



ARE YOU THE RIGHT PERSON FOR A ROTTWEILER?

A dog is a commitment that shouldn't be taken lightly. Before buying, you need to evaluate your daily lifestyle and how a dog will affect it. A Rottweiler needs plenty of attention, exercise and care over the course of its life. It needs to be well trained, well fed and well loved in order to thrive. Besides the purchase price, there are basic expenses such as food, licensing, supplies (i.e. collar, leash, crate) and regular veterinary care. With a Rottweiler you can expect to spend a minimum of \$100/mth. Above all, a Rottweiler needs to be welcomed by everyone living in the home.

The Rottweiler is not a breed for everyone. This is a breed with great intelligence, unmatched loyalty and a very strong nature. This is a working breed. Its ancestors were used for herding, droving, hauling and guarding. For this reason they have special traits and requirements that must be understood and considered before a Rottweiler is brought home.

This is an animal of great strength, agility and endurance. From their days as a herding dog, Rottweilers have inherited their strong guarding instinct and protective nature, the ability to think independently and a tendency to bump and herd. They will bump and herd adults, children and other animals. Because of this tendency to "bump", their exuberance and their size, a Rottweiler can easily knock over a child or an elderly or infirm adult, causing injury without actually meaning to do so. Although Rottweilers are typically tolerant, loving, gentle and able to adapt to children's antics some breeders suggest children be at least school age before getting a Rottweiler for a pet.

The Rottweiler's temperament varies from being a natural clown who is affectionate with almost anyone, to a reserved one person dog who follows their master from place to place, keeping a constant, sometimes obtrusive watch over their loved one. However, these are the extremes of a Rottweiler's temperament. Typically, a well-bred Rottweiler is calm, confident and courageous. He is inherently aloof with strangers and can be somewhat reserved in new situations. Aggressiveness or belligerence towards other dogs is not faulted (though it should not be encouraged).

Rottweilers are very devoted to their family but as with all dominant breeds they must be trained in order to obey and respect the humans in it's family. Because of this devotion, Rottweilers thrive on companionship, so if you plan to be away from home for long periods of time and plan to leave the dog unattended, this is not the breed for you. Neither should a Rottweiler be banished to the backyard, whether they are chained, in a kennel or have free run. If left to their own devices, as with other guardian type breeds, they can become territorial especially if they have minimal human contact or are teased and tormented by neighborhood children or other dogs. They should be raised in a household environment, as they are happiest when they are with their "people".

The Rottweiler is not suited to a sedentary owner. As a working breed, he requires vigorous daily exercise to remain in

proper form. A large fenced yard is not enough. They require at least one lengthy walk per day and even better if you can throw some kind of mental exercise in as well. As with other working breeds, a Rottweiler requires mental as well as physical exercise to keep healthy and happy. Lack of mental stimulus or loneliness may result in your Rottweiler developing habits that you won't appreciate, such as eating the couch or your favorite pair of shoes, digging, barking, etc.

Rottweilers are naturally protective of their owner's property (and personal space) and if not socialized properly this can lead to aggression where outsiders are concerned. Rottweilers are not quick to bite but may corner someone considered an intruder.

Rottweilers, as with all breeds with a strong nature, must have, at the very least, basic obedience. They are considered reliably trained when they can be controlled with verbal commands alone and do not need a collar and leash for corrections. Using commands such as sit, stay, down, come and stand, on a daily basis, as well as training your Rottweiler to walk on leash without pulling, are essential to building a strong relationship with your dog. If you are not willing to invest the time needed to find a reputable training facility and to fully train your Rottweiler in proper behavior, then again, this breed is not for you.

In training, the Rottweiler requires a firm (but not harsh or heavy) and consistent hand. They respond better to love and affection (and food) than bullying and browbeating. Treat them fairly and you will earn the Rottweilers respect, devotion and willingness to please.

If you purchase a pup, never let it do anything as a baby that you wouldn't allow it to do as an adult. Remember that these dogs are 85+lbs as adults and it's much easier to train a baby as to retrain an adult. Take the pup to training classes so that it will come into contact with different people, dogs and be introduced to new situations. This is very important for good socialization. If you choose to do private training then an extra effort will have to be made to socialize the dog.

Grooming requirements are fairly simple due to the Rottweiler's short coat. However, you need to keep in mind that twice a year (as with most dogs), they go through a shedding period. At this point, even with brushing several times a day, every day, there will be (or what seems to be) a never ending supply of hair on your floors and everything else the dog touches. If this concerns you then you may want to consider looking into a non-shedding breed or not get a dog at all.

Another thing to keep in mind is that Rottweilers do not handle high temperatures very well, especially the males. This is due to their generally larger size but for both sexes, the main reason is due to that wonderful black coat we like so much. While they are outside you have to ensure that there is a constant source of shade and water available.

Thank you for your interest in the Rottweiler. We hope this helps you make a more informed decision about this great breed.

Feel free to contact us for additional information:

Rottweiler Club of Canada

CKC recognized National Breed Club

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