



## Mythbusting Big Dogs

Finding the perfect dog for your home and family is less about size and more about personality and lifestyle. Size does not always determine whether a dog needs a lot of exercise, is great with kids, or makes the perfect companion. Some big dogs prefer to expend a lot of energy in short intervals and then want to relax. Some large dogs who may look intimidating are just lovebugs inside. Read on to learn the fantastic truths about big dogs and why they can be treasured companions.

### COMMON MYTHS DISPELLED

- 1. They can't live in apartments - Oh yes they can!**  
Untrue! Dogs are actually extremely adaptable to their environment, and their size does not determine their need for space or exercise. Each dog is an individual and their personality and needs are different. Their age and temperament can determine the dog's energy level and will inform how much time they need to be outdoors playing or walking. Many dogs prefer to exercise in short bursts and then enjoy an extended break. Higher energy dogs may require more than 30 minutes of outdoor time; it all depends on each dog's needs. No matter how big your home is, mental stimulation is just as important as physical exercise. By providing your dog with enrichment such as food puzzles, cardboard boxes, music, novel scents on walks and training, it allows your dog to practice natural species-specific behaviors.
- 2. They are more aggressive than small dogs - Not!**  
False. Again, size does not determine personality. A larger dog may appear more threatening due to its size, but many large breed dogs greet people and dogs appropriately and enjoy sitting in your lap and cuddling. Just because a dog is large does not mean he has a tough demeanor. We recommend every dog, regardless of size has a strong foundation of basic commands. You can use these cues throughout their life to keep everyone safe and they will help make your dog a great member of the family.
- 3. They aren't good with kids - They absolutely are!**  
This is a common misconception with no fact behind it. A large dog mix is just as likely to be great around kids as a smaller breed. As long as a dog is provided with appropriate ways to interact with children and in turn, the children respect the dog's boundaries and cut-off cues, dogs can be wonderful companions for children. The determining factor will be the dog's individual personality, not their size.
- 4. They make great guard dogs - Not really!**

Untrue! Just as size does not determine their level of aggression, it does not indicate that they are ideal guard dogs or protectors. By nature, they have a tendency to appear more intimidating because of their size, but their personality, past experiences and conditioned emotional response will better inform their interactions with people and other dogs.

When it comes to big dogs, the truth is that they are just as loveable and adaptable as smaller dogs. With big dogs come big rewards! Just imagine the giant hugs and kisses that come from a 75-pound dog. If you are looking for a new furry family member, be sure to find the dog that fits your lifestyle; don't limit the search based on size. And be ready for big love.