

Lexington Humane Society

Finders-Keepers: Common Breed Characteristics

Please note: for mixed-breed dogs, try to look to the predominant breed for characteristics. Some "mixes" might be unknown and advice from a professional (veterinarian or dog trainer) may be necessary to learn more about your new dog. The following information should serve as a general guide only.

List of Common Dog Breeds by Size:	Grooming/Coat Requirements:			Dog's Personality/ Activity Level:			Level of Exercise Dog Requires:			Families with Small Children:
	Little Fuss	Regular Brushing	Profesnl. Groom	Calm	Alert	Active	Minimal	Average	Heavy	
TOY (up to 10 lb)										Supervise Dog with Children
Chihuahua	X				X			X		X
Maltese			X		X		X	X		
Miniature Pinscher	X				X	X		X		X
Pomeranian		X	X		X			X		
Poodle			X		X			X		
Yorkshire Terrier		X	X		X	X		X		

BREED NOTES: Toy breed puppies are very active, but manageable due to size.

Adults stay active longer than with larger breeds.

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	Little Fuss	Regular Brushing	Profesnl. Groom	Calm	Alert	Active	Minimal	Average	Heavy	
SMALL (10-20 lb)										Supervise Dog with Children
Dachshund	X				X			X		
Border Terrier		X			X			X		
Jack Russell Terrier	X					X			X	X
Pug	X			X	X		X	X		
Llasa Apso		X	X		X			X		
Miniature Schnauzer			X		X			X		X
Shih Tzu			X		X			X		

BREED NOTES: Small breed puppies are very active, but manageable due to size.

Adults stay active longer than with larger breeds.

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	Little Fuss	Regular Brushing	Profesnl. Groom	Calm	Alert	Active	Minimal	Average	Heavy	
MEDIUM (20-50 lb)										Supervise Dog with Children
Airedale			X	X	X			X		
American Pit Bull Terrier	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Australian Cattle Dog		X			X	X			X	X
Australian Shepherd		X				X			X	X
Beagle	X			X	X			X		
Border Collie		X				X			X	X
Brittany Spaniel		X	X			X		X	X	
Cocker Spaniel		X*	X		X			X	X	X
Shar Pei	X	X*		X	X			X		X
Shetland Sheepdog			X			X		X		

BREED NOTES: x* = often require regular skin and/or ear care, medicated baths, etc.

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	Little Fuss	Regular Brushing	Profesnl. Groom	Calm	Alert	Active	Minimal	Average	Heavy	
LARGE (50-80 lb)										Supervise Dog with Children
Basset Hound		X*		X			X			
Boxer	X			X	X	X		X	X	
Bulldog		X*		X			X			
Chow Chow			X		X			X		X
Collie			X	X	X	X		X		
Dalmation	X				X	X		X	X	X
Doberman Pinscher	X	X*			X	X		X	X	X
English Setter		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Golden Retriever		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Labrador Retriever	X	X			X	X		X	X	
Pointer	X				X	X		X		
Weimaraner	X				X	X		X	X	X

BREED NOTES: Large breed puppies are very active; will calm down when over 4 years old.

x* = often require regular skin and/or ear care, medicated baths, etc.

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	Little Fuss	Regular Brushing	Profesnl. Groom	Calm	Alert	Active	Minimal	Average	Heavy	
EXTRA-LARGE (80+ lb)										Supervise Dog with Children
Akita			X		X			X	X	X
Alaskan Malamute		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Bloodhound		X*		X	X		X	X		X
Bullmastiff	X			X			X	X		
German Shepherd		X			X	X		X	X	
Great Dane	X			X				X		
Great Pyrenees			X	X				X		X
Rottweiler	X				X	X		X		X
St. Bernard		X	X	X				X		X

BREED NOTES: Extra-large breed puppies are very active; will calm down when over 4 years old.

x* = often require regular skin and/or ear care, medicated baths, etc.