

Shetland Sheepdog



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 a Shetland Sheepdog 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 dog's 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 Shetland Sheepdog may have come from the same foundation stock as the Collie and the Border Collie. However, the dogs taken to the Shetland Islands were downsized to the Shetland Sheepdog then known as the Shetland Collie. The Shetland Islands are harsh, with little vegetation and long winter months better for small breeds. The Islands were largely uninhabited for most of the year. The Sheltie was independent and smart enough to be left to care for the ponies, sheep and cattle with visits from the owners. In 1800 the Shelties were brought to the mainland and became more popular as a herding dog.

BREED APPEARANCE: Shelties are small with a height of 13 to 16 inches and weighs from 13 to 20 pounds. His ears are small triangular size, set high on the head and carried three fourths erect with tips breaking forward. He has a deep chest; the tail is bushy and should be long enough for the tip of the tail to reach the hock joint. His coat is long and straight with a soft undercoat. He has feathering on his forelegs and hind legs but smooth below the hock joint. His coat is black, blue merle, or sable (ranging from golden through mahogany) marked with varying amounts of white on muzzle, mane, underbelly, & feet.

WHY YOU WOULD LOVE THIS BREED? They are loyal, hard working, even-tempered, bright and willing to please. They like agility, obedience, tracking and herding.

WHY YOU WOULD NOT LOVE THIS BREED?

Because of their popularity, breeding without attention to genetics or lack of socialization among puppies has created behavior and health problems in Shelties.

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 they easy to train?
Rating system for overall breed rating includes all categories.*

PLUSES: They fit well in apartments with older children. They like lots of activity.

MINUSES: They may herd your kids, nipping at their heels and barking.

WHO SHOULD NOT OWN THIS BREED?

Shelties require a job, obedience training and lots of socializing. If you haven't the energy or time, this dog is not for you.

DO THEY SHED?

They should be brushed daily. They shed twice a year, but requires little professional care.

WILL THIS BREED BITE MY CHILD?

This dog can be shy of strangers and is a herding or guard dog. Socialization and training will help with their natural tendencies to nip. **EXTREME CAUTION AND SUPERVISION IS ALWAYS RECOMMENDED WHEN CHILDREN AND DOGS ARE TOGETHER!**

WOULD THEY KILL OTHER ANIMALS?

They are good with animals they are raised with, but training is essential to maintain control.

WHAT IS THEIR ENERGY LEVEL?

They require daily exercise to keep them from boredom. They may chase cars so a leash is mandatory when walking them in public.

ARE THEY EASY TO TRAIN?

They are intelligent and eager to train. But they are so smart that you'll enjoy some professional help.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS?

They are normally healthy but can have Dermatomyositis (Sheltie Skin Syndrome), Epilepsy, hypothyroidism, dysplasia, arthritis, kidney failure, allergies, cancers, missing teeth, Von Willebrand's disease (VWD), and eye diseases. Merle puppies with double merle inheritance may be deaf. A quality food may help the immune system fight off diseases. Buying from a reputable breeder is always advisable and will help to lessen the chances for health problems and congenital defects.