

What makes the Chesapeake Bay Retriever unique?

Chesapeakes love water and don't mind plunging into icy rivers, streams or ponds to retrieve waterfowl. They have a great deal of courage and heart. They are very loyal and devoted to their owners. Although they enjoy cold weather, they are good indoor family companions. They enjoy being in the middle of everything and don't like being left out of activities. Many Chesapeakes "smile" and often, they vocalize, or "talk" to express their feelings.

Are females easier to train than males?

Not necessarily. Most people choose gender based on personal preferences. People who have trained a Chesapeake before might prefer an "alpha" dog. Those new to the breed might consider a dog that is more passive. All require training. There must be consistency in enforcing good behavior.

How big do they get?

Adult males range from 65 to 80 pounds and stand 23 to 26 inches at the shoulder. Females range from 55 to 70 pounds and their height is 21 to 24 inches at the shoulder.

How much grooming do they require?

The Chesapeake Bay Retriever is a low maintenance dog. They should be shampooed infrequently. Regular shampooing dries the skin and upsets the natural balance of oils in the coat and skin. They should not be brushed regularly. The coat may be brushed out when the dog is shedding to speed up the process and rid it of loose hair. Toenails should be clipped when necessary. Ears should be cleaned regularly. A drying agent may be used after swimming to help prevent ear infections.

How much exercise do they need?

Depending on the energy level of the individual Chesapeake, this breed has a moderate to high need for exercise. Although not recommended for puppies, jogging or tagging along side the owner's bicycle are acceptable ways of keeping an adult Chesapeake in good condition and spirits. Dogs in fenced yards or kennel runs tend to get a good deal of exercise on a regular basis.

Are they hardheaded?

No. They are intelligent, eager to please and enjoy learning and working. They have an amazing capacity to learn whatever the owner is able to teach. And, forget the old adage. You CAN teach older dogs new tricks.

Do older dogs bond with new owners?

Yes. The dog must be allowed a reasonable time to get its bearings, learn the routine of the new owner and relax in the new environment. Once a rescue dog feels safe and secure in its new home, the owner will be rewarded with the respect, trust and devotion of an older Chesapeake. The key to the successful adoption of an older dog is patience and reasonable expectations.

As hearty outdoor dogs, will a Chesapeake be too rough around children?

Chesapeakes are wonderful family dogs. In order for them to be good citizens, some basics must be followed. They should be socialized around people and other animals. They should have adequate attention and training. Owners must set rules and enforce them but should not use physical force to gain compliance. Do not allow rough play or otherwise encourage aggression or biting behavior. In families where children and dogs are expected to show respect for each other, the relationships work out well. Owners should not allow anyone to tease a Chesapeake. They are proud dogs and know when they are being teased.

Are they good watch dogs?

Chesapeakes tend to be protective of their property, vehicles and, sometimes owners. Many have a natural tendency to be territorial. These are canine traits common in many breeds and are not unique to Chesapeakes. Owners should not encourage aggressive behavior.

What traits do Chesapeake owners like best about the breed?

Personality. Aside from their well-known abilities as hunting retrievers, Chesapeakes have a strong but lovable personality that endears them to their owners. Loyalty is another quality inherent in this breed. Many families have owned Chesapeakes for several generations and prefer them over all other breeds.

Can I make a donation to the ACC Rescue Network?

Yes, donations would very much be appreciated. ACC members and non-members may make tax deductible contributions to:

American Chesapeake Club Charitable Trust

9934 Pratt Court

Santee CA 92071-1530

General Information: accct@cox.net