy-dog eyes' expression down to a fine art – it's almost impossible to shout at it in anger, even when it has chewed your favourite slippers. Kings and queens going back to the 16th century have favoured these adorable little dogs; one was even said to have been found hiding in the skirts of Mary, Queen of Scots, after she was beheaded. They were especially popular with Charles I and his son Charles II, hence the name. Spaniels were traditionally used to flush game to the gun but the Cavalier makes a loving and gentle pet.

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 30–33cm | Trainability Intelligent and eager to learn | Grooming Brushing three or four times a week | Exercise Daily walks and lots of play | Most likely to say I didn't mean to | Least likely to say I won't do it again

Dogs mentioned in the Bible were the forerunners to the modern Canaan. They were used to herd and guard flocks of sheep. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in the year 70CE, and the Israelites were forced to flee, their dogs were abandoned. They took refuge in the Negev, a rocky desert that spreads across Israel and Palestine. The ancestors of those dogs were re-domesticated around 1935, saving the breed that is now the National Dog of Israel. The Canaan dog has been used by Israel's military to detect mines and by the Red Cross, but it also makes an attentive pet.

Life Expectancy 12–15 years | Height 48–61cm | Trainability Intelligent and engaging | Grooming Little brushing | Exercise An hour a day | Most likely to say Let's try something new | Least likely to say I don't want to (about anything!)

Papillon



There are two versions of this dainty breed. The Papillon has erect ears that look like the open wings of a butterfly – *papillon* is the French word for the insect – while the Phalène has folded ears like the wings of a moth, which is what *phalène* means. This little dog was a favourite of French society, with French queen Marie Antoinette and Madame de Pompadour both owning Papillons. Despite its size, the Papillon has a big-dog attitude and will cheerfully boss around anyone – including you – and anything, such as other household pets. It is a lively and alert, fizzing little ball of energy.

Life Expectancy 12–16 Years | Height 20–28cm | Trainability Quick to learn but can be stubborn | Grooming A good brush once or twice a week | Exercise Plenty of play | Most likely to say Give us a kiss! | Least likely to say I fancy a nap

Norwegian Elkhound



Stone Age remains suggest that this breed has been around for thousands of years. It is a strong, sturdy dog with a thick grey coat and was once used to hunt moose and bears. Its name is inaccurate – it comes from the Norsk *elghund*, which actually means ‘moose dog’. The Norwegians would send their dogs to find moose and, once they did, they would bark loudly to let the hunter know they had found one. The Elkhound is known for its loud and carrying bark. Its excellent tracking abilities means it is used as a search and rescue dog.

Life Expectancy 12–15 years | Height 48–51cm | Trainability Have lots of treats ready! | Grooming Weekly brushing needed, more when shedding | Exercise Long daily walks | Most likely to say What's it worth? | Least likely to say Your wish is my command

Swedish Vallhund



Did the Vikings take some Welsh dogs home with them when they returned to Scandinavia, or did the Vikings bring some of their dogs to Wales? This is the question, because Sweden's stocky little dog looks very much like the Welsh Corgi and has much the same herding instincts. Whichever way round it was, for sheer entertainment value, it's hard to beat a Vallhund. These dogs were bred to work on farms in their native Sweden and they are intelligent and quick to learn. But they have a sense of humour and will play games purely, it seems, to make you laugh.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 28-33cm | Trainability Smart, alert and attentive | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Playful and energetic, the Vallhund likes to be active | Most likely to say 'Watch this!' | Least likely to say 'Let's stay on the sofa all day'

Canadian Eskimo Dog



Thought to be one of North America's oldest pure-bred indigenous dogs, the Canadian Eskimo Dog has been around for at least 2,000 years. It was first used by the Inuit people to find seal breathing holes in the ice, to keep polar bears at bay, and to hunt and pull sleds across Arctic snow fields. It is said that a Canadian Eskimo Dog can pull twice its weight and still cover up to 113km per day, so you'll need a lot of stamina if this is the dog for you. It is also a pack animal, so may cause issues with other pets. Despite this, it can be charmingly playful and is very vocal – it likes to sing!

Life Expectancy 10-15 years | Height 50-70cm | Trainability Quick to learn, with a great memory | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise At least two hours a day | Most likely to say 'Shall we go on a long trek?' | Least likely to say 'I want to play with the cat'

Basset Hound



The instantly recognisable Basset Hound is a dog that seems to have been designed by several people, all with a different brief! It has short, stubby legs, a very long back (it's an ideal pet for families because everyone can pat it at once!), a sad face and low-set, drooping ears. But despite its mournful appearance, Bassets are hunters; those loose folds of skin on its face trap the scent it is sniffing out. When not following a scent, Bassets love lazing about and eating, but be warned... if left alone for long, their booming howl, called a bay, will carry enough to upset the neighbours!

Life Expectancy 10-12 Years | Height 30-36cm | Trainability Stubborn | Grooming Little, but wipe mouth and face | Exercise Prone to putting on weight, so frequent walks needed | Most likely to say Sniff - he went that way! | Least likely to say I don't want seconds

Bernese Mountain Dog



This breed takes its name from Berne in Switzerland, where it was used to herd sheep and cattle. But that wasn't all, it was pretty much an all-round farmhand! The Bernese Mountain Dog (also known as a Berner) was also used to pull carts carrying cheese and milk to market. A strong and striking breed, its coat is a mix of black and tan, with a white mark on its chest that is said to represent the Swiss flag. The Berner is an affectionate creature and always eager to please, but it doesn't like being left alone for long - and a bored Berner is likely to be a barker.

Life Expectancy 7-10 years | Height 58-68cm | Trainability Easy | Grooming Weekly brushes | Exercise At least 30 minutes a day | Most likely to say What would you like me to do next? | Least likely to say No, not doing that

Schnauzer



If you're not keen on the doggy smell (though to some it's like perfume!) the Schnauzer might be a good option. This is a breed that has very little odour and its wiry coat doesn't shed much. It is a handsome dog, with arched eyebrows and a distinct beard and moustache, which gives it a rather aristocratic air. It comes in three sizes: miniature, standard and giant. The Schnauzer is a loyal breed and has a sweet temper, but it is lively and has a booming bark – great if you're looking for a dog who can let you know of an intruder, not so great if you want to keep the neighbours happy.

Life Expectancy 13–16 Years | Height 43–51cm | Trainability Intelligent but easily bored | Grooming Very little | Exercise At least an hour a day – it's a high-energy breed | Most likely to say WOOF! | Least likely to say I can amuse myself for a while

English Foxhound



With its keen nose, bright eyes and constantly waving stern (tail), the Foxhound is a finely tuned hunting machine. It has been bred specially for these qualities for hundreds of years. The Foxhound is used to working in a pack so some do not settle very well as pets. Those that do, though, are devoted, loyal and highly sociable. And the breed is certainly good-looking. A description of Belvoir Gambler, considered the best Foxhound ever bred, says, "Next to an old Greek statue, there are few such combinations of grace and strength as a fine Foxhound."

Life Expectancy 10–13 years | Height 63–67cm | Trainability Intelligent but can be stubborn | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Very active | Most likely to say I love all your friends! | Least likely to say I wouldn't dream of chasing that squirrel

Corgi



There are two types of Corgi – the Cardigan and the Pembroke. Both are named for places in Wales, and the Cardigan is thought to be the elder. The name of the breed comes from the Celtic words *cor*, meaning ‘dwarf’, and *gi* meaning ‘dog’. It was also known as the ‘yard dog’ because the measurement from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail was a Welsh yard – 102cm. The corgi is a tough little bundle of energy whose short legs helped it to herd cattle, which is what it was bred for. It does so less nowadays, but it likes to eat, so needs plenty of exercise.

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 25–33cm | Trainability Plenty smart | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise Daily walks to work off its food! | Most likely to say Is it dinnertime yet? | Least likely to say Wait for me!

Bloodhound



This sad-looking breed is entered in the Guinness World Records – as the first animal whose ‘evidence’ was allowed to be given in a court of law! Bloodhounds have been used to hunt human scent since Roman times and their scenting ability is 40 times better than our own. They are still used in legal cases, and in search and rescue missions today, but their patience and sweet temper means they make devoted family pets too. That’s if you don’t mind too much slobber! Although they’re not considered particularly vocal, they do have a distinctive deep howl.

Life Expectancy 11–15 years | Height 58–69cm | Trainability Can be stubborn | Grooming Weekly brushing but constant wiping! | Exercise Long daily runs or walks | Most likely to say Slobber, droooool | Least likely to say Shall we just go round the block?

Ibizan Hound



With its elegant face and large, pricked ears, the Ibizan Hound bears a strong resemblance to dogs seen on ancient Egyptian tombs, suggesting it has been around for a long time. On the Spanish islands of Ibiza and Formentera, the dogs – known as Beezers – were used to hunt rabbits and small game. It has a strong prey drive and can leap up high from a standstill, so anything on your kitchen worktops is not safe. The Beezer can be a little couch potato too. When it's not counter surfing for food or chasing small creatures, it's quite happy to curl up for a snuggle.

Life Expectancy 10–14 Years | Height 56–68cm | Trainability It never loses that urge to chase | Grooming A weekly brush | Exercise A few walks a day | Most likely to say Look, rabbit! | Least likely to say I've had my dinner, I don't want anything else...

Newfoundland



Have you ever seen a dog go fishing? The Newfoundland, named for the coastal region of Canada where it came from, helped fishermen pull in their nets. Big and strong, it would also jump from boats to retrieve lost equipment, and could pull heavy carts too. The Newfoundland has an oily, waterproof coat and webbed feet, and today is used to rescue swimmers in distress. It was made famous as Nana, the gentle and loving dog owned by the Darling family in the children's book *Peter Pan*. The Newfie certainly lives up to its fictional counterpart as a sweet and patient pet.

Life Expectancy 8–10 years | Height 63–74cm | Trainability Keen to learn | Grooming Brushing two or three times a week | Exercise Needs plenty of exercise and play | Most likely to say What would you like me to do now? | Least likely to say I don't have time for this

Dachshund



Bustling and busy, the Dachshund is everyone's favourite sausage dog. Its name means 'badger dog' in German, as it was once used to hunt badgers, as well as rabbits, and even wild boar. It has been described as 'half a dog high and a dog and a half long', which, when you see a Daxie, looks about right! As they were bred to go down into burrows, their barrel-like chest contains large lungs to help them breathe underground. That extra lung capacity means they have a loud bark for a little dog, so be warned! Despite their hunting past, the Daxie makes a lively pet, and also quite enjoys a bit of downtime.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 20-23cm | Trainability Quite stubborn | Grooming Occasional brushing but clean ears often | Exercise Walks and play needed | Most likely to say What are you doing and can I help? | Least likely to say No way I'm going down there!

Puli



A dog with dreadlocks! The Puli is famous for its extraordinary coat, which looks like something you might mop the floor with. Its hair forms long twisted cords as it grows, keeping the Puli warm and protecting its skin. In its native Hungary, the Puli was a herding dog and under all that hair is a swift and nimble animal. Its coat comes in a variety of colours, including black, the colour preferred by Hungarian shepherds, who could easily detect the dog among the sheep! As a pet it is loving and playful, but has never forgotten its herding roots and remains protective.

Life Expectancy 10-15 years | Height 41-43cm | Trainability Clever, but easily distracted | Grooming A specialist will help to keep the cords in order | Exercise Plenty of exercise | Most likely to say I'm bored | Least likely to say Can someone brush my hair?

Schipperke



This breed's nickname is LBD – little black devil! But its name means 'little skipper', as the Schipperke was used as a watchdog on barges that travelled the canals across Belgium. It still thinks it's a watchdog today and will bark at strangers, so some people might be less than enchanted. This intelligent breed has also been used as a hearing dog, in search and rescue missions, and for sniffing out drugs and explosives. The Schipperke is bright, mischievous and has a sense of humour, but its foxy face and big smile may just win you over. It can be aloof with strangers, but is devoted to its family.

Life Expectancy 13–15 Years | Height 28–33cm | Trainability Clever but has its own ideas | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Up to an hour a day is needed | Most likely to say Aye aye, cap'n | Least likely to say Pass, friend

Dalmatian



Instantly recognisable with its black spots, and made famous in the book *The 101 Dalmatians* and the film, this breed was known as the 'spotted coach dog'. Something of a status symbol, the Dalmatian would trot alongside coaches and protect them from highwaymen by day, acting as watchdogs at rest stops by night. It would also run ahead of fire engines, clearing their path to the inferno. In America, fire stations traditionally had a 'fire dog' as a mascot and many still do today. The Dalmatian has an endearing nature and thinks everyone is its friend, but it can be too lively for some.

Life Expectancy 13–16 years | Height 48–61cm | Trainability Eager to please | Grooming Sheds a lot so plenty of brushing | Exercise Over two hours a day | Most likely to say Let's go out! Let's go to the park! | Least likely to say I'm going to take a nap

Lagotto Romagnolo



It's name might be a bit of a mouthful – it translates as 'curly-coated duck retriever from Romagna'. But this Italian water dog no longer retrieves ducks as the marshes of its homeland were drained at the beginning of the 20th century. It is now the only dog that is bred to hunt truffles, its keen nose sniffing out delicacies, while its thick, curly fur keeps it warm. But there is much more to the Lagotto – that curly coat makes it an ideal pet for those who suffer with allergies and it is affectionate, loyal and eager to please. Just remember that it likes to dig!

Life Expectancy 14–17 Years | Height 43–48cm | Trainability Quick learner | Grooming A few times a week | Exercise Upwards of two hours a day | Most likely to say This smells like a good spot | Least likely to say I will never dig up your flowerbeds

Great Dane



It's hardly surprising that this noble giant is known as the 'Apollo of dogs' – Apollo is the Greek god of the Sun – and few breeds shine brighter. Despite its name, the Great Dane has closer links with Germany than Denmark, where it was used to hunt wild boar. Unsurprisingly, this huge dog doesn't lack courage and its sheer good looks meant nobility chose this breed as their companion dogs. Despite its size, the Great Dane is gentle and kind, excellent with children, but a serious deterrent for any burglar. Well, would you be brave enough to try and get past one?

Life Expectancy 8–10 years | Height 71–86cm | Trainability Likes to please but needs patience | Grooming Once a week | Exercise An hour a day but lots of space to roam | Most likely to say What shall we do next? | Least likely to say I don't want to play with you

Beagle



This scent hound has been described as a ‘nose with legs’! Incredibly, the beagle’s nose holds around 220 million scent receptors compared with our paltry 5 million or so. It is the smallest of Great Britain’s scent hounds, and has been used on hunting expeditions since the 14th century. Although similar in appearance to the foxhound, they may make better pets. It’s still a pack animal so gets on well with other pets, and sticks to its owner like glue. The most famous beagle is Snoopy, who has a fixation with his food bowl. This is life imitating art – Beagles love their grub and will eat everything!

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 33–41cm | Trainability Can be stubborn but will do anything for food | Grooming Weekly brushing and keep ears clean | Exercise At least one hour a day | Most likely to say Sniff, sniff, sniff... | Least likely to say Can’t smell a thing

Maremma Sheepdog



Like most sheepdogs, Italy’s version is very good at its job and is happiest doing it. The Maremma is known to go back to Roman times – if not even further. It is an independent thinker and tends to bond with the flock it’s protecting – a job it takes very seriously. That tendency to guard has even saved penguins! Maremmas were used to guard a population of little penguins on a tiny Australian island near the coastal town of Warrnambool. Where other animals had failed, the Maremma succeeded in keeping red foxes at bay and the colony thrived.

Life Expectancy 11–13 years | Height 65–73cm | Trainability A little too independent | Grooming Lots of brushing | Exercise Long and interesting walks are needed | Most likely to say Who are you and what do you want? | Least likely to say Come on in!

Bichon Frise



Vizsla



If you want a happy little dog that will adore you, go for the Bichon Frise! *Bichon* means 'white dog' and *frise* refers to the corkscrew curls of its soft, fluffy coat. Add black eyes, a button nose and an air of mischief, and that sums up this delightful breed. The Bichon Frise is thought to have come from Tenerife in the Canary Islands, perhaps as long ago as the 14th century, but it was developed into the modern dog in France, where it was popular with nobility. Despite its size, the Bichon is quite hardy and is always cheerful – the perfect companion.

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 23–28cm | Trainability The bichon loves to learn | Grooming At least twice-weekly brushing and bathing | Exercise Walks and plenty of play | Most likely to say Please don't leave me | Least likely to say I don't want to play

There is something of the aristocrat about this handsome breed. The Vizsla was developed in Hungary as a pointing and retrieving dog, and was both hard-working and good at its job. But today it is also known as the Velcro® dog – because it sticks to its human owner! Its favourite place to be is fastened to your side, leaning against you or lying on your feet. The Vizsla is very vocal too – not a good trait if you want to get on with your neighbours – so you must make sure your dog has plenty to occupy its keen and enquiring mind.

Life Expectancy 10–14 years | Height 53–61cm | Trainability Intelligent and eager to please | Grooming An occasional brush or wipe with a damp cloth | Exercise At least an hour a day | Most likely to say Everything, and loudly! | Least likely to say Off you go, then

Poodle



The traditional Poodle cut – pom-pom tail and ankles, fluffy chest and curly topknot – may look cute, but it once served a real purpose. The Poodle was originally a water dog, or *pudelhund*, and the cut enabled it to move easily through water without getting snagged, while protecting it from the cold. While its name is German, the poodle was developed in France, where its elegance and quiet dignity made it much in demand. There are three sizes – toy, miniature and standard – and all are highly intelligent and equally beautiful.

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 45–60cm | Trainability Easy, the poodle is highly intelligent | Grooming High maintenance | Exercise Walks and plenty of play | Most likely to say I bet I know what you're thinking... | Least likely to say I need a perm

Saint Bernard



In the 10th century, a monk founded a monastery in the Swiss Alps to care for travellers who struggled on its treacherous routes. The monastery used dogs, Alpine Mastiffs, to seek fallen pilgrims in the cold and snow, and lead them back to safety. Ancestors of those dogs – which were bred to be bigger and stronger, perhaps with Newfoundland and Bloodhound lines – are still used as search and rescue dogs today. The monastery was called Saint Bernard's, and its heroic dogs took the name. The modern Saint is gentle, quiet and calm and, if you don't mind a bit of drool, makes a lovely pet.

Life Expectancy 8–10 years | Height 65–90cm | Trainability Can be stubborn | Grooming Brushing three times a week | Exercise Surprisingly little for their size | Most likely to say Follow me! | Least likely to say I have no idea where I am...

Bedlington Terrier



At first glance, this breed looks more like a lamb than a dog! Like many terriers, the Bedlington was bred to hunt rats, and even foxes, in the Northumberland mining town of Bedlington. But it makes an entertaining family pet because it just loves to be the centre of attention and is always happy to play the clown. The downside to this is that it prefers to be an 'only dog' – it doesn't like competing with other pets. The Bedlington can be quite aggressive to strangers and will let you know if it dislikes anyone – it's said to be a great judge of character...

Life Expectancy 14–16 Years | Height 38–44cm | Trainability Easy to train, if it wants! | Grooming A weekly comb is enough | Exercise Will happily match its needs to yours | Most likely to say Look at me! | Least likely to say I absolutely love your new friend

Briard



Most dog breeds are loving, but the affectionate Briard is sometimes called a 'heart wrapped in fur'. It's a herding breed from France, thought to date back to the 8th century, and its name is a shorter form of Chien Berger de Brie, after the region of its home country. While it's a very loving pet, the Briard can be wary of strangers, which makes it an excellent guard dog as it will bark loudly – the Briard likes the sound of its own voice!

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 56–69cm | Trainability A quick study but can be stubborn | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise Take your Briard for a walk or run | Most likely to say Let's hang out | Least likely to say Don't care who you are, come on in!

Bracco Italiano



There is a touch of Bloodhound in this Italian breed, though it's used as an HPR – hunt, point, retrieve – dog rather than a scent hound. The Bracco Italiano is considered to be Europe's oldest pointer; similar dogs are depicted in paintings dating back to the 4th and 5th century! Those long ears, doleful eyes and noble expression make it appealing, and despite the fact that it's a working breed, the Bracco makes an excellent pet. It has endless patience and a sweet temper. It rarely barks, however, so doesn't make the best guard dog.

Life Expectancy 10–14 Years | Height 55–67cm | Trainability Easy, but be gentle | Grooming Once a week | Exercise At least half an hour a day | Most likely to say Ciao! | Least likely to say Look! There's someone coming

Irish Wolfhound



It may look like a hairy wardrobe, but this giant breed can move surprisingly fast. The Irish Wolfhound was used in wars to pull men off horses or chariots. In the year 391CE, Roman consul Marcus Aurelius was gifted seven of these majestic creatures and 'all Rome viewed them with wonder'. The Wolfhound makes a great family dog because it's so gentle, but be warned: it is known to be 'gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked'. It's too serene to be much good as a guard dog, but its size would frighten off even the hardest burglar...

Life Expectancy 6–8 years | Height 81–89cm | Trainability Easy but needs consistency | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise At least 40 minutes a day | Most likely to say Give us a cuddle | Least likely to say Come any closer and I'll bite

German Pinscher



If you asked someone to draw a perfect dog, they would probably draw a Pinscher. It has a sleekly muscular body, pricked ears and a wedge-shaped muzzle that is somehow totally doggy. It is undoubtedly the ancestor of the handsome Doberman. The word *pinscher* means 'bite' or 'grip' and described the breed's original job as a skilled ratter. Intelligent, the Pinscher knows when it has been naughty, such as chewing something it shouldn't have, and will stretch its lips over its teeth in a 'smile' to get back in your good books. It will take over your heart and your home in a moment.

Life Expectancy 12-14 Years | Height 43-51cm | Trainability Very smart | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Energetic, so needs plenty of exercise | Most likely to say Oops, sorry | Least likely to say OF COURSE I won't chew your favourite shoes

Old English Sheepdog



If you've heard something called a 'shaggy dog story', this is probably the breed to which it referred – dogs don't come much shaggier! The Old English Sheepdog's fluffy blue-and-white coat protected it from the elements, as did the now illegal practice of 'docking' – cutting off – the tail. But there may be another reason for their bobtail. Drovers' dogs – those used to drive cattle to market – weren't taxed, whereas other herding dogs were. Sheepdogs needed to be swift, and use their tails like rudders to keep their balance. As a pet, the Old English Sheepdog is playful and comical.

Life Expectancy 10-12 years | Height 51-61cm | Trainability Quick learner | Grooming Often, plus professional grooming | Exercise Lots - mental and physical | Most likely to say Has anyone got any hairspray? | Least likely to say Does anyone else feel chilly?

Havanese



If this little bundle of fluff looks familiar, it's because it's thought to be related to the Bichon Frise. The Havanese is the national dog of Cuba, taken there by early Spanish settlers. That gorgeous coat looks too hot for such a climate but it is actually a bit like raw silk – fine and cool. Havanese become devoted to their owners and suffer separation anxiety, but that's a small price to pay for so much love. A warning, however: keep an eye on the loo roll! Your Havanese thinks paper is the best toy in the world and your house will be festooned with it, like Halloween.

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 20–28cm | Trainability Very smart | Grooming Daily brushing and occasional baths | Exercise More than you'd think for such a small dog | Most likely to say Don't leave! | Least likely to say Of course I won't touch the loo roll

Komondor



This dog is a commanding animal in all sorts of ways. The biggest of the Hungarian herding breeds, under that impressive coat is a solid and powerful dog. Add in a dash of courage and a lot of attitude and you have something that few people would choose to argue with. And despite its size, the Kom (as it is commonly known) is surprisingly fast. It makes an exceptional guard dog and is naturally very protective; more than anything else, it's happy watching over you, and your every move... which can be pretty unnerving! If you don't mind its constant gaze, this is the dog for you.

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 64–69cm | Trainability Intelligent but has a stubborn streak | Grooming Complicated! | Exercise Two or three walks a day | Most likely to say Carry on, I'm just watching | Least likely to say Whatever, I'm not watching

Collie



Thanks to the film *Lassie Come Home* – made in 1943 but still much loved today – the Collie is one of the most recognisable dog breeds. And Lassie herself (played by a male dog, but who cares?), had all the qualities we look for in a pet. She was brave, loyal, devoted and extremely beautiful. The breed comes from Scotland where it was used as a herder. It guarded black-faced sheep called Colleys, which is perhaps where its name comes from. Intelligent and sensitive, the Collie is playful and gentle, especially with children, but can be overprotective of its human ‘herd’.

Life Expectancy 10–14 Years | Height 56–66cm | Trainability Learns easily | Grooming Thorough brushing | Exercise A brisk daily walk and lots of play | Most likely to say Everyone in the kitchen, now! | Least likely to say Go out and leave me, I'll be fine

Boxer



A great, joyful, boisterous bundle of energy, the Boxer was originally a guard dog, but is now more popular as a pet. It is high-energy and wants to be involved in everything you do, but retains a lovable puppy-ish charm well into adulthood. The Boxer is not considered mature until it is three years old. A happy Boxer – and they are nearly always happy – twists its body in a dance known as the kidney bean, because of the semi-circular shape it makes. It also makes a delightful ‘woo-woo’ sound – you will always know when your Boxer is excited.

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 53–64cm | Trainability Keen to please but don't let it get away with anything! | Grooming A weekly brush | Exercise Lots – physical and mental | Most likely to say I love everything! | Least likely to say I'm unhappy

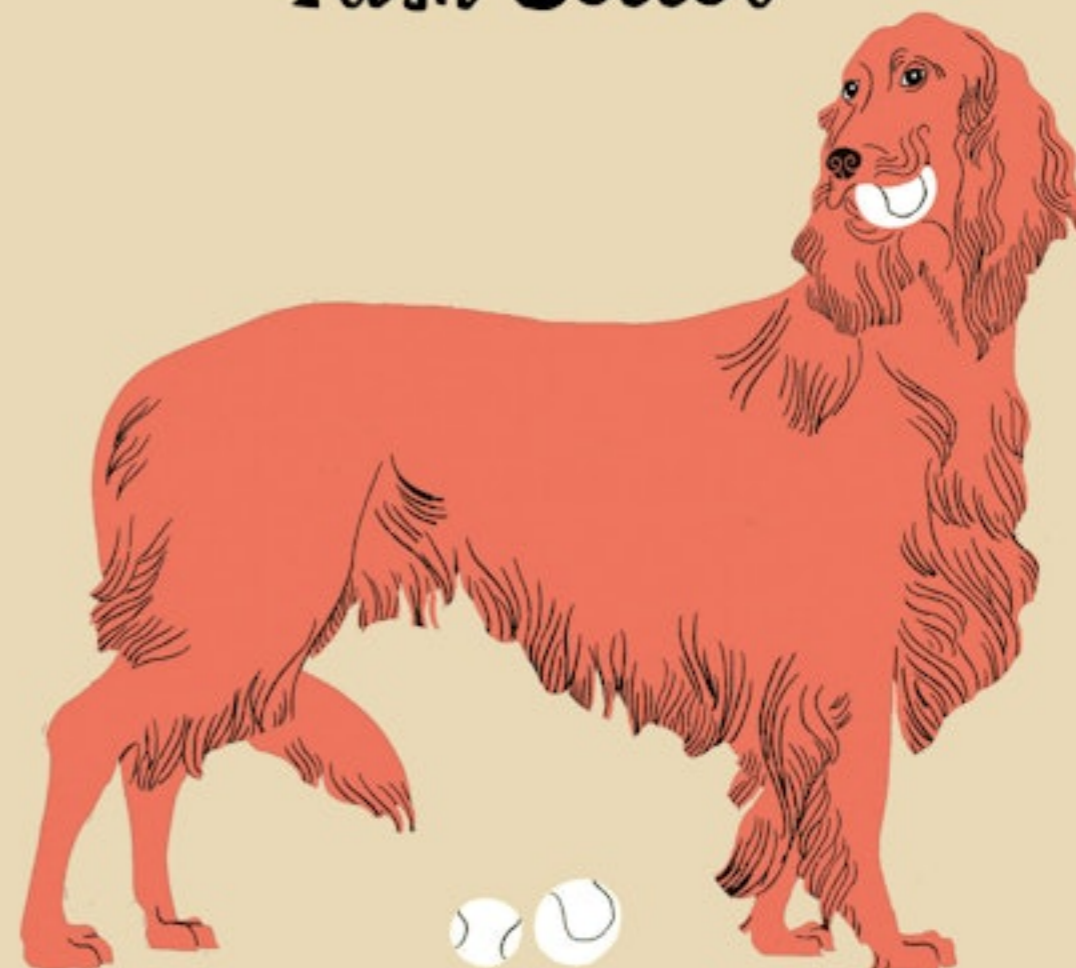
West Highland Terrier



Also known as the Westie, this little dog has a large dollop of self-esteem. It has all the terrier traits – sturdy, tough, brave, assertive – but is very much its own ‘person’. The Westie also has the terrier tenacity – once onto something, such as a rabbit or a squirrel, it will pursue it with single-minded determination. Apart from a tendency to be ‘bossy’ with other pets, the Westie is a cheerful and devoted companion, though it likes to be included in everything and is something of a busybody. It likes everybody and welcomes all with a waving tail.

Life Expectancy 12–16 Years | Height 23–30cm | Trainability Quick to learn | Grooming The occasional wipe-down and the odd bath | Exercise Daily runs and lots of play | Most likely to say What’s in it for me? | Least likely to say You can’t come in

Irish Setter



With a coat that glows golden-red in the sunlight, the Irish Setter is one of the most glamorous breeds. It was bred to work as a bird dog (a gun dog trained to retrieve birds) and was a determined and driven hunter. It was also known as the Red Setter, due to that glorious coat (to separate it from the Irish red-and-white Setter), but it differs in other ways too; it is finer boned, with a more chiselled head. As a pet, it is full of energy and always up for a game, but that ecstatic bounce can be a little overwhelming for some. Anyway, it proves blondes don’t have more fun!

Life Expectancy 11–15 years | Height 63–68cm | Trainability Quick to learn – if not distracted! | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise At least an hour a day | Most likely to say Be sure to get my best side | Least likely to say I wish I was blonde

English Bull Terrier



It will probably never win a beauty competition, but the English Bull Terrier is handsome in its way, with a noble profile and charming smile. It was bred as a fighting dog, probably through a cross between a Bulldog and the now extinct English White Terrier. It was then known as a bull-and-terrier. But the modern version is a lover, not a fighter. It is affectionate and friendly, loves its family and is always delighted to play the class clown to make you laugh. It has been referred to as the 'kid in a dog suit' for its playful and happy personality.

Life Expectancy 10-15 Years | Height 53-56cm | Trainability Can be a challenge | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Between 30 and 60 minutes a day - it has the terrier's energy | Most likely to say Let's play! | Least likely to say I'm too tired

American Cocker Spaniel



Given this little dog's beauty, it's hardly surprising that it was the most popular breed of pet in the United States for more than a decade. While some consider the English version to be the same as the US one, the American Kennel Club recognised them as two separate breeds in 1946. They certainly share the same melting brown eyes, soft ears and silky coat, but the English Cocker is still very much a working dog. The American Cocker is far more likely to be found on the show bench, or simply enjoying life as a family pet, receiving all the love and attention it deserves.

Life Expectancy 10-14 years | Height 34-39cm | Trainability A people-pleaser! | Grooming Regular brushing | Exercise Lots of walks and playtime | Most likely to say What would you like me to do? | Least likely to say I'm not doing that

Boston Terrier



This delightful little dog looks like he's dressed in a tux ready for a night on the town! That smart tuxedo-like marking earned the breed the nickname the 'American gentleman'. It was also previously known as a Bull Terrier and Roundhead. The Boston Terrier is bustling, busy, bossy and inquisitive (all the terrier characteristics in one), and with its erect ears and large eyes, can charm just about anyone. Though small, it is sturdy, and enjoys a bit of rough play, so makes a great pet for children. Like many terriers, it can have a stubborn streak, but food can be a great motivator!

Life Expectancy 13-15 Years | Height 30-38cm | Trainability Smart but stubborn | Grooming Very little is needed | Exercise The occasional walk with you is enough | Most likely to say Watch me! | Least likely to say I don't feel like playing with you

English Cocker Spaniel



The English Cocker is quite different from the American version, largely because it is still a working breed. It was originally known as a 'land spaniel', but was used to hunt woodcock, hence the name. The land spaniel grouping was decided by size and weight, and the Cocker was any spaniel that weighed less than 11kg. Recorded as a separate breed since 1893, it is still in demand in the shooting field, but has long been popular as a family pet for its loving nature and merry demeanour. The happily waving tail of a Cocker will always make you smile.

Life Expectancy 12-15 years | Height 38-41cm | Trainability Eager to please but needs gentle handling | Grooming Daily, or book a groomer! | Exercise An hour a day is needed | Most likely to say Look, pheasant! | Least likely to say I'm depressed

Affenpinscher



Less a dog, more a cartoon Tasmanian devil! This extraordinary breed is, however, known as the 'monkey dog' – *affen* means 'ape' or 'monkey' – in its German homeland. The French call it the *diablotin moustachu*, or 'moustached little devil'. But those who know the breed all agree on one point, the Affenpinscher is a cheeky, adorable, entertaining clown and those who have one say they love their little monkey. As with many breeds, it's hard to know who owns whom!

Life Expectancy 12–15 Years | Height 23–28cm | Trainability Smart, but can be wilful | Grooming The occasional brush | Exercise Short, brisk walks suit it best | Most likely to say It wasn't me | Least likely to say Stop! Who are you?

Spinone Italiano



One of the oldest hunting breeds in the world, the modern Spinone's calm and sweet nature means it makes the perfect pet for a family. It adores children and likes to be involved in all play or other activities. But it doesn't do to forget its hunting past; the Spinone may find passing cats and other small animals extremely interesting. The Italian word *spinone* means 'thorn', perhaps in reference to its wiry coat, which protects it when it's hunting in dense thorny bushes. But if you choose a Spinone Italiano, it will never be a thorn in your side.

Life Expectancy 10–14 years | Height 56–71cm | Trainability Easy, unless your Spinone sees a cat! | Grooming Brushing a few times a week | Exercise At least an hour a day | Most likely to say Let's play! | Least likely to say I haven't noticed that cat...

Hamiltonstövare



Thought to be the result of crossing an English Foxhound with German Hounds, this hunting dog was developed in Sweden by Count Adolf Hamilton, hence the name. But unlike Foxhounds, the Hamiltonstövare was bred to hunt singly, rather than in packs, and was used to pursue fox, deer and wild boar. It's a handsome breed, with a tri-colour coat of black, tan and white. Though the Hamiltonstövare can be kept as a pet it tends to be boisterous, so it's not ideal around children, and it retains its prey drive, so must be well trained or it will take off in pursuit of any small animal.

Life Expectancy 14-17 Years | Height 48-61cm | Trainability Intelligent but can be stubborn | Grooming A brush a week should be enough | Exercise Lots of walks and playtime | Most likely to say RABBIT! | Least likely to say I just want to lie on the sofa and snooze

Leonberger



Looking at this giant breed, it's no surprise that the Leonberger was developed using Newfoundland, Saint Bernard and Pyrenean Mountain Dog bloodlines. Its fierce appearance is misleading, though, because it is gentle, loving and sensitive. The breed was created by Heinrich Essig, mayor of the town of Leonberg in southern Germany, because he wanted a lion-like dog to match the lions on the town's heraldic crest. Leonbergers were used as guard dogs – and their size and deep bark would make a potential burglar think twice – but their sweet natures mean they make lovely family pets.

Life Expectancy 10-12 years | Height 65-80cm | Trainability Intelligent and keen to please | Grooming Brushing at least once a week | Exercise Lots – this is a big dog | Most likely to say Please don't fight, love me instead | Least likely to say I don't like you

Pumi



This delightful character was developed using its Hungarian cousin, the Puli. The Pumi is a herding dog and is extremely tough and hardy, as well as swift. It was used to move semi-wild flocks along the narrow trails between the pastures of western Hungary, but its undeniable charm did not go unnoticed. The Pumi's corkscrew curls and sweet expression don't mislead; it has a cheerful nature and an appealing desire to please. But Pumik (the plural of Pumi) are not for everyone: they need lots of exercise and attention, and preferably a task to do around the house, as they are easily bored.

Life Expectancy 12-13 Years | Height 22-48cm | Trainability Intelligent, but has its own mind | Grooming Occasional brushing | Exercise Lots! It is an outdoor dog | Most likely to say Can I help you with that? | Least likely to say No, I don't want to go outside

German Shepherd



It was during World War I that the handsome German Shepherd really gained recognition for its courage and calm temperament. Since then it has had many jobs, being used by both the police and armed forces, as a guide dog for the blind and as a therapy dog. Known as the GSD for short, it is also sometimes called the Alsatian (it comes from the German-French border area of Alsace-Lorraine). There are two varieties, short-coated and long-haired. If you fall in love with the long-haired GSD beware: it leaves hair everywhere. It is sometimes known as the 'German shedder'...

Life Expectancy 10-14 years | Height 56-66cm | Trainability Intelligent and eager to learn | Grooming Frequent brushing | Exercise It needs lots of walks - and runs | Most likely to say Halt! Who goes there? | Least likely to say I'd like a brush

Jack Russell Terrier



Historically, the British clergy were quite keen on hunting, and this breed was developed by Parson John 'Jack' Russell, largely to go down holes and flush out quarry (rats, rabbits or even foxes). Russell shaped a terrier that was brave, intelligent, athletic, fast, determined and possessed a great hunting drive. That's not to say the Jack Russell doesn't make a good family pet; they are affectionate and loyal. But their potential for mischief is massive. They love to chew – anything, from mobile phones to passports – and have been known to snaffle a family's entire stock of Easter eggs.

Life Expectancy 10–14 Years | Height 25–38cm | Trainability Smart but can be stubborn | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise An active dog, up to 45 minutes a day | Most likely to say That looks tasty | Least likely to say I promise I won't chew it

Border Collie



Named for the borders between England, Scotland and Wales, this herding dog was renowned for its sharp brain and sleek speed. It is also known for its 'eye' – an intense stare that allows it to note even the slightest change in its flock. Though the Border Collie is still in demand as a superb sheepdog all over the world, it is a popular pet, too. But if you want a cuddly couch potato, this is not the breed for you. The Border Collie needs plenty of exercise and its brain must be stimulated, or it will become bored, unhappy and destructive. This dog needs a job to do!

Life Expectancy 12–15 years | Height 46–56cm | Trainability Easy, it loves to learn | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Plenty, it needs something to think about | Most likely to say Be right back! | Least likely to say Can I have a cuddle?

Dobermann



With its erect ears, long muzzle and muscular outline, the Dobermann is an aristocratic breed. But its original purpose was pretty humble; it was developed by the tax collector Karl Friedrich Louis Dobermann around 1890 in Germany, as a guard dog. Since then, it has been used by the police and armed forces, as a tracking dog and still a guard dog. The Dobermann is intelligent and trainable so can fulfil a variety of roles, including that of a family pet. They can be gentle and affectionate but you must make sure they know you are the leader of the 'pack', or they will take over!

Life Expectancy 13-15 Years | Height 61-71cm | Trainability Smart and keen to learn | Grooming Weekly brush | Exercise Energetic, so lots! | Most likely to say Come with me! | Least likely to say Do come in

Black Russian Terrier



The word 'terrier' is misleading; this breed – also known as Russia's 'black pearl' – is a large dog. It was developed by the Russian army after World War II as a guard dog and one of its duties was to round up escapees. After two wars, there were few dogs left in Russia and the new breed was created using the Giant Schnauzer, Airedale Terrier, and Rottweiler, with a dash of something known as the Moscow terrier. The modern breed is attractive and devoted to its owner, and retains its protective instincts. You'll always feel safe with your 'black pearl'.

Life Expectancy 10-11 years | Height 66-71cm | Trainability Smart but bossy | Grooming Lots – you'll need a brush and a comb | Exercise Lots of runs and games to play | Most likely to say Who goes there? | Least likely to say Don't worry, I won't chase you

Sealyham Terrier



Captain John Edwardes of Pembrokeshire, Wales, initially developed this cheerful terrier to hunt alongside his Otterhounds. Edwardes wanted a compact, short-legged dog that would be small enough to go to ground after otter, badger, fox or polecat, and brave enough to want to! When he had the type of dog he wanted, Edwardes named it after his home, Sealyham Manor. The modern Sealyham is the clown of the terrier world; it has a great sense of humour and is always up for a game. But beware – fans of the ‘Sealy’ say they are a little like chips, one is never enough.

Life Expectancy 12–14 Years | Height 25–35cm | Trainability Can be stubborn | Grooming Brushing three times a week | Exercise An hour a day | Most likely to say Watch me do this! | Least likely to say I don't like being laughed at

Labrador Retriever



It is hardly surprising that the Labrador Retriever – usually known as the Labrador, or, with affection, the Lab – has headed the favourite dog breed lists for decades. This handsome and clever dog comes from Canada, where it was a fishermen's helper, hauling in nets and lines, and even retrieving fish. It was originally known as the St John's dog, after the capital city of Newfoundland. Brought to England in around 1800, it became the go-to gundog for retrieving shot birds. But its gentle and loving nature makes it a perfect family pet. It's only downfall is greed; the Lab loves to eat!

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 55–62cm | Trainability Always keen to learn | Grooming Daily brushing – Labs shed! | Exercise Daily walks of at least 30 minutes | Most likely to say Can I eat that? | Least likely to say I'm not hungry, thanks

Kooikerhondje



The Kooikerhondje (*Koi-ker-hond-yuh*) is the 'little white and orange dog with a big heart'. Known as the Kooiker, this attractive breed comes from the Netherlands, where it has been used since the 16th century as a hunting dog. Its gaily waving tail would lure ducks into the hunters' nets. It has a place in history, as it was a Kooiker who alerted Prince William of Orange to intruders in the palace by barking loudly, saving his life. An attractive dog, the Kooiker can make a devoted pet but it is a little bundle of energy, so needs to be mentally stimulated.

Life Expectancy 12-14 Years | Height 35-41cm | Trainability Smart and keen to learn | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Lots - the Kooiker is no couch potato | Most likely to say Let's go! | Least likely to say I fancy a snooze...

Weimaraner



Also known as the 'silver ghost' for its beautiful grey coat and pale eyes, the Weimaraner was created at the German Court of Weimar for the nobility, and used to hunt. It was so highly prized that German aristocracy formed an owners' club, and if a Weimaraner was sold to a non-member, it was secretly sterilised in order to keep the breed elite. It was only after World War II that Weimaraners became known to the wider world, and they were for a period, the most expensive dog in the world. It is demanding, but is utterly devoted - as well as 'silver ghost', it is often nicknamed 'shadow'.

Life Expectancy 11-13 years | Height 58-68cm | Trainability Can be challenging, patience is needed | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Two hours a day | Most likely to say Aren't I beautiful? | Least likely to say No, I don't want to come with you

Dandie Dinmont Terrier



A character in a novel by Sir Walter Scott gave this charming terrier its equally charming name. In the book *Guy Mannering*, Scott says of the Dandie: 'He evolved from the Scottish Hillside, the grey mists forming his body, a bunch of lichen his topknot, crooked juniper stems his forelegs and a wet bramble his nose.' It's fitting that this is the only breed with permission to wear an official Scottish clan tartan. Today, the Dandie is becoming rare, with less than a hundred registered in 2018, but it has a keen fan base who value its quiet dignity and keen intelligence.

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 20-28cm | Trainability Clever but gets bored easily | Grooming Brushing two or three times a week | Exercise Daily walks and play | Most likely to say I'm bored | Least likely to say I'll do whatever you'd like me to!

English Setter



Setters get their name from their habit of crouching low – or 'setting' – when they find prey such as birds, so hunters can throw nets over whatever they find. Beautiful and graceful creatures, they are still used as gundogs and prized for their work ethic, but they make lovely pets too. The English Setter is affectionate and gentle, gets along fine with other pets and children, and is utterly devoted to its family. It makes an excellent guard dog, too, but once introduced will accept any guest calmly and happily. It is a great breed for the first-time dog owner.

Life Expectancy 11-15 years | Height 58-68cm | Trainability Be kind but firm | Grooming Daily brushing is advised | Exercise Lots of room to run around | Most likely to say Welcome! | Least likely to say No, you can't come in

English Springer Spaniel

Staffordshire Bull Terrier



At one point, Springer and Cocker spaniels were considered the same breed. While the Cocker was used to hunt woodcock, the Springer would spring into the air to flush out game birds – either to a hawk, or so a net could be thrown over them, before guns were invented. But spaniels have been around for a long time and dogs looking very much like the English Springer can be seen in 16th and 17th century artwork. The Springer is still used as a gundog today, but it also makes a wonderful family pet because it has a sweet nature, and is gentle and affectionate.

Life Expectancy 9–15 Years | Height 46–56cm | Trainability Intelligent but wilful | Grooming Brushing three times a week | Exercise Daily walks but on the leash | Most likely to say Bird! | Least likely to say I won't chase that pigeon, I promise

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier gets its name because it was formed in the Black Country of Staffordshire and the northern parts of Birmingham. There are several dog breeds that have had bad press, and the sweet Staffie is one of them. It shares some common heritage with the English Bulldog and it too was developed as a fighting dog. This can be seen in its broad face, muscular body and powerful stance. Thankfully its fighting days are long over, and the Staffie is now in demand as a pet because it is brave, intelligent and affectionate. A happy dog, it remains delightfully playful well into adulthood.

Life Expectancy 12–14 years | Height 35–41cm | Trainability Intelligent but you must be firm and consistent | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Lots of walks and runs | Most likely to say What shall we play now? | Least likely to say Wanna fight?

Kerry Blue Terrier



This is the everyman terrier. Bred in County Kerry in Ireland, the Kerry Blue was used to hunt small mammals and birds, rats and otters, as well as herd sheep and cattle. Its gorgeous silky coat gives the breed its name, though puppies are born black and turn 'blue' at around 18 months old. It has all the feisty spirit you'd expect from a terrier, but although it can be strong-willed, its friendly nature and intelligence means it makes a great family dog, though it doesn't always get along with other pets. The Blue is also an excellent guard dog – its bark is impressive!

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 44-48cm | Trainability Intelligent but strong-willed | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise Lots! An active dog | Most likely to say Can we get rid of the cat? | Least likely to say Oh lovely, we're getting another puppy

Rottweiler



Rotties – as they are known – are the multi-taskers of the dog world. A German breed, the Rottweiler was used to drive cattle to market, as well as to pull carts of meat for butchers. There was a thriving livestock market in the south-western German city of Rottweil, which gave the breed its name. The farmers and butchers would use their powerful dogs to guard their herd or their goods, as well as carry their money bags around their neck. Later, Rottweilers were among the earliest police dogs. Brave and reliable, strong and enduring, the Rottweiler is still held in high regard.

Life Expectancy 8-11 years | Height 56-69cm | Trainability Needs to know who's boss | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise Around two 20-minute walks a day | Most likely to say I will protect you | Least likely to say You're on your own, I'm scared

Border Terrier



Hard-working and keen, this bright-eyed little dog was used by border foxhounds to go to ground and flush out foxes on the borders of Northumberland and Scotland, hence the name. It was also known locally as the Reedwater terrier and the Coquetdale terrier. While still very much a working breed, the Border's lively spirit and terrier charm means it is as much in demand as a companion. But those terrier traits means it can be challenging – it's an escape artist and has never lost its strong prey drive. The Border Terrier is a whirlwind of destructive energy if bored...

Life Expectancy 12-15 Years | Height 25-28cm | Trainability Independent but eager to please | Grooming Weekly brushing | Exercise At least half an hour a day, and plenty of play | Most likely to say I'm bored | Least likely to say Nope, don't want to play

Large Münsterländer



Smart in its distinctive black and white, the Münsterländer is a large, versatile gundog from Germany. It is thought to have its ancestry in long-haired retrieving and pointing dogs found across Europe. Art from the 16th and 17th centuries depicts animals very similar to the modern breed. As with many of the gundog breeds, the Münsterländer is as good as a companion as a worker, being cheerful, courageous, obedient and loyal. But it's a dog that loves to be outside, so is not ideal for apartment or city living.

Life Expectancy 12-13 years | Height 58-65cm | Trainability Intelligent, but easily bored | Grooming Frequent brushing | Exercise A brisk daily walk and playtime | Most likely to say Let's go outside! | Least likely to say I don't feel like going out today

Fox Terrier



Loving and playful, this tough little dog can make a loyal and devoted companion, but never forget it is a terrier first and foremost, so mischief is its middle name. The Fox Terrier was originally used to bolt foxes from their earths and drive them towards the huntsman. There were two varieties, smooth-haired and wire-haired; the smooth was prized because it was less likely to be mistaken for a fox, but the wire-hair could push through thick vegetation. While they are popular pets, their prey drive and love for digging can make them challenging, but they do retain the charming terrier cheek.

Life Expectancy 10–15 Years | Height 35–38cm | Trainability Intelligent but strong-willed | Grooming Regular brushing | Exercise Plenty of stimulation | Most likely to say That looks a likely spot for digging | Least likely to say Don't like the look of that hole

Golden Retriever



This adorably goofy creature has often headed the most popular dog breed lists, both in the United Kingdom and in the United States, and it's easy to see why. First, its beauty – with its soft, pale yellow coat, expressive gaze and gaily waving tail, there are few other breeds to touch it in the looks department. Add to that its hard-working nature, sweet temper, unwavering loyalty and puppyish playfulness, and how could anyone resist? The Golden Retriever was first bred to retrieve ducks and other fowl for hunters, but is now more in demand as an all-round family favourite.

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 53–61cm | Trainability Eager to learn and smart | Grooming Daily brushing and frequent baths | Exercise Plenty. Goldies are prone to putting on weight! | Most likely to say I'm bored | Least likely to say Nope, don't want to play

French Bulldog



Every dog has its day, the saying goes, and the days of this little charmer must be in the 21st century, when, in 2018, it overtook the Labrador Retriever as Britain's favourite breed. Despite its name, the French Bulldog was actually founded in Nottingham, whose lacemakers emigrated to France, taking their little companion dogs with them. The dogs became popular among the artistic communities and, with crosses to other brachycephalic breeds, formed the little character so loved by celebrities today. With its large bat-ears and appealing expression, this canine clown will steal your heart.

Life Expectancy 11-14 Years | Height 28-30cm | Trainability Easy if you make it fun | Grooming Occasional brushing | Exercise Two 15-minute walks a day – and lots of playtime | Most likely to say Take me please! | Least likely to say Let's go on an eight-kilometre hike!

Barbet



Did you know that dogs can have webbed feet? The Barbet is one of the breeds developed to retrieve shot birds from water, and its webbed feet enabled it to move easily across the canals and rivers of France, where it got the nickname 'mud dog'. The Barbet's proper name, however, comes from the French *barbe*, meaning 'beard' – if you look at its handsome face, it really does have a beard! An old breed, the Barbet has been recorded as far back as 1387. It is related to the Poodle and Briard, and may have played a part in their breeding. It has a fun-loving nature, making a delightful family pet.

Life Expectancy 13-15 years | Height 53-65cm | Trainability Intelligent | Grooming Daily brushing | Exercise It loves to retrieve so play catch as well as taking walks | Most likely to say It's the perfect day for a swim | Least likely to say That water looks chilly

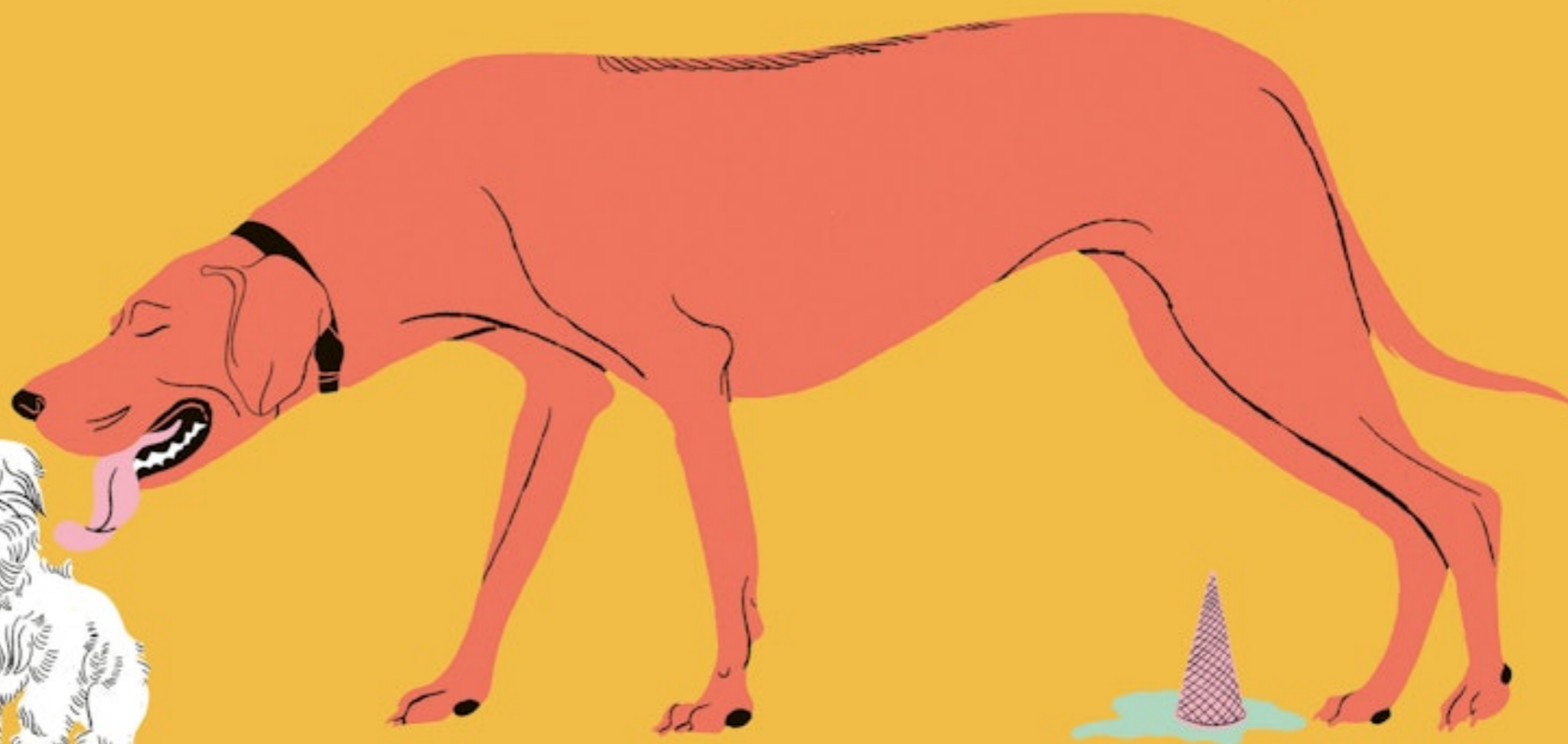
Coton de Tuléar



It might look like a child's toy, but this is a little creature with a big nickname – the Royal Dog of Madagascar. The Coton de Tuléar is thought to have existed on the island for centuries and is named after the Madagascan city of Tuléar (now known as Toliara). The word *coton* refers to its soft, cotton-like coat, a distinctive feature of the breed. And its personality is every bit as appealing as its looks. The Coton gets along with just about everybody and is pretty low-maintenance – as happy in a mansion as a city apartment. Its clownish antics and happy nature have won many hearts around the globe.

Life Expectancy 12–14 Years | Height 20–30cm | Trainability A quick learner but needs firm handling | Grooming Brushing a few times a week | Exercise Not much but hates being left alone | Most likely to say I love everybody! | Least likely to say I hate everybody

Rhodesian Ridgeback



A line of hair growing backwards along its spine gives this handsome scent-hound its name. The Ridgeback comes from what is now Zimbabwe, where it was used by hunters to track lions, bears and wild boar. Its origins lie in the ancient dogs of the Hottentots, which possessed the same ridge of hair. A pronounced ridge was thought to be a sign of courage. That may be unfounded, but the Ridgeback is certainly brave and more frequently used these days as a guard dog because it is so protective. Though energetic, it will happily snuggle on the sofa with you after a decent walk.

Life Expectancy 10–12 years | Height 63–69cm | Trainability An intelligent dog | Grooming A brush once a week | Exercise Decent daily walks will be enough | Most likely to say I will protect you | Least likely to say Eek! Spider!

Index

A

Affenpinscher 74
Afghan Hound 5
Akita 9
Alaskan Malamute 15
American Cocker Spaniel 71

B

Barbet 99
Basenji 2
Basset Hound 38
Beagle 52
Bedlington Terrier 58
Bernese Mountain Dog 39
Bichon Frise 54
Black Russian Terrier 83
Bloodhound 43
Border Collie 81
Border Terrier 94
Borzoi 27
Boston Terrier 72
Boxer 67
Bracco Italiano 60
breed groups xii-xiii
Briard 59

C

Canaan 33
Canadian Eskimo Dog 37
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel 32
characteristics xv
Chihuahua 24
Chinese Crested 28
Chow Chow 17
Collie 66
Corgi 42
Coton De Tuléar 100
crossbreeds xviii-xix

D

Dachshund 46
Dalmatian 49
Dandie Dinmont Terrier 88
Dobermann 82

E

English Bull Terrier 70
English Bulldog 31
English Cocker Spaniel 73
English Setter 89
English Springer 90

F

Fox Terrier 96
Foxhound 41
French Bulldog 98

G

German Pinscher 62
German Shepherd 79
Golden Retriever 97
Great Dane 51
Greyhound 13

H

Hamiltonstövare 76
Havanese 64
history x-xi

I

Ibizan Hound 44
Irish Setter 69
Irish Wolfhound 61

J

Jack Russell Terrier 80
Japanese Chin 8

K

Keeshond 29
Kerry Blue Terrier 92
Komondor 65
Kooikerhondje 86

L

Labrador Retriever 85
Lagotto Romagnolo 50
Large Münsterländer 95
Leonberger 77
Lhasa Apso 6

M

Maltese 26
Maremma Sheepdog 53
Mastiff 23

N

Neapolitan Mastiff 25
Newfoundland 45
Norwegian Elkhound 35

O

Old English Sheepdog 63

P

Papillon 34
Pekingese 1
Pharaoh Hound 11
Pomeranian 22
Poodle 56
Pug 20
Puli 47
Pumi 78
Pyrenean Mountain Dog 21

R

Rhodesian Ridgeback 101
Rottweiler 93

S

Saint Bernard 57
Saluki 14
Samoyed 19
Schipperke 48
Schnauzer 40
Sealyham Terrier 84
Shar-Pei 12
Shiba Inu 10
Shih Tzu 16
Siberian Husky 7
Spinone Italiano 75
Staffordshire Bull Terrier 91
Swedish Vallhund 36

T

Tibetan Mastiff 3
Tibetan Spaniel 4

V

Vizsla 55

W

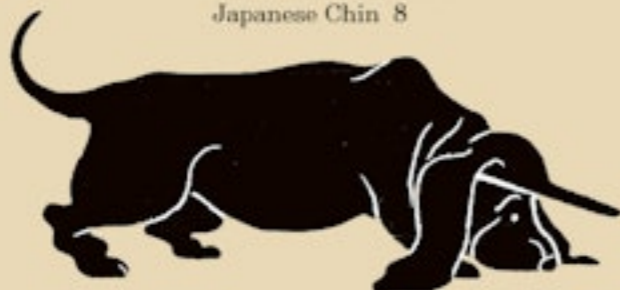
Weimaraner 87
West Highland Terrier 68

X

Xoloitzcuintli 18

Y

Yorkshire Terrier 30





About the Author

A former newspaper journalist, Nicola Jane Swinney started writing books about horses and, everyone knows, where you find horses, you will also find dogs. Having been around horses and dogs – mostly hunting hounds and gundogs – for most of her life, it was almost inevitable that Nicola would end up writing about them. She now has cats – in the shape of two Maine Coons, and a husband, who is far down the pecking order. Nicola says if she were a dog, she would be a Golden Retriever; blonde, always somewhat dishevelled, a bit daffy and far too interested in food!

About the Illustrator

Romy Blümel is a German illustrator based in Berlin. Romy's work looks as though it has been linocut but in fact she works with paint. She draws directly on to the surface of paint as well as drawing in ink, and combines the two mediums to create the beautiful artwork you see in this book. Her work has been featured by a broad list of clients for newspapers, magazines, books, advertising and cultural events.



