



A Guide to Understanding Dog Breeds & Behaviors

Table of Contents

All Purpose Working Dog	3
Freight Haulers and Sled Pullers	4-5
Fighting Dogs/Big Game	6
Pit Bulls	7-8
Coach Dogs	9
Companions	10
Toys	11
Hunting Dogs	12-25
Retrievers	13-14
Setters	15
Spaniels	16-17
Pointers	18
Scent Hounds	19-20
Sight Hounds	21-22
Badger Hounds	23
Terriers	24-25
Livestock dogs	26-35
Cattle Drovers	27-28
Sheep Drovers	29-30
Tenders	31-32
Guardians	33
Guarding and Protection	34-35

All Purpose Working Dog

Function:

- Have been used for herding, cart pulling, and guarding
- Used as an all purpose working dog under human direction



Behavioral characteristics:

- Easy to train
- Playful, gregarious and energetic
- Slow to mature
- Use their front paws when interacting and playing (they “box”)

Potential issues:

- Aggressive toward strangers and other animals if not well socialized at an early age
- Consistent jumpers
- Most are large dogs and are difficult to physically control, necessitating consistent training for command control
- Need daily exercise to channel energy
- Not appropriate off leash
- Prone to hip dysplasia
- Slobbery

Expectations for evaluation:

- Friendly and social
- Gregarious and not self aware
- Rude and frontal

Breeds:

- Boxer



Freight Haulers & Sled Pullers



Function:

- Haul heavy items by pulling a cart
- Hauling in and retrieving heavy items
- Pull sleds
- Herd reindeer
- Search and rescue

Behavioral characteristics:

- Draft dogs are calm and gentle
- Independent and aloof
- Protective, loyal, and courageous
- Sled dogs are energetic and active



Potential issues:

- Chow Chows can be unfriendly toward strangers and are generally a one or two person dog
- Difficult to leash train
- Difficult to obedience train
- Do not thrive in hot climates
- Dominant and bossy with other animals
- Highly destructive when adolescent (under 3 years old)
- Larger dogs are generally friendly and social
- Larger dogs are generally inactive indoors
- May prefer outdoors to indoors
- Not appropriate off leash
- Obstinate
- Rambunctious as puppies
- Siberians and Malamutes are excessively vocal
- Siberians are excessively mouthy and can dig and escape their confinement



Freight Haulers & Sled Pullers cont.

Expectations for evaluation:

- Aloof or bossy with other dogs
- Chow Chows are aloof and stoic
- Dominant
- Intolerant of handling
- Malamutes are dominant and “arrogant”
- Mastiffs don’t kennel well due to protectiveness and dominance
- Siberians are mouthy

Breeds:

- Alaskan Malamute
- Bernese Mountain Dog (Mastiff breed)
- Chow Chow
- Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (Mastiff breed)
- Newfoundland
- Portuguese Water Dog
- Saint Bernard (Mastiff breed)
- Samoyed
- Siberian Husky



Fighting/Big Game Dogs



Function:

- Watchdog
- Hunt large game (bears, deer, etc.)
- Bull baiting
- Fighting

Behavioral characteristics:

- Brave, determined, alert and self-confident
- Capable of ferocity
- Dominant, bossy, tenacious, rude, and controlling
- Easily aroused
- Not self aware
- Prone to animal aggression
- Protective and possessive



Potential issues:

- Can be aloof or unfriendly toward strangers
- Highly destructive
- May not be appropriate for young children
- Must be well socialized early in order to minimize animal aggression
- Must have strong, consistent leadership and training at an early age
- Prone to arousal and arousal issues
- Prone to hip dysplasia
- Quick to learn, slow to comply
- Should never be permitted off leash
- Territorial aggression



Expectations for evaluation:

- Bossy and dominant
- Don't kennel well due to aggressive tendencies
- Environmentally reactive

Breeds:

- Akita
- American Bulldog
- American Pit Bull Terrier (see pages 5-6 for more info)
- American Staffordshire Terrier (see pages 5-6 for more info)
- Boston Terrier (Through selective breeding, their size and aggressive tendencies have decreased.)
- Bull Terrier
- English Mastiff
- Neapolitan Mastiff
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Shar-pei



Pit Bulls

Function

- Crossed Bulldogs with Terriers for Rat-Baiting competitions
- Dog fighting – better spectator sport, higher stakes

Characteristics

- Hold, shake and tear bite style
- Increased muscle and tissue damage
- Agile to avoid serious injuries
- Endurance and athleticism
- Aggression toward other dogs
- Ignore signs of submission – fight to death
- Can be difficult to identify warning of impending attack
- High pain threshold, fight despite physical pain and suffering
- New breed – Pit Bull Terrier
- Same as American Staffordshire Terrier – Pit Bull referred to function
- American Pit Bull Terrier recognized as a breed for UKC
- American Staffordshire Terrier recognized as a breed for AKC
- 100% overlap in breed standards – virtually indistinguishable



Pit Bulls cont.

Potential issues:

- Bite and hold
- Can be dominant and controlling
- High prey drive
- Highly destructive, one of the most destructive breeds
- Highly susceptible to Parvovirus, Babesia, Demodectic mange, Ringworm, Hip Dysplasia
- Highly territorial
- Incredibly high pain tolerance, difficult to detect injuries
- Leash reactive
- Not appropriate for dogs parks
- Prone to arousal and arousal issues
- Tend toward animal aggression, despite training and socialization, some revert to animal aggression when socially mature (18 – 36 months)



Expectations for evaluation:

- Aggressive toward dogs
- Appeasing toward people
- Don't kennel well due to arousal and aggressive tendencies
- Likely to redirect when aroused
- Must observe arousal behavior to thoroughly evaluate
- Rude and inappropriate with dogs
- Stoic when handled abruptly

Coach Dogs

Function:

- Bred to run beside horse-drawn carriages
- Guard horses and carriages
- Also used as a vermin hunter, hound, shepherd and guard dogs



Behavioral characteristics:

- High activity, energy levels, rambunctious
- Highly social and friendly with familiar friends and family
- Playful
- Protective
- Sensitive and high strung
- Slow to mature
- Require training for control and manners
- Wary of strangers

Potential issues:

- Easily trained, but short attention span
- Excessive barking
- Highly destructive
- Must have physical exercise to channel energy appropriately
- Require training for control and manners
- Wary of strangers

Expectations for evaluation:

- Nervous or neurotic when kenneled



Breeds:

- Dalmatian

Companions



Function:

- Several breeds have evolved such that they rarely perform their original function
- Some breeds were entirely for companionship or show

Behavioral Characteristics:

- Widely varied

Potential Issues:

- Excessive barking
- Need for exercise and training
- Nervous or neurotic
- Nippy, handling sensitivities



Breeds:

- American Eskimo (watchdog, guarding)
- Bichon (circus dog, show dog)
- Finnish Spitz (bird hunter)
- Keeshond (sled dog)
- Miniature Poodle (show dog)
- Schipperke (guarding, vermin hunters)
- Tibetan Terrier (not a Terrier)



Toys



Function:

- Companionship
- Show

Behavioral Characteristics:

- Nervous, neurotic or high strung
- Vocal

Potential Issues:

- Aggressive with dogs if not properly socialized
- Difficult to housetrain
- Excessive barking
- Must be well socialized from an early age to minimize nervousness and timidity
- Nippy with children
- Prone to periodontal disease



Breeds

- Affenpinscher
- Brussels Griffon
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- Chihuahua
- Chinese Crested
- English Toy Spaniel
- Havanese
- Italian Greyhound
- Japanese Chin
- Maltese
- Manchester Terrier (Toy)
- Miniature Pinscher
- Papillion
- Pekingese
- Pomeranian
- Pug
- Shiba Inu (flush small birds)
- Shih Tzu
- Silky Terrier
- Toy Fox Terrier
- Toy Poodle
- Yorkshire Terrier



Hunting Dogs

Retrievers



Function:

- Assist hunters in hunting land and water fowl
- Stay near hunters and retrieve on command
- Retrieve fowl and objects from land or water using soft mouth
- Bred for endurance

Behavioral characteristics:

- Active, energetic and great stamina
- Easy to train, attentive to handler
- High play drive
- Highly social, strong pack drive
- Need training and activities to channel energy
- Slow to mature
- Social with other animals

Potential issues:

- Destructive chewing
- Digging
- Excessive barking
- Mouthy
- Need training to channel energy
- Play in any available water
- Prone to ear infections
- Prone to hip dysplasia
- Slow to mature

Expectations for evaluation:

- Easy going
- Highly friendly and social
- May be rough and rude – not self aware
- Playful and active



Retrievers cont.

Breeds:

- Chesapeake Bay Retriever (flusher)
- Curly-coated Retriever
- Flat-coated Retriever (flusher)
- Golden Retriever (flusher)
- Labrador Retriever (flusher)
- Newfoundland (water)
- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever
- Portuguese Water Dog (water)
- Standard Poodle (water)



Setters

Function:

- Assist hunters in hunting land fowl
- Run quickly back and forth seeking fowl
- Once found, identify fowl for the hunter by “setting” in a crouched position
- Bred for endurance

Behavioral characteristics:

- Active, energetic with great stamina
- Alert and environmentally focused
- Friendly and social
- Need training and activities to channel energy
- Social with other animals

Potential issues:

- Destructive chewing
- Digging
- Easily distracted making training challenging
- Excessive barking
- High strung, nervous, fearful
- Need training to channel energy and environmental focus
- Prone to ear infections
- Prone to hip dysplasia

Expectations for evaluation:

- Friendly and social when not distracted by environment
- Playful and active
- Slightly nervous or aloof

Breeds:

- Brittany
- English Setter
- Gordon Setter
- Irish Setter



Spaniels

Function:

- Assist hunters in hunting land and water fowl
- Run quickly into foliage looking for fowl
- Spring into brush to flush the fowl
- Bred for endurance

Behavioral characteristics:

- Active, energetic with great stamina
- Alert and environmentally focused
- Easy to train, but easily distracted
- Friendly and social
- Need training and activities to channel energy
- Social with other animals

Potential issues:

- Cocker Spaniels can be difficult to housetrain
- Destructive chewing
- Digging
- Excessive barking
- Need training and activities to channel energy and environmental focus
- Nervous or fearful
- Nippy with children
- Prone to ear infections
- Prone to hip dysplasia

Expectations for evaluation:

- Highly distracted by environment
- Nervous when handled (especially Cocker Spaniels)
- Socially aloof due to environmental focus, fleeting friendliness



Spaniels cont.

Breeds:

- American Cocker Spaniel (flusher)
- American Water Spaniel (flusher)
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (Toy)
- Clumber Spaniel (flusher)
- English Cocker Spaniel (flusher)
- English Springer Spaniel (flusher)
- Field Spaniel (flusher)
- Irish Water Spaniel (flusher)
- Sussex Spaniel (flusher)
- Welsh Springer Spaniel (flusher)



Pointers



Function:

- Assist hunters in hunting land fowl
- Scent track land fowl
- Locate and “point” to land fowl
- Bred for endurance

Behavioral characteristics:

- Active, energetic with great stamina
- Alert and environmentally focused
- Can have high prey drive for critters
- Easy to train, but easily distracted
- Friendly and social
- Need training and activities to channel energy
- Social with other animals



Potential issues:

- Destructive chewing
- Excessive barking
- Jumping, escaping
- Need training and activities to channel energy and environmental focus
- Prone to hip dysplasia
- Weimaraners can be nervous and neurotic
- Weimaraners are particularly exuberant and distractible

Expectations for evaluation:

- Don't kennel well – nervous, reactive
- Highly distracted by environment
- Nervously busy, have a “to do” list
- Socially aloof due to environmental focus, fleeting friendliness

Breeds:

- English Pointer
- German Shorthaired Pointer
- German Wirehaired Pointer
- Italian Spinone
- Vizsla
- Weimaraner
- Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Scent Hounds



Function:

- Scent tracker
- Relatively slow gait in order for hunters to follow behind
- Bark or bay when game is found (treed or dened)
- Work independent of humans, but cooperatively with other dogs
- Bred for endurance

Behavioral characteristics:

- Active, energetic with great stamina
- Alert and environmentally focused
- “Bay” when they vocalize
- Easily distracted
- Friendly and social
- Need training and activities to channel energy
- Smaller dogs are active and energetic, larger dogs slightly less energetic



Potential issues:

- Can be slobbery
- Excessive barking
- Generally friendly and social
- Not easy to leash train
- Not easy to obedience train
- Not ideal for apartment living
- Prone to ear infections
- Smaller dogs can be obstinate and bossy with people and dogs

Expectations for evaluation:

- Beagles and Bassets – bossy with other dogs
- Highly distracted by environment, leash pullers
- Socially aloof due to environmental focus, fleeting friendliness
- Vocal when kenneled



Scent Hounds cont.

Breeds:

- American Foxhound
- Basset Hound
- Beagle
- Black & Tan Coonhound
- Bloodhound
- English Foxhound
- Harrier
- Norwegian Elkhound (herding, watchdog, guarding, sledding)
- Otterhound
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen



Sight Hounds



Function:

- Hunt by visually tracking movement
- Take down larger game by working cooperatively with other dogs
- Lure coursing
- Bred for sprinting – short bursts of intense energy

Behavioral characteristics:

- Aloof with strangers
- Generally gentle and calm
- Generally independent
- High prey drive
- Social with like-sized dogs
- Sprinter athletes – bursts of energy with long periods of rest

Potential issues:

- Highly destructive when adolescent (under 3 years old)
- Must be well socialized to small animals at an early age due to prey drive
- Need daily exercise
- Not easy to obedience train
- Relatively low activity when indoors (couch potatoes)
- Rhodesian Ridgebacks can be quite wary of strangers and fiercely protective of their home and family
- Sensitive to anesthesia
- Will run if permitted off leash



Expectations for evaluation:

- Socially aloof with people and animals
- Stoic when routinely handled
- Panics or defensive when abruptly handled



Sight Hounds cont.

Breeds:

- Afghan
- Basenji
- Borzoi
- Greyhound
- Ibizan Hound
- Irish Wolfhound
- Pharaoh Hound
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Saluki
- Scottish Deerhound
- Whippet



Badger Hounds

Function:

- Scent track badgers (and other small game)
- Short legs and long nose adaptive for digging and getting to small holes
- Bred for endurance



Behavioral characteristics:

- Active with great stamina
- Brave, tenacious, strong willed
- Lively, energetic, curious, mischievous
- Protective and possessive

Potential issues:

- Dominant and controlling
- Excessive barking
- Nippy and intolerant of children
- Prone to spinal disc problems
- Quick to learn, slow to comply
- Unfriendly toward strangers

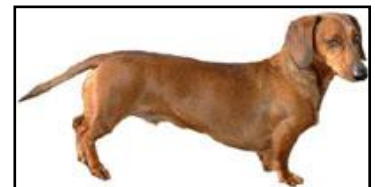


Expectations for evaluation:

- Bossy and dominant
- Handling sensitivities

Breeds:

- Dachshund



Terriers



Function:

- Control vermin, rodent population by hunting
- Dig prey out of its den and kill
- Work independently
- Bred for endurance – always working

Behavioral characteristics:

- Alert, vigilant, highly intelligent
- “Big dogs in little bodies”
- Easily aroused
- Feisty, headstrong, brave
- High prey drive
- High spirited, busy, tenacious
- Highly territorial and protective
- Loyal and bonded to familiar friends and family

Potential issues:

- Destructive chewing
- Dominant and controlling with people and other animals
- Excessive barking
- Excessive, persistent diggers
- Intolerant of young children
- Leash reactive
- Must be well socialized in order to minimize aggressive tendencies
- Nervous and/or fearful
- Often aggressive toward other animals
- Prone to arousal and arousal issues
- Quick to learn, but easily bored
- Requires consistent leadership and training
- Should have a “job” to channel energy and drive
- Snappy, mouthy when handled against their will
- Wary or unfriendly toward strangers

Expectations for evaluation:

- Bossy and intolerant
- Environmentally focused
- Handling sensitivities



Terriers cont.



Expectations for evaluation continued:

- Likely to redirect when aroused
- Nervous and excitable
- Reactive when kenneled

Breeds:

- Small
 - Australian Terrier
 - Border Terrier
 - Cairn Terrier
 - Dandie Dinmont Terrier
 - Manchester Terrier (Standard)
 - Miniature Bull Terrier
 - Miniature Schnauzer
 - Norfolk Terrier
 - Norwich Terrier
 - Parson Russell Terrier or Jack Russell Terrier
 - Rat Terrier
 - Scottish Terrier
 - Sealyham Terrier
 - Skye Terrier
 - Smooth Fox Terrier
 - West Highland Terrier
 - Wire Fox Terrier
- Medium
 - Bedlington Terrier
 - Bull Terrier
 - German Pinscher
 - Irish Terrier
 - Kerry Blue Terrier
 - Lakeland Terrier
 - Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier
 - Staffordshire Bull Terrier
 - Standard Schnauzer (guarding, hunting, tracking, retrieving)
 - Welsh Terrier
- Large
 - Airedale
 - American Staffordshire Terrier (see pages 5-6 for more info)
 - Black Russian Terrier



Livestock Dogs

Cattle Drivers

Function:

- Drive cattle over long distances by nipping at them
- Work independently
- Bred for endurance



Behavioral characteristics:

- Easily aroused
- Highly intelligent, vigilant
- Highly territorial, brave guard dogs
- Independent
- Loyal and protective of familiar friends and family
- Very active with great stamina, easily bored

Potential issues:

- Animal aggressive
- Digging
- Dominant, bossy dogs
- Excessive barking
- Highly destructive
- Leash reactive
- Need consistent training and leadership
- Nip and herd anything that moves (including cars, joggers, playing children, etc.)
- Nippy and reprimanding of children
- Prone to arousal and arousal issues
- Quick to learn, easily bored
- Require daily exercise and things to do
- Suspicious of strangers



Expectations for evaluation:

- Bossy, patrolling behavior
- Don't kennel well due to arousal and reactivity
- Handling sensitivities
- Likely to redirect when aroused



Cattle Drivers cont.

Breeds:

- Australian Cattle Dog – Queensland Heeler
- Australian Kelpie
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Catahoula
- German Pinscher
- Giant Schnauzer
- Pumi
- Rottweiler
- Welsh Corgi (Cardigan & Pembroke)



Sheep Drovers



Function:

- Crouch down and drive sheep with intense stare
- Work cooperatively with other dogs
- Work with or without human direction
- Bred for endurance

Behavioral characteristics:

- Affectionate, loyal and protective of familiar friends and family
- Easily aroused
- Easily trained and responsive to commands
- Highly intelligent, energetic, active, and agile
- Highly sensitive

Potential issues:

- Destructive when bored
- Excessive barking
- Herd anything that moves (including cars, joggers, playing children, etc.)
- Must be well socialized to minimize nervousness
- Nervous or neurotic
- Potential fear biters if not well trained and socialized
- Prone to arousal and arousal issues
- Require training and “jobs” to do
- Wary of strangers



Sheep Drivers cont.

Expectations for evaluation:

- Don't kennel well due to nervousness – may see compulsive behaviors or reactivity
- Friendly and social, but easily distracted
- Handling sensitivities
- Some fearful and neurotic

Breeds:

- Australian Shepherd
- Bearded Collie
- Belgian Sheepdog
 - Tervuren
 - Malinois
 - Laekenois
 - Groenendael
- Border Collie
- Briard
- Canaan Dog
- Catalanian Sheepdog
- Collie
- Dutch Shepherd
- German Shepherd
- English Shepherd
- Komondor
- Kuvasz
- North American Shepherd (Mini Australian Shepherd)
- Old English Sheepdog
- Puli
- Shetland Sheepdog



Tenders



Function:

- Tend and guard the perimeter by keeping livestock in and trespassers out
- Work with or without human direction
- Bred for endurance and sprinting

Behavioral characteristics:

- Bold, direct, fearless, vigilant
- Easily aroused
- High prey drive
- Highly intelligent, easy to train and quick to comply
- Loyal and protective of familiar friends and family
- Strong herding and guarding instinct
- Strong pack drive



Potential issues:

- Destructive when bored
- Excessive barking
- German Shepherds are very mouthy
- Herd anything that moves (including cars, joggers, playing children, etc.)
- Leash reactive
- Must be well socialized to minimize nervousness & fear biting
- Must be well socialized to other animals at an early age
- Nervous or neurotic
- Prone to hip dysplasia
- Prone to arousal and arousal issues
- Require consistent leadership and training
- Very active and busy when adolescent (under 3 years old)
- Wary of strangers



Tenders cont.

Expectations for evaluation:

- Bossy, patrolling behavior
- Don't kennel well due to reactivity and territoriality
- Environmentally focused
- Environmentally reactive
- Nervous or neurotic
- Panics or defensive when abruptly handled
- Reciprocally friendly
- Stoic when routinely handled

Breeds:

- Belgian Sheepdog
 - Laekenois
 - Malinois
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Canaan Dog
- Dutch Shepherd
- German Shepherd



Guardians



Function:

- Guard livestock, protect from predators
- Work independently
- Bred for endurance, work constantly

Behavioral characteristics:

- Alert and possessive
- Dominant
- Gentle, affectionate
- Loyal and highly protective of familiar friends and family
- Highly intelligent
- Independent and aloof
- Low prey drive, but highly protective
- Quick to learn, but slow to comply
- Suspicious of strangers
- Territorial behavior



Potential issues:

- Large dogs, can be difficult to control if untrained
- Must be well socialized early in order to accept other animals
- Must start training very early to instill leadership
- Prone to hip dysplasia
- Protective of anything valued
- Unfriendly or aggressive toward strangers



Expectations for evaluation:

- Aloof toward people and other dogs
- Dominant behavior
- Stoic when handled

Breeds:

- Anatolian Shepherd
- German Pinscher
- Great Pyrenees
- Kuvasz



Guarding & Protection

(Other than flock or livestock guarding)

Function:

- Many Mastiffs used as arena gladiators
- Most used as a guardian, watchdog or bodyguard

Behavioral characteristics:

- Aloof with strangers
- Calm, gentle dogs
- Watchful, protective, self-confident

Potential issues:

- Aggressive with strangers
- Aggressive toward other animals if not well socialized early
- Dominant and controlling
- Many are generally lazy, but require regular exercise for training, enrichment and stimulation
- Most are large dogs and are difficult to physically control, necessitating consistent training for command control
- Not appropriate off leash
- Prone to hip dysplasia
- Protective of anything valued
- Relatively inactive indoors
- Requires strong, consistent leadership and training
- Some breeds are slobbery
- Stubborn and difficult to train



Guarding & Protection cont.

Expectations for evaluation:

- Dominant and bossy
- Don't kennel well due to reactivity, territoriality and dominance
- Environmentally focused
- Intolerant of handling



Breeds:

- Akita
- Black Russian Terrier
- Lhasa Apso
- Mastiff
 - Bernese Mountain Dog
 - Bullmastiff
 - Doberman Pinscher
 - English Mastiff
 - English Bulldog
 - French Bulldog
 - Great Dane
 - Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
 - Neapolitan Mastiff
 - Rottweiler
 - Saint Bernard
- Giant Schnauzer
- Standard Schnauzer
- Tibetan Spaniel



Breed Index

Affenpinscher	9
Afghan	19, 20
Airedale	22, 23
Akita	4, 32, 33
Alaskan Malamute	2, 3
American Bulldog	4
American Cocker Spaniel	14, 15
American Eskimo	8
American Foxhound	17, 18
American Pit Bull Terrier	4, 5, 6
American Staffordshire Terrier	4, 5, 6, 22, 23
American Water Spaniel	14, 15
Anatolian Shepherd	31
Australian Cattle Dog	25, 26
Australian Kelpie	25, 26
Australian Shepherd	27, 28
Australian Terrier	22, 23
Basenji	19, 20
Basset Hound	17, 18
Beagle	17, 18
Bearded Collie	27, 28
Bedlington Terrier	22, 23
Belgian Groenendael	27, 28
Belgian Laekenois	27, 28, 29, 30
Belgian Malinois	27, 28, 29, 30
Belgian Sheepdog	27, 28, 29, 30
Belgian Tervuren	27, 28
Bernese Mountain Dog	2, 3, 32, 33
Bichon	8
Black & Tan Coonhound	17, 18
Black Russian Terrier	22, 23, 32, 33
Bloodhound	17, 18
Border Collie	27, 28
Border Terrier	4, 22, 23

Borzoï	19, 20
Boston Terrier	4
Bouvier des Flandres	25, 26, 29, 30
Boxer	1
Briard	27, 28
Brittany	13
Brussels Griffon	9
Bull Terrier	4, 22, 23
Bullmastiff	32, 33
Cairn Terrier	22, 23
Canaan Dog	27, 28, 29, 30
Cardigan Welsh Corgi	25, 26
Catahoula	25, 26
Catalonian Sheepdog	27, 28
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	9, 14, 15
Chesapeake Bay Retriever	11, 12
Chihuahua	9
Chinese Crested	9
Chow Chow	2, 3
Clumber Spaniel	14, 15
Collie	27, 28
Curly-coated Retriever	11, 12
Dachshund	21
Dalmatian	7
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	22, 23
Doberman Pinscher	32, 33
Dutch Shepherd	27, 28, 29, 30
English Bulldog	32, 33
English Cocker Spaniel	14, 15
English Foxhound	17, 18
English Mastiff	4, 32, 33
English Pointer	16
English Setter	13
English Shepherd	27, 28
English Springer Spaniel	14, 15
English Toy Spaniel	9
Field Spaniel	14, 15
Finnish Spitz	8
Flat-coated Retriever	11, 12

French Bulldog	32, 33
German Pinscher	22, 23, 25, 26, 31
German Shepherd	27, 28, 29, 30
German Shorthaired Pointer	16
German Wirehaired Pointer	16
Giant Schnauzer	25, 26, 32, 33
Golden Retriever	11, 12
Gordon Setter	13
Great Dane	32, 33
Great Pyrenees	31
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog	2, 3, 32, 33
Greyhound	19, 20
Harrier	17, 18
Havanese	9
Ibizan Hound	19, 20
Irish Setter	13
Irish Terrier	22, 23
Irish Water Spaniel	14, 15
Irish Wolfhound	19, 20
Italian Greyhound	9
Italian Spinone	16
Jack Russell Terrier	22, 23
Japanese Chin	9
Keeshond	8
Kerry Blue Terrier	22, 23
Komondor	27, 28
Kuvasz	27, 28, 31
Labrador Retriever	11, 12
Lakeland Terrier	22, 23
Lhasa Apso	32, 33
Maltese	9
Manchester Terrier (Standard)	22, 23
Manchester Terrier (Toy)	9
Mastiff	32, 33
Miniature Australian Shepherd	27, 28
Miniature Bull Terrier	22, 23
Miniature Pinscher	9
Miniature Poodle	8
Miniature Schnauzer	22, 23

Neapolitan Mastiff	4, 32, 33
Newfoundland	2, 3, 11, 12
Norfolk Terrier	22, 23
North American Shepherd (Mini Australian Shepherd)	27, 28
Norwegian Elkhound	17, 18
Norwich Terrier	22, 23
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever	11, 12
Old English Sheepdog	27, 28
Otterhound	17, 18
Papillion	9
Parson Russell Terrier (Jack Russell Terrier)	22, 23
Pekingese	9
Pembroke Welsh Corgi	25, 26
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen	17, 18
Pharaoh Hound	19, 20
Pit Bull Terrier	4, 5, 6
Pomeranian	9
Portuguese Water Dog	2, 3, 11, 12
Pug	9
Puli	27, 28
Pumi	25, 26
Queensland Heeler	25, 26
Rat Terrier	22, 23
Rhodesian Ridgeback	4, 19, 20
Rottweiler	25, 26, 32, 33
Saint Bernard	2, 3, 32, 33
Saluki	19, 20
Samoyed	2, 3
Schipperke	8
Scottish Deerhound	16, 20
Scottish Terrier	19, 20, 22, 23
Sealyham Terrier	22, 23
Shar-pei	4
Shetland Sheepdog	27, 28
Shiba Inu	9
Shih Tzu	9
Siberian Husky	2, 3

Silky Terrier	9
Skye Terrier	22, 23
Smooth Fox Terrier	22, 23
Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier	22, 23
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	5, 6, 22, 23
Standard Poodle	11, 12
Standard Schnauzer	22, 23, 32, 33
Sussex Spaniel	14, 15
Tibetan Spaniel	32, 33
Tibetan Terrier	8
Toy Fox Terrier	9
Toy Poodle	9
Vizsla	16
Weimaraner	16
Welsh Corgi (Cardigan & Pembroke)	25, 26
Welsh Springer Spaniel	14, 15
Welsh Terrier	22, 23
West Highland Terrier	22, 23
Whippet	19, 20
Wire Fox Terrier	22, 23
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon	16
Yorkshire Terrier	9

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