

# German Shepherd



The following information and opinions are based solely on Vladae, Bonny, A.C.T. and The Dog Wizard Inc.'s knowledge and experience and may not apply to every dog belonging to this breed. The overall temperament of a German Shepherd is based on many variables, which include: genetics, environment and the behavior of its owner(s). These variables can have a dramatic effect on the outcome of a dogs' performance and behavior. Please do your research carefully before selecting any breed of dog for you or your family!

The Dog Wizard Inc. and A.C.T. accept no responsibility for misinformation and are not liable for any injuries or actions that are a result of this information.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** This breed was developed from Germany's herding and farm dogs. In 1889 Captain Max von Stephanitz began the standardization of the breed, when he purchased Hektor Linksrhein, and renamed him Horand von Grafath. This dog became the first registered German Shepherd Dog.

**BREED APPEARANCE:** A large dog; height is 22 to 26 inches and weighs 60 – 85 pounds. The German Shepherd Dog is a strong, agile, well muscled animal. Its ears are moderately pointed in proportion to the skull, open toward the front, and carried erect when at attention. The neck is long and gently slopes from the withers into a straight back, with a deep full chest. Its tail is bushy and it has a double coat of medium length, in strong rich colors: bi-colored or solid, black, black and tan, black and cream, black and red, black and silver, blue, gray, liver, sable and white.

**WHY YOU WOULD LOVE THIS BREED?** German Shepherds are athletic and agile, make excellent Search and Rescue dogs and are perfect for Seeing Eye companions. They also excel in the obedience ring, make great herding dogs for sheep, (and children too!). You will love this dog for its versatility.

**WHY YOU WOULD NOT LOVE THIS BREED?** Because of their popularity, some breeders are not breeding to the standard in genetics and temperament. This has caused some German Shepherds to be unsound in health and or temperament resulting in aggressive and or anti-social behaviors. Please buy from a reputable breeder to ensure genetics and temperament!

# Perfect Pet Rating

 **Only buy from a reputable breeder!**

## Overall Breed Rating

5 Paw Rating: 1 = Poor, 2 = Adequate, 3 = Average, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent

*Rating system for perfect pet includes the following categories: Will this breed bite my child? Would they kill other animals? Are they easy to train?*

*Rating system for overall breed rating includes all categories.*

**PLUSES:** They are very loyal, make great watch dogs or guard dogs and are excellent for: Seeing Eye dogs, Search and Rescue, police work and herding. Best of all, they make wonderful companions!

**MINUSES:** They need to be properly socialized and trained, and given a job. They have been known to become overly protective of their territory. **Breeder selection is critical – this cannot be stated enough!**

### WHO SHOULD NOT OWN THIS BREED?

This dog needs to be exercised both mentally and physically. If you are not able or willing to do this, please consider another breed.

### DO THEY SHED?

Yes, lots! They should be brushed daily. They shed their undercoat twice a year.

### WILL THIS BREED BITE MY CHILD?

A well bred German Shepherd is great with children they are raised with. However, **EXTREME CAUTION AND SUPERVISION IS ALWAYS RECOMMENDED WHEN CHILDREN AND DOGS ARE TOGETHER!**

### WOULD THEY KILL OTHER ANIMALS?

A well bred Shepherd should be fine around other animals IF properly socialized and trained. A poorly bred Shepherd may attack without warning.

### WHAT IS THEIR ENERGY LEVEL?

They are high energy dogs that need daily exercise.

### ARE THEY EASY TO TRAIN?

They are Intelligent and learn quickly but you may need Professional training to manage their protective behavior.

### WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS?

Hip and elbow dysplasia, skin disorders, Auto-immune diseases, Sub-aortic Stenosis, Thyroid dysfunction, digestive upsets and eye problems. Buying from a reputable breeder is always advisable and will help to lessen the chances for health problems and congenital defects.

