

Let's Talk Basics

Know the Breed: We cannot stress enough how important it is to educate yourself on the characteristics of the breed you are adopting. A great environment is ESSENTIAL. Raising a dog with appropriate interaction, **socialization**, and training is very important. Taking the time to understand the high-drive working dog's true nature and needs will ensure a more enjoyable human/canine relationship. High-drive dogs have the following traits molded into their DNA:



- 1-Stamina (a high level of physical energy with PLENTY of endurance).
- 2-Mental Activeness (the dog will quickly learn new things with the right methods and teaching).
- 3- Human Oriented (seek human interaction and typically prefer it over interaction with other dogs).
- 4-Motivation (takes high interest in training/learning with toys and treats).
- 5- Focus/Drive (once taught, the dog will remain focused on the task at hand even in the presence of distractions.)

Being a good owner is not a matter of changing the dog's inbred characteristics, but EDUCATING yourself, ACCEPTING them, and MANAGING them responsibly.

PET OWNERSHIP IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT.

A good owner will not easily give up or attempt to rehome a dog with life changes, moves etc. DO NOT take on the responsibility of ownership if you are not serious. Almost all homeless/stray dogs had an owner at some time.

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High Drive Dogs have an extreme amount of difficulty to thrive or even exist in shelter environments. Their energy, and lack of proper stimulation causes them to become dangerous, sick, and in some cases, even cause harm to themselves. Help be part of the resolution, not the problem. Keep your High Drive Dog out of a shelter, and always consider adopting!

For those who have the TIME TO COMMIT to daily work with high-drive dogs, the relationship with them can be tremendously rewarding. However, without CONSISTANT and DEDICATED training, these dogs may become destructive, reactive, or even aggressive.

Responsible Ownership For High-Drive Dogs

German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois, Dutch Shepherd, Collie, Australian Shepherd, Australian Kelpie, Cattle Dog, Sheepdog etc.



Now is the time to do breed research!

Part of being a responsible pet owner is ensuring you are READY to bring a dog into your home and lifestyle.

REMEMBER: PROMOTE A POSITIVE IMAGE!

SPAY & NEUTER

Shelters and rescues often get high-drive breeds in as surrenders or strays due to owners not doing adequate breed research. Often times owners become overwhelmed with the breed they chose and relinquish the untrained/under socialized dog to a shelter facility. High-Drive breeds DO NOT thrive or even tolerate a shelter environment. They require too much stimulation and exercise to be able to be calm and non-reactive in these settings. Choosing to spay and neuter your high-drive dogs also helps prevent offspring from finding themselves in a shelter, unable to cope with their surroundings, in turn facing euthanasia (in most facilities) as their outcome.

Best Reasons to Spay/Neuter Dog

1. You love your dog and want them to live a long healthy life. Spaying/neutering reduces risk of types of cancers and infections.
2. You are concerned about pet overpopulation and don't want to contribute to the tragedy of so many dogs dying homeless
3. You don't want to put a female through the unnecessary risks associated with pregnancy
4. You want your dog to live a happy life free from stress and frustration. Intact males can smell a female in heat, from MILES away. They are in CONSTANT state of frustration when triggered by their sexual hormones but not able to do anything about it.
5. Neutered males are easier to control and less aggressive. The majority of dog bites are made by intact males.
6. Having your dog spayed/neutered will greatly reduce the risk of them constantly trying to escape and run the community.
7. Spayed females are more stable and even tempered. The female reproduction cycle lasts 6 months. During that cycle the dog goes through frequent hormonal changes that directly influence her behavior. Think of it this way: The premenstrual cycle of a female dog can last SEVERAL months

Worst Excuses Not to Spay/Neuter your Dog

1. "Just one litter and then we will have her spayed." Studies show that virtually the entire pet overpopulation issues stem from the "just one litter" mentality.
2. "My dog never runs loose so he doesn't need to be fixed". Murphy's law says otherwise. Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong. 'Never' is non-existent.
3. "We always find homes for the puppies". And that means an equal number of puppies in "kill" shelters will be euthanized.
4. "I want my kids to witness the miracle of birth". Rent a video.
5. "My dog is so cute and unique, there should be more of her". The shelters and pounds are FULL of cute and unique dogs, most with only days to live.
6. It's NOT natural. There has not been anything "natural" about dogs since we began to develop breeds thousands of years ago.
7. "A female should have at least one litter for health reasons". Medically, factually and ethically, that is indefensible.
8. "Spaying/neutering my dog will make them fat and lazy". No, too much food and not enough exercise will make your dog fat and lazy.

TRAIN YOUR DOG

High-drive dogs can be a joy to live with in the house. After all, they are pack animals and love being with their family too.



However, unless they learn manners, they can become the opposite. During the early years, you must be vigilant about directing your dog's energy when you spend

time in the home. A variety of low-level tasks can be taught in the house. As an example: dogs enjoy working on basic obedience for food such as sitting, downing, and focusing, etc. They also enjoy learning everyday tasks such as picking up objects off the floor, searching for hidden objects or even learning how to take the laundry from the washer to the dryer. It does not take much to occupy the high-drive dog, but it does require human interaction and some imagination. Mental stimulation is just as important as physical exercise!

Socialization is also a key component of training your dog. It's crucial in maintaining a dog with sound temperament. Expose your dog to a variety of experiences when they're young.

Teaching the dog manners ultimately means a more enjoyable relationship and also means the dog is less likely to end up in an animal shelter. High

drive dogs bring lots of joy to human lives, yet at the same time it takes constant devotion to maintain boundaries. Living with a high-drive dog is not advised unless there is a plan to devote a lot of time to the dog. This includes bonding, dog training, and socializing (people, other animals, and surroundings) outside of the backyard.

"Dog training is a never ending process of evolving"

