



COLLIE CHARACTER



Beauty is not the only reason to choose a Collie

The most important criteria in selecting a dog as a family pet is *breed character* and how well it fits the character of the new family.

The intelligence and sensitivity of the Collie, as well as the spectacular beauty of both varieties, Rough and Smooth, have been leading factors in the breed's success as a family dog for a very long time. The Collie's legendary character has been immortalized in the cherished books of our childhood: Eric Knight's *Lassie Come Home* and Albert Payson Terhune's *Lad: A Dog, Gray Dawn*, and many others. Through the brilliant use of personification, both authors brought to life the important aspects of Collie character—qualities such as loyalty, devotion, courage and dignity. These novels helped to popu-



Beauty & brains!

larize the Collie (which gained early notoriety as the breed of millionaire kennel owners) as a family dog by portraying the Collie as a dog whose intelligence and playfulness made it a wonderful pet for children and adults, as well as a loyal protector and worker, able to achieve deeds and acts of high intelligence.

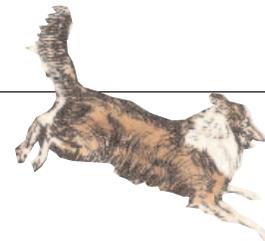
Interactive and Intelligent

The Collie was originally developed as a herding dog, bred to assist the shepherd in the care and protection of his flock. This made for a highly interactive relationship dependent upon man-dog cooperation. The constant "conversation" between shepherd and dog, either verbal or through hand signals, became part of "who" the Collie is today. For generations, breeders



Hard working





expressions such as the head cocked to one side and the other, puffing cheeks, nods, smiles, nose nudges or even gator-like teeth snapping—all are ways which the dog communicates what is going on.

Collies and Other Dogs

Another benefit of the Collie's shepherding heritage is the breed's ability to get along with other dogs and



selected dogs strong in this nature, thus ensuring that the breed would remain not only highly intelligent and trainable, but able to have a strong, ongoing relationship with their masters. [\(Click here to learn more about Breed History.\)](#)

Collies & Their Humans

As the breed's primary focus is people, a Collie is equally happy to run in the woods with its family, walk on a lead with them in town, or herd a gaggle



A great sense of humor!



Gentle friend



Loves everyone!

of geese on the farm and can adapt to suburban yards or large rural spaces. Collies bond easily with their families whether they are acquired as puppies or as older dogs. They are joyfully affectionate and playful, with a great sense of humor. With strangers they can be more dignified and reserved, a throwback to their herding origins in isolated parts of the British Isles where it was not common to see other people.

Collies have a well developed sense of "home" that revolves around the family, their schedules and routines, and the home's physical surroundings. In fact, the breed is well known for its intuitive awareness of family activities, to the point where the Collie often senses what is going to happen before it actually does. The dog can recognize things like the step of a family member at a distance or the unique sound of an individ-

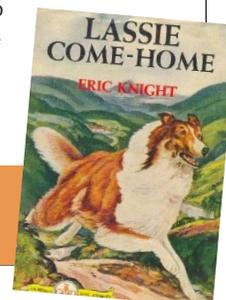
ual vehicle—even the approaching time when a family member is due home. The breed's sensitive nature descends from its herding heritage, making the Collie a wonderful housemate, ever watchful and protective of the homefront.

Communication

Since the nature of the working Collie's relationship with the shepherd involves dialogue, the Collie is quite vocal with a large—and interesting!—range of sounds, from barks of various pitches and intensities to grunts and the famous Collie "singing," coupled with many facial

other animals in the same household. The Collie's original job often involved multiple dogs who had to work together to care for a flock of animals. This translates into a breed which tends to get along well with other dogs, and also tends to be tolerant of other family pets in the household.

As a family dog, the breed character of the Collie is that of an intelligent and fully participating family member with a strong desire to please. The breed is a wonderful choice for those who want their dogs to be fully engaged in their family lives.



CHAPTER 3:
Collie Mystique

