

THE WEIMARANER



THE WEIMARANER is a medium to large dog with a short grey coat, short docked tail, amber eyes and a strong, aristocratic appearance. Ideally, males weigh up to 85# and females to 65#. The exact origin of the breed is unknown but was probably greatly influenced by the European dogs St Hubertus Branchen and the Red Schweisshund, both now extinct. Grand Duke Karl August of the Court of Weimar in Germany began selectively breeding these grey dogs in the early 1800's as a hunting dog and companion, being used on large game animals, then, when large game animals became scarce, began crossing the grey dogs with pointers to make them excellent bird dogs. Unfortunately, many breeding records in Germany were lost during the two World Wars. Weimaraners came to the U.S. in 1938 and were recognized as a breed by AKC in 1942

Weimaraners are wonderful companions but are not a dog for everyone. They are known for their high activity level, loyalty and affection to their family and great intelligence. Their temperament should be friendly, fearless and alert. They are physically strong, athletic, manipulative, pushy, stubborn, mischeivous, bossy, bold, demanding, strong willed and energetic. Their keen scenting ability gets them into trouble frequently particularly when food is left on the counter in the kitchen. Young dogs can be destructive if not trained and not given sufficient attention.

Weimaraners become very devoted to their family. To have a Weimaraner is to have a "second shadow". These dogs were bred to live with their masters and this need is deeply imbedded into the genes of each and every Weimaraner. They insist on being with you as much as possible and being involved in your activities. Weimaraners cannot be continually housed in a kennel, the backyard or the basement. They must be "house" dogs and with people. While not known as guard dogs, they will protect their property and family and will let you know when a stranger is approaching their territory.

Weimaraners need lots of exercise. A walk on a leash once a day will not meet a young dog's demand for exercise. They were bred to be strong and to have great stamina so that they could hunt all day. A large fenced yard is a must for a Weimaraner. They are great companions for the active individual or family and seem to have endless energy when young. Weimaraners excel in having something to do. As a Weimaraner ages, he becomes more mellow in temperament and the need for lots of exercise diminishes, but daily exercise is still a must to keep your dog healthy and happy. Remember, a tired Weimaraner is a good Weimaraner!

Dogs are pack animals and most Weimaraners will get along with other dogs. Some dominant dogs will be a bit sharp in temperament and will not live peaceably with other males. Some female dogs will not tolerate other females. These dogs need human supervision. Generally this is not a problem, but we do recommend when adding a Weimaraner to your family, if you already have a dog, that you choose a Weimaraner of the opposite sex.

Being hunting dogs, cats are frequently considered prey. Some Weimaraners may coexist with cats, birds and other types of small pets, while others may kill them. Generally, if a puppy is raised with a cat, they will live together peaceably in the house unless the dog has a very strong prey drive. You must remember that the Weimaraner is a hunter and therefore, do not put him/her into a situation that would trigger a hunter's reaction. This is an instinctive behavior and cannot be eliminated completely by training. A fenced yard is a requirement with a Weimaraner.

Training is a “must” for Weimaraner as they will take charge if no one else does. Weimaraners physically grow up very quickly and training helps control their enthusiasm, channel their energy properly and gives them satisfaction that they are doing what you want. While they are very intelligent, their attention span when young is short. Training is most successful when it is done in short sessions, firmly, consistently and with a gentle hand. Despite their size and strength, Weimaraners are sensitive. Heavy corrections have an adverse impact on the dog’s training program. All adopted Weimaraners, young or older, should attend an obedience class which will help to establish a bond with the owner, give socialization with other dogs and will establish who is in charge. Weimaraners learn quickly and consistency, praise, patience and reward work best.

Weimaraners are very devoted to their family and are wonderful playmates for older active children. They are possessive of “their children” and will protect them if they think they are threatened, therefore, roughhousing by children who are not members of the family should be supervised. Because of their strength, size and activity level, they may accidentally knock over a small child with their quick movements. Remember, these dogs are not the stoic dogs you see on children’s TV shows, in advertisements on television or in books. Should your family be expecting a baby, this might not be the ideal time to adopt a Weimaraner. One of the frequent reasons for giving up a dog is “We had a baby and now have no time for the dog”.

Grooming a “Wash & Wear” Weimaraner is quite simple: An occasional bath (usually no more than once a month), brushing, trimming of nails and ear cleaning is pretty much all the grooming that is needed. .

A Weimaraner needs a family who enjoys active lifestyle with time out of doors. They love to run and investigate interesting scents and excel at having something to do. They are excellent companions for runners, walkers and hikers. They will enjoy whatever activities you enjoy. If hunting is your recreation, they can be an excellent personal hunting dog. They are a versatile breed and their intelligence and high energy make them excellent competitors in show, hunting, agility, tracking and obedience events where titles may be earned from the American Kennel Club and the Weimaraner Club of America.

If your dog is meant to be strictly a pet, we do recommend that you spay or neuter your dog. Breeding is not for everyone. It is a big responsibility and not every dog is a candidate for breeding. If your dog has earned titles in various events, then he has proven he is worthy of reproducing. However, in addition, you need to also evaluate the temperament, health and pedigree of the dog. You also need to be responsible for the pups produced and be willing to take them back should the occasion arise. Please do not consider Weimaraner Rescue a dumping place for pups you cannot place. All rescue dogs are spayed and neutered before placement.

Weimaraners are beautiful dogs, but do not get one just because you “like their looks”! Spend some time around a Weimaraner before you decide. Many Weimaraner owners would be delighted to have you visit with their dog. Attend dog shows and dog events to observe the Weimaraners. Read books about Weimaraners. Make sure you have enough time and energy for a Weimaraner.

Your Weimaraner can open up a whole new world where you can meet new friends and enjoy doing new things with your dog.

