

# The COLLIE



## AN INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your new Collie! The Collie Club of America wants to help you enjoy your new pet by giving you some basic information about Collies.

## COLLIE ORIGINS

The Collie was used extensively as a herding dog and hailed from the highlands of Scotland and Northern England. The true popularity of the breed came about during the 1860's when Queen Victoria visited the Scottish Highlands and fell in love with the breed. From that point on Collies became very fashionable. The Collie's character has been further romanticized and portrayed as the ideal family companion by such authors as Albert Payson Terhune (*Lad of Sunnybank*), Eric Knight (*Lassie Come Home*), and in the 1950s TV series *Lassie*.

## COLLIE CARE

A common misconception is that the Collie needs daily brushing or frequent bathing. The amount of coat care is dependent upon the amount of coat a dog may have and the time of year. Rough Collies in full coat should be brushed once a week or every two weeks. A dog that is out of coat or in summer coat is going to need less grooming. Spayed females and males shed once a year. Intact females shed according to their heat cycle. The smooth coated variety will require less brushing and maintenance, but both varieties do shed. Collies are a very clean breed and are noted for not having a doggie odor frequently found with some other breeds. Proper pet care also includes daily exercise, checking the dog's teeth, and toenail trimming.

Your dog should also have some form of permanent identification. It is recommended that the puppy or adult dog receive a Microchip implant or a tattoo for future identification purposes. Please don't allow your Collie to become overweight. A dog in proper weight will live a longer, happier, and healthier life. Good quality food that helps prevent skin problems and helps maintain a healthy weight is an investment that pays off in the long run.

Collies are not recommended as a complete outside/backyard dog and under no circumstances should a Collie ever be chained or tied up. If kept outside for long periods of time with no human contact, they can become easily bored, as well as lonely. This can result in a noisy, unhappy dog. Collies are notorious people dogs, known for wanting to be with their owners. They make great couch potatoes!

Your Collie should never be allowed to run free without supervision. If you do not have a fenced yard, your Collie will need to be walked on leash or in a safely confined area several times daily.

## HEALTH CARE

Owners who take proper care of their dogs are usually rewarded with their Collies living a long and active life. Puppy vaccinations should commence at about eight weeks of age and be repeated every 3 to 4 weeks until the puppy is 15 to 16 weeks of age. The immunizations recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association are distemper, parvo, adenovirus type 2 and parainfluenza. Rabies vaccine should be given at 16 to 24 weeks of age. Veterinarians will recommend periodic boosters for adults and perhaps additional vaccinations for specific local disease problems.

## MULTIDRUG SENSITIVITY IN COLLIES

In some instances, Collies have been known to have sensitivity to certain drugs such as Ivermectin (for Heartworm control). If you live in an area prone to heartworm, please do not use any heartworm preventative containing Ivermectin as the active ingredient. For more information, please visit the Collie Health Foundation's page on Ivermectin: (<http://www.Colliehealth.org/index.html>) or the Washington State University page on Multidrug Sensitivity: (<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/announcements/ivermectin/index.asp>).

Using some of these medications can result in serious illness or even death to your Collie. Whenever your Veterinarian prescribes a medication or surgical procedure, confirm with him/her that the proposed drugs are safe for your Collie.

## TRAINING

Collies are sensitive and responsive dogs bred to work cooperatively with a human leader. Like all working dogs, Collies thrive when given the opportunity to interact with people but can develop annoying habits if allowed to become bored and lonely. Trained with a gentle, loving hand, they learn quickly and happily. Collies, along with many other herding dogs, have long been known for their barking tendencies. Proper attention and interaction will prevent problem barking.

A basic obedience-training course is strongly recommended by the Collie Club of America. This training is best when it teaches you how to teach your dog. The time you spend in training, especially during the first year of your pet's life, will be repaid many times over by giving you a well-behaved companion, one that is bonded to you and your family for the rest of his life. As in any relationship, what you are willing to invest in your Collie in the areas of time, love and training, is what you can expect to receive in return.

The American Kennel Club as well as other organizations sanction a variety of competitive dog events. Many Collie owners enjoy training their Collie for these activities, which include obedience, herding, tracking and agility.

## BREEDING

The breeding of dogs is a serious responsibility. Some owners have been tempted to breed their Collie in a misguided effort to make a profit or recoup the purchase price of their dog. Careless and uninformed breeding will only serve to harm those virtues and characteristics we value most in Collies. The breeder of your puppy has a large investment in insuring the genetic health of each puppy he produces and wants to ensure that his precious puppies are not bred indiscriminately without proper health screening. An average Collie litter may consist of between 5 and 10 puppies. Clearly, allowing every Collie to produce even a single litter would quickly result in far more Collies than there are appropriate homes.

Through the years, a written Breed Standard for the Collie has been developed and approved by the Collie Club of America. It describes how the ideal Collie should move, look, and act. Conscientious and knowledgeable breeders use this standard to evaluate how closely their dogs approach the ideal. They select only a few Collies that most closely match all aspects of the standard and pass rigorous health screening to produce the next generation.

## SPAY/NEUTER

The Collie Club of America strongly recommends that you spay or neuter any Collie not specifically selected for breeding. Responsible breeders require this by selling their pet Collies with spay/neuter contracts or limited registrations. Neutering also eliminates problems caused by heat cycles in females or territory marking by males. In addition to preventing over population of Collies, there are several important reasons for this recommendation:

~ Neutered animals are normally healthier and usually live longer than unaltered animals.

~ Veterinarians, breeders, and animal behaviorists agree, IT IS NOT AT ALL HELPFUL OR FULFILLING FOR THE FEMALE DOG TO HAVE PUPPIES. Having puppies is a major event for the female dog, and even under the best of circumstances, it can lead to serious physical problems or death.

~ Spaying a female Collie before her first heat season greatly reduces the risk of mammary tumors later in life. A spayed female will also not suffer the danger of life-threatening uterine infection, as she grows older.

~ Neutering a male removes the possibility of testicular cancer. In addition, the dog will have a much lower risk of developing prostate problems. Also, a neutered male will generally be more tolerant of other male dogs.

Spaying/neutering will not turn your pet into a fat and lazy dog. Giving the dog too many snacks and too little exercise causes obesity.

The American Kennel Club permits dogs that have been spayed or neutered to participate in all phases of obedience, tracking, herding, and agility competitions. Only animals that are capable of reproducing can be shown in conformation shows.

## CONCLUSION

Finally, if the day should come when you can no longer keep your Collie (for whatever reason: divorce, moving to a no-pet

apartment, death in the family, etc.) what should you do? The Collie Club of America urges you *NEVER* to take your Collie to an Animal Shelter.

First, you should contact the breeder of your Collie. This is one of the reasons that responsible breeders want to stay in touch with their buyers. If that is not successful, or if you cannot locate your breeder, then contact Collie Breed Rescue. That information can be found at

[www.collieclubofamerica.org/rescue.php](http://www.collieclubofamerica.org/rescue.php).

## ADDITIONAL COLLIE INFORMATION

The Collie Club of America is the national Collie club. It has been in existence for 120 years, and is there to protect and promote the breed, with members in every state. Most states have a representative that is an excellent source of contact for further information on joining the club, for a complete listing, see:

[www.Collieclubofamerica.org/cca\\_district\\_directors.html](http://www.Collieclubofamerica.org/cca_district_directors.html)

As a member, you will receive a bi-monthly Bulletin and an annual Yearbook. Visit the CCA at their Web site:

[www.Collieclubofamerica.org](http://www.Collieclubofamerica.org)

You will find the club's Web site to be a helpful source of information for you, your family, and your new dog. Below, are three Web sites you'll find useful, as well as books and magazines with good information about your Collie.

## Internet

Collie Club of America

[www.Collieclubofamerica.org](http://www.Collieclubofamerica.org)

Collie Health Foundation

[www.Colliehealth.org](http://www.Colliehealth.org)

Collies Online

[www.Colliesonline.com/contents.php](http://www.Colliesonline.com/contents.php)

## Books about Collies

*The Magnificent Collie*, Doral Publishing

*Collie Concept*, Alpine Publications

*The New Collie*, Howell Book House, Inc.

## Magazines

*Collie Expressions*

([www.collieexpressions.com](http://www.collieexpressions.com))

*AKC Gazette* (<http://www.akc.org>)

