

PASSION *for* PETS

Koolie - Information Sheet



BACKGROUND - Not much is known on the history of the Koolie although there are many theories circulating throughout the Koolie community. It is generally believed the Koolie was imported from Germany to Australia by early immigrant European settlers. The breeds' original name was German Coolie which is still used by many. Koolies are eye-catching, well balanced, medium sized dogs, with unusual markings in the form of flecks and patches of colour. The two main colours are red or blue merle and some people believe solid coloured and black and white are also acceptable. Eyes can be blue, brown, green, black or grey or a combination of blue and brown. Ears are moderate sized, triangular shaped and usually pricked or semi-pricked. The coat can be short, medium or long which short being far more common and usually the preferred coat type.

AVERAGE LIFESPAN - Koolies generally have very few health problems. Dogs with predominantly white heads are likely to suffer hearing and sight problems. Sun damage to white skin can also be an issue. Koolies usually live beyond 15 years

AVERAGE SIZE & WEIGHT – The Koolie is a medium sized dog, Height being 40-55cm and weight being 12-20kg.

BREED PERSONALITY, CHARACTERISTICS & TEMPERAMENT - The Koolie is extremely active and intelligent with a naturally strong working instinct. They are suited to yard and paddock and work sheep, cattle and goats equally well. Their easy-going, fun-loving personality makes the breed a great choice as a companion for a lively family or active individual. Koolies are readily used in sports such as agility and obedience and are also making a name for themselves in television and "Pets -as -Therapy" positions. The Koolie possess an amazing sense of smell, often able to detect an ill sheep lying hidden in the grass a remarkable distance away. The sheep in need of attention would, if not for the Koolies keen sense of smell, easily be missed and evidently die.

COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER PETS - The American Staffordshire Terrier can, under some circumstances, show aggressive tendencies towards cats, rabbits and other household pets. With other dogs, it needs to be socialised correctly over a period of time to establish a lasting relationship.

The owner of an American Staffordshire Terrier should be ever aware that it will respond to a challenge offered by another dog, and for this reason great care should be taken in the surrounds of an unfamiliar dog, especially if both are male.

CARE REQUIREMENTS - Short coated coolies require very little grooming. A bath when needed and a brush to remove grass seeds if necessary. The longer coated varieties need more care. Working Koolies need a good quality high protein dry dog biscuit. A supplement of meaty bones ensure healthy teeth and gums and adds variety to the diet.

IDEAL OWNER/S - Koolies are primarily a working dog with a naturally strong herding instinct. They require plenty of exercise to keep their bodies fit and their minds occupied. Koolies are best suited to a working lifestyle, a sport such as agility, or as a companion for an active family with a big back yard and plenty of energy.