

THE RIGHT DOG

Is a German Shepherd the right dog for me?

As a breeder, I discuss this question with perspective buyers. This is an essential question to be asked because it may turn out that this breed is NOT what you want.

The German Shepherd can be the perfect dog or it can be your worst nightmare.

The German Shepherd is a very versatile breed. It can be trained for show, protection, patrol, drug detection, guide dog, therapy dog, obedience, search and rescue, herding, and much, much more. In fact, I can't think of anything that a German Shepherd would not be good at. However, therein lies its potential downfall to unknowing owners of the breed. This is a breed that LOVES to work and to have a job. It really doesn't matter what the job is, as long as it has SOMETHING purposeful to do.

The German Shepherd is a highly intelligent dog and was bred to have an independent streak. Many times, a German Shepherd will be able to work through "problems" on their own. Consider this very simple example. If I let my dog see a ball roll under a table, then let him go and try and get it. He may try to get it from the way it went in. But if he is unsuccessful, he will not continue to perform

the unsuccessful route,...rather he will sit up and evaluate the situation, it will not take him long to realize that he can get the ball from a different side of the object. He has even gone so far as to know that if the ball is in the center of the table and equal distance from all sides, that he has to have a different plan. In this case, he will flatten himself to as low as possible, reach under and "push" the object closer to the opposite side where he can get it. Again, this is a very simple illustration of their abilities. They will watch you do things such as opening gates, and it will not take them long to figure out that if you get out that way, then they can too.

Training is vital if you are going to live with and enjoy this breed. This breed is not one to sit idly by for hours without doing anything. It is not a lap dog. This breed should not be chained up in the back yard without human interaction. The Shepherd needs to feel like he or she is part of the family. If left alone and if not trained, then the shepherd will entertain and train itself....but this self training which is perfectly acceptable in the doggie world, translates into behavior problems to us humans...ie...barking, digging, stealing, chewing, etc...etc.. Red Rock Shepherds is pleased to recommend Omega K-9, LLC to help you with all of your training needs. Please visit thier website at <http://www.omegak9.net/> **Tell them we sent**

you!

The German Shepherd is relatively easy to groom. Brushing two or three times a week helps to keep the shedding down...but this breed does have a double coat and it does shed.

Proper nutrition is important for all dogs, but especially so for this breed. A quality food with the proper nutrients will make this breed shine and help reduce, eliminate, and avoid many health issues.

Before you make your decision to own this breed, make sure you have the time to devote to training, socialization, grooming, and interaction with your new friend. If the answer to the above questions, is "yes", then this breed should be a good match. If the answer is no, then the prospective buyer needs to possibly reconsider owning this breed of dog.