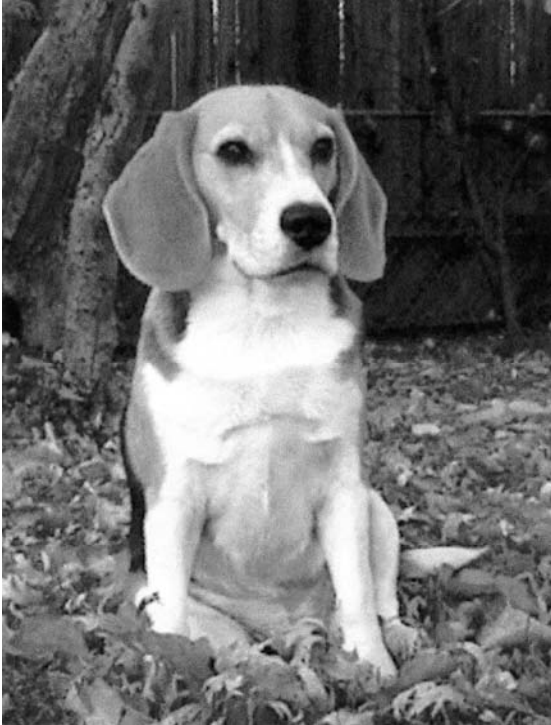


Information Relative to The Beagle Breed

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PERSONALITY

The Beagle is a small scent hound, bred to track rabbit and hare while the hunter follows on foot. They are short coated and usually a sturdy little hound. They come in two varieties: 13" (not exceeding 13" from floor to top of withers) and 15" (over 13" but not exceeding 15" at the top of the withers). Any hound color is acceptable. You will see a great variation in their hair color, although the most common are black, tan and white (tri), lemon and white, tan and white or blue-tick with a lot of dark ticking on the white parts of the Beagle. The purebred should always display white feet and white on the tip of the tail and usually a white chest. Some Beagles do have some brown ticking on the white areas, but this does not mean they are a blue-tick. Some are very dark with hardly any white markings at all.

Because Beagles are scent hounds, they can be roamers, if not confined to an escape-proof yard. Fences should be high enough to prevent climbing and secured at the base to prevent digging out. Gates should have good latches and be child-proof, preferably locked. However, not **all** Beagles are climbers or diggers. This usually happens if they are left outside without any attention from the family or other dogs. They do best as an indoor/outdoor dog and should sleep indoors at night.

Beagles are very inquisitive and active during their first 1-1/2 to 2 years. Because of their scenting ability, they tend to be "into everything", especially waste baskets, or food left **anywhere**. Even though they sometimes have a mind of their own, they can make very good obedience dogs, if a positive and motivational method of training is used. They do not respond to rough methods of training, since they have a sensitive nature. Using non-fattening treats when training can do wonders, since Beagles are very food oriented.

They are not constant barkers as many people think. If they have plenty of activity, both work and play, they are generally fairly quiet. They will bark when someone comes to the door or up to "their" fence, but can be trained on command to stop barking. Like any other dog, they like their family around and usually get along well with other dogs (sometimes cats too), since they were bred to hunt in packs. The Beagle sees the family as his/her "pack."

Beagle puppies require a great deal of time for training and you have to be prepared to supply the time. Beagles are better when placed where an adult is home all, or at least 3/4 of the day. Beagles also require a family that has the patience to work with them consistently and not become angry or abusive, because the Beagle doesn't learn something quickly enough for his/her guardians! Beagles are very intelligent, but also very stubborn. Because of this, and their inquisitive nature, it may take a Beagle a little longer to learn some obedience commands than other breeds. However, don't let anyone discourage you from putting them through obedience. There are many Beagles who take to it like a duck to water and who have their obedience titles, utility titles, canine good citizenship title and field champion titles. They also are wonderful therapy dogs. Naturally, they make great tracking dogs and many Beagles have their tracking titles!

They really want to work and please you. If they don't do well in obedience, it is usually because the handler is not paying attention, or not doing home training in the proper manner. They are little clowns who will keep you laughing and wondering what they will think of next!

Because they are so active as puppies, reputable Beagle Breeders recommend they be placed in homes where the children are at least 6 years or older. An adult Beagle who has been raised with children (and not abused by children) works far better around toddlers than a Beagle puppy. Unless they have been trained otherwise, a Beagle thinks that any food being carried around or within reach is for him or her. This can be a problem with toddlers. As a result of their sad pleading eyes and their penchant for begging for food, most families allow their Beagles to become overweight.

Of the utmost importance is to train your Beagle not to "bolt" out the front door or any open door or gate. Here again due to their scenting ability and inquisitive nature, they are prone to "explore" anywhere their noses will take them. Running with their noses to the ground makes them a good target for moving vehicles. This is another good reason to properly train your Beagle. If your Beagle knows and responds to the command "come", you could save his or her life.

Again, a Beagle will do best in a home where the people are patient, loving, willing to work with their dog, and have the time to work with him or her. Beagles enjoy hiking and camping (**don't forget to keep them on a long leash**), obedience work, tracking, showing in the conformation ring and almost any activity with the family. These activities help strengthen the bond between you and your Beagle and will make him or her a much better citizen and a happier dog.

GENETIC PROBLEMS AND TRAITS

Beagles can develop epilepsy, thyroid problems, cherry-eye, occasional disc problems, seasonal allergies, etc. A lot of this depends on whether the dog came from a **reputable breeder**, or from a breeder who doesn't take the time to breed away from faults, and is breeding only to "make a buck!" Beagles are prone to ear problems because of their pendulous ears. Their ears need to be checked and cleaned, if necessary, every week. They also have a tendency to build up tartar on their teeth quickly, as do other smaller breeds. Their anal glands need to be checked and expressed, if necessary, on a regular basis, so they do not become infected.



Beagles are a "low maintenance" dog as far as grooming is concerned, but some do have an undercoat. This dead hair needs to be stripped out several times, at the beginning of summer, to prevent excessive shedding. Obviously, like any breed, the nails need to be kept short. Brushing their teeth is very important to prevent tartar build up. Since their ears don't get enough air circulation, they must be cleaned regularly too.

The Beagle will sometimes exhibit what is referred to as a "reverse sneeze". This is quite common, because of their sensitive noses. It could be something they have sniffed and gotten up into their nostrils, pulling too hard on the leash, eating too fast, etc. This sound however, is distinguishable from kennel cough and shouldn't last too long.

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