



Read about the Breed

German Shepherd Dog

Herding Group



The German Shepherd Still Retains its Natural Herding Instinct

Breed History:

- The first German Shepherd breed club, Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde, was formed in Germany in 1899.
- Rin Tin Tin, one of Hollywood's famous dogs, helped popularize the breed in the 1920's.
- The first German Shepherd was registered with the AKC in 1908.
- A versatile dog that has been used for herding, police work, guiding, and companionship,



Keys to the Breed:

- High Energy Indoors
- Special Exercise Needs
- Special Grooming Needs
- Good Watchdog
- Good with Kids

Breed Characteristics:

- **Appearance** — Sporting a double coat of medium length, the German Shepherd is well muscled and alert in expression. The coat color is typically black and tan or solid black, with high set ears and a tail that is carried low. The body is slightly longer than the dog is tall.
- **Grooming** — GSD's shed year-round and should be brushed regularly, especially during the shedding season when they "blow coat." The nails and teeth should also be kept in good shape.
- **Exercise** — They should be taken on long daily walks and given playtime on a regular basis.
- **Temperament** — GSD's are naturally intelligent, loyal, and protective. They are self-confident and are typically somewhat wary of strangers, but should be approachable and outgoing. Due to their intelligence and natural protective tendencies, they should be well-socialized and given obedience training.

Vital Stats:

- **Size** — Dogs (males) stand 24-26 inches, bitches (females) 22-24 inches
- **Weight** — Dogs average 65-90 lbs, bitches 55-80 lbs
- **Life span** — 11-13 years on average
- **Common Health Issues** — Pet shop puppies should be avoided due to hip and elbow dysplasia, bloat, eye disorders, and potential aggressiveness
- **Breed Clubs** — German Shepherd Dog Club of America

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AKC Standard Says:
The German Shepherd's "expression is keen, intelligent, and composed."