German Shepherd

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

BREED PROFILE: GERMAN SHEPHERD

The German Shepherd is a breed known for its faithfulness and relentless work. Strong and well built, the German Shepherd is prized as a companion, assistance dog, police dog, or for security uses. Good genetics and a great deal of puppy socialization are needed to help mold adult behavior.

Interesting Breed Facts:	
Popularity:	3rd in 2008; with 40,909 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC).
First recognized as a breed:	Max von Stephanitz is credited with starting the first breeding program for the German Shepherd at the end of the 19th century. By 1914, the breed was found in all parts of the world. The current breed standard was approved on February 11, 1978.
AKC Grouping:	Herding
Size:	Males measure between 24"-26" high at the shoulders and females measure between 22"-24". Both sexes weigh between 75-95 lbs.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*

Appearance:	According to breed standards, a German Shepherd should be strong, alert, and well balanced. The muzzle is long and the nose is always black. The eyes are almond shaped, medium-sized, and dark. The ears are moderately pointed and open toward the front. The body is long and the chest is carried down through the legs. The back leg bones are carried slightly flexed and the feet are small, round, and well formed with large pads. The tail is bushy and, when it is at rest, has a slight curve. German Shepherds possess a double coat of medium length. Acceptable exhibition coat colors include black and tan, black and grey, and solid black. Yellow, cream, and white are not recognized for exhibition, but are possible coat colors for the breed.
#1 preventable health problem:	Some German Shepherds are prone to eye disorders, including cataracts. Yearly veterinarian exams are necessary to help screen for this condition.
Preferences:	A German Shepherd possesses a fair amount of energy and requires a great deal of physical exercise. They are one of the most intelligent breeds, so mental exercise is very important.
Best features:	Often, a German Shepherd is not particularly fond of other dogs because of her dominant personality. However, she seems to do well with other pets.
Biggest challenge to owners:	A German Shepherd is very eager to please and to work and this makes training very easy. Training is recommended to stimulate the German Shepherd's mental capacity.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*