

PASSION *for* PETS

Bullmastiff - Information Sheet



BACKGROUND - Bullmastiffs were bred to catch, pin and hold down poachers in the forests of England. The gamekeepers needed an agile, strong and obedient dog, so they crossed the English Mastiff and the British Bulldog. These dogs were more aggressive than is considered either necessary or acceptable in today's Bullmastiff.

AVERAGE LIFESPAN - These big dogs normally live to eight years of age, but fed correctly and given the love and respect they deserve Bullmastiffs will usually live up to 10 years.

AVERAGE SIZE & WEIGHT - This is another big dog where a healthy bitch can weigh up to 45kg and reach 61cm in height, while the male weighs in at 60kg and can grow to 73cm tall.

BREED PERSONALITY, CHARACTERISTICS & TEMPERAMENT - Bullmastiffs have a more independent mindset than many of the other guarding breeds. This extremely impressive animal can be very gentle or a total clown. They can also curl up napping or viewing television with children. Each Bullmastiff has a personality of its own. The true Bullmastiff character should exhibit dignity, alertness, intelligence, stability and loyalty. They should be neither too assertive nor too passive.

The Bullmastiff's favourite spot in the house or yard is the one that will afford the best overall view of its territory. It may appear to be at ease, while still being extremely aware of the slightest changes that occur. The Bullmastiff has an innate talent for distinguishing who belongs on the property and who is an intruder.

Obedience training is a must for such a large and powerful dog, in order for it to happily co-exist in the average household. The prime factor in training a Bullmastiff is consistency.

COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER PETS - As a general rule, mature Bullmastiff males do not get along well with other males. Occasionally females will not tolerate other females. Although there are always exceptions, it is less likely that two dogs of the same sex will get along, especially after sexual maturity - so if you are planning to purchase two Bullmastiffs, it is recommended that you get one of each sex.

CARE REQUIREMENTS - The coat requires minimal work to keep it in good condition. It is a waterproof jacket that for the most part manages to look impressive, even with very little attention. Brushing several times a week will take care of any loose hairs, while regular use of a rubber hound glove will apply pressure all over the body to stimulate the flow of oil and massage the skin to a healthy condition. Exercise is necessary and important, however, Bullmastiffs need only a limited amount of exercise to keep fit and healthy. Never over exercise a Bullmastiff, especially in its formative first year.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE - Generally Bullmastiffs are not jumpers, however, they can, with provocation, jump high fences - so 1.5-metre high fences are the absolute minimum. All Bullmastiffs need to have a suitable kennel for when the need arises. Certain health conditions, such as Entropion and Hip Dysplasia, can occur in Bullmastiffs, as with some other breeds. Contact breed experts or vets for additional information.

IDEAL OWNERS - The Bullmastiff is not the breed for everyone. Due to its intelligence, independence of mind, size, and strength to back up its wishes, the Bullmastiff should not be owned by those who are not willing, or are afraid, to enforce rules of proper behaviour.