

Do You Really Want a Weimaraner???

The Weimaraner is a short coated, gray dog, whose colors range from a light silver gray to dark gray. The eyes are always blue at birth, and then turn to light amber as the dog ages. The females are usually between 23 and 25 inches at the shoulder, and will normally weigh between 50 and 70 pounds. The males are larger, between 25 and 27 inches at the shoulder, and weighing between 60 and 80 pounds, on average. Some Weimaraners are larger or smaller than these norms

The breed is used for hunting pheasant, quail, grouse, and other upland game birds, and for waterfowl. Because of the lack of a thick, insulating coat, many people consider the Weim to be a poor choice for a duck dog, due to the extreme conditions a great deal of duck hunting is done, but in more moderate temperatures, they are excellent swimmers, and will retrieve to hand, in or out of the water. They are bred for intelligence and stamina, and are able to work all day in the field. They love to work and play, and have seemingly endless energy. When not working, they are part of the family, and expect to be included in everything that the family does.

Although they excel at hunting, they are also used in obedience, tracking, as show dogs, drug detector dogs, in pet facilitated therapy, and as companions. They are a versatile dog with the brains and energy to do almost anything.

Does this sound like the dog you are looking for? Then read on.

The Weimaraner Personality

The following pretty well describes a typical Weimaraner:

Intelligent	Loyal and Dependable	Responsive
Fun-loving Highly energetic	Takes charge if no one else does	Stubborn Spiteful
Demanding	Good with children	A good watch dog
Strong willed	Bossy	A good friend
Very devoted to its family	Mischievous	Very sensitive

Are You Confused?

The Weimaraner is at times almost human. The degree of any of these traits depends upon several things. How the dog is raised and trained, has a big influence.

A Weimaraner knows that someone should be in charge, and be the leader. If no one in the family takes that role, the dog will happily take over the role. However, when one of the family is in charge, the Weimaraner will accept his role as a family member.

Will a Weimaraner Fit Into Your Lifestyle?

If you are a couch potato, or live in a small apartment, a Weimaraner would not be a good idea. The dog would soon become a problem to live with, and neither of you would be happy.

If you like moderate exercise, such as walking, and/or have a fenced yard where you can let the dog run safely, yes, it could work out well for both of you.

If you cannot say *NO*, and mean it, or set boundaries of acceptable behavior, do not get a Weimaraner. He would soon take over the running of your home and life.

If you want an intelligent, stimulating companion that will require daily sessions of attention, training, togetherness and fun, the Weimaraner might be a good choice. If, on the other hand, you want a dog that sits quietly and waits for you to notice it, you should look for another breed. You must understand and appreciate the love that this dog will lavish on you, and not feel that the dog is too demanding.

This is a breed that you will either love or hate. Spend as much time around Weimaraners as you can, before you decide if this is the breed for you. You must be willing and able to make a financial commitment, as well, to ensure your dog's long, healthy life.

How Much Training Will Be Needed?

The time required for training will depend on two things:

What you want to teach – housebreaking, basic manner, tricks, advanced obedience work, retrieving, etc.

How you train – patience, praise, consistency and repetition work best with a Weimaraner.

To develop the Weimaraners potential as a most enjoyable companion, you must devote time for serious and consistent training. To get the calm, wonderful temperament you may have seen in other Weimaraners, you must plan on socializing your pup at an early age. Your breeder will have already started the process, but you must do your job, too. It is strongly recommended that you attend at least a puppy socialization class and a basic obedience class, with your Weimaraner. The exercise and the socialization will be good for both of you; it will help to establish that you are in charge, it speeds the bonding process, and improves the dog's self-confidence. All this happens while you are learning

useful skills and having fun. An eight-week basic obedience class is the kindest gift you can give to your Weimaraner.

Weimaraners can learn to do almost anything. Weim owners tell stories of their dogs who can turn on faucets to get a drink, open doors, even one who has figured out how to turn on the microwave. They can open the typical fence gate latch in a flash. They can learn as many tricks as you (or they) can think of.

Weimaraners are generally easy to housebreak and crate train, because they like to be clean with their personal habits, and like to have a place that is theirs. Many breeders will have begun this elementary training before the pups leave for their new homes.

Weimaraners tend to suffer from “Separation Anxiety”, causing excessive barking, destructive chewing, etc., when left alone. They must be conditioned at an early age, to be left alone for short periods of time, daily.

Most Weimaraner owners and breeders would be delighted to have you visit their homes, and see their adult dogs in a home setting. One of the biggest mistakes people make, is that they buy a cute little puppy, with no idea what that puppy is going to grow up to be. A visit to a home with adult dogs is the best way to learn, for any breed, not just Weimaraners. You can also meet Weims and Weim owners at local dog shows or kennel clubs. Any member of the Southern Michigan Weimaraner Club will gladly talk to you about their experiences with Weimaraners.

Would You Like Further Information On the Weimaraner?

Your local library or bookstore should have a variety of breed books. The Weimaraner books that we recommend are:

The Weimaraner, by Anna Katherine Nicholas, T.F.H. Publications, 1986

Guide to the Weimaraner, by Gillian Burgoin, The Boydell Press, 1985

The Art of Raising a Puppy, by The Monks of New Skete

Weimaraner Ways, by Virginia Alexander & Jackie Isabelle, Sunstar Publications

P.O. Box 1800, Germantown, MD 20875

This book is available by mail only, or you may find a copy at a vendor's booth at a dog show.

You can also request the video, “The Weimaraner”, from your local library. It is produced by the American Kennel Club. You can order this, or other videos on different breeds, training, or other information, directly from the American Kennel Club, 5580 Centerview Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC. 27606, or by phone at 919-233-9767.

