Australian Shepherd

The following information and opinions are based solely on Vladae, Bonny, A.C.T. and The Dog Wizard Inc.'s knowledge and experience and may not apply to every dog belonging to this breed. The overall temperament of an Australian Shepherd is based on many variables, which include: genetics, environment and the behavior of its owner(s). These variables can have a dramatic effect on the outcome of a dogs' performance and behavior. Please do your research carefully before selecting any breed of dog for you or your family!

The Dog Wizard Inc. and A.C.T. accept no responsibility for misinformation and are not liable for any injuries or actions that are a result of this information.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:
The dogs of today are from the United States, but are associated with the Basque Shepherds from Basque Region of the Pyrenees Mountains between Spain and France. The Basque Shepherds emigrated from Australia in the 1800's, thereby; the Australian Shepherds acquired their name. They were used on ranches for working livestock.

BREED APPEARANCE:
The Australian Shepherd is a medium sized dog; height is 18 to 23 inches and weighs from 35 – 70 pounds. Its coat is medium length, silky texture with a soft undercoat. Its ears are a medium triangular size, set high on the head, which at attention break forward and to the side. Its coat is white on muzzle, mane, underbelly, & feet with the remainder marbled red, grey, tan, and or black. It has a docked or bobbed tail.

WHY YOU WOULD LOVE THIS BREED: Australian Shepherds are extremely smart, easy to train, loyal, hard working, have a great sense of humor and are great for herding or guarding. They also excel in agility competition and obedience.

WHY YOU WOULD NOT LOVE THIS BREED: This breed tends to bark at everything, is hyperactive, and should be handled by experienced dog owners. This breed needs training and a job to perform. If untrained and jobless, this dog can become aggressive towards other dogs and people, especially strangers.

Perfect Pet Rating

Overall Breed Rating

5 Paw Rating: 1 = Poor, 2 = Adequate, 3 = Average, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent

Rating system for perfect pet includes the following categories: Will this breed bite my child? Would they kill other animals? Are the easy to train?

Rating system for overall breed rating includes all categories.

PLUSES: They are super smart, very loyal, athletic, agile and love to work. They are great with children and very protective of their family.

MINUSES: They are very energetic and need to be stimulated both mentally and physically. This breed can become territorial and is cautious with strangers.

WHO SHOULD NOT OWN THIS BREED?
Someone who is not willing to take an active role in training, entertaining and exercising, should not own this breed. This dog is not a couch potato and should not be owned by someone who is inactive or chooses to play a small part in their dogs' life.

DO THEY SHED?
Yes, they shed moderately and should be brushed at least twice a week. Their coat sheds twice a year.

WILL THIS BREED BITE MY CHILD?
This breed loves children but tend to 'nip at the heels' of running children and due to their heritage, may even try herding them! EXTREME CAUTION AND SUPERVISION IS ALWAYS RECOMMENDED WHEN CHILDREN AND DOGS ARE TOGETHER!

WOULD THEY KILL OTHER ANIMALS?
Generally good with animals they are raised with, but training is essential to maintain control.

WHAT IS THEIR ENERGY LEVEL?
They are very energetic so you need to take an active roll in exercising and have adequate (secured) room for them to run.

ARE THEY EASY TO TRAIN?
Yes, this breed is highly intelligent making them great obedience and agility dogs.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS?
Health concerns include: Idiopathic Epilepsy, which is believed to be an inheritable disease, and Hip Dysplasia. Buying from a reputable breeder is always advisable and will help to lessen the chances for health problems and congenital defects.