

THE DOBERMANN



Pronunciation:

Dober mann

The Doberman is an elegant, muscular and very powerful dog. It has a well proportioned chest, a short back and a lean, muscular Neck. Its hard, short haired, close fitting coat generally comes in black and tan, or red and tan although blue and fawn also occur. Small white markings although not preferred are allowable but not white or albino. The hair is short, thick, hard and tight to its body. Its teeth are strong and close in a scissors bite. Eyes are usually dark with a lively intelligent expression. The tail is usually docked at the age of 2 days. Its legs are perfectly straight. The Dobe is a dog the comes with a built in high energy level and watching this short backed galloper run free in a field or other has left many owners explaining what they see by describing the gracefulness, speed and beauty of a deer. The Dobermanns gait must be elastic, elegant and cover a lot of ground.

Description:

Even though the Dobermann was originally bred as a guardian and personal protector, the Dobermann has an excellent nose for tracking and or capturing felons in police work.

Bred for a century to be an outstanding guard dog, the Dobermann is intense and energetic with tremendous strength and stamina. Versatile, highly intelligent and very easy to train. Determined, fearless and assertive, but not vicious.

The Dobermann s loyalty, devotion, confidence and high degree of trainability, in the right hands , made the Dobermann the dog of choice by the USMC during WW11, giving his life for his country and in contrast is still being used today as a guide and therapy dogs. The dobermann is one of the smartest dogs of dogdom and is known for his intelligence and his uncanny reasoning ability. These qualities combined with his deceptive power, exuberance for life, and his simple yet complex nature and temperament require extra time for early socialization, obedience training and ample exercise. Noble, loyal and affectionate with the family the Dobermann has been able to find his way

into the hearts of owners, like no other breed and many people are life long devotees of the magnificent “Cadillac” of dogs. It likes to be physically close to the family members. Devoted and watchful, this is a very people oriented breed.

The Dobermann needs an owner who is willing and able to discipline the dog without being afraid of him. All family members should learn to handle the dog properly, Dobs can be pushy if allowed to have their own way too much.

The dobermann is naturally protective and does not need additional “protection training” to be a fine guard dog. In fact he should be thoroughly socialized when young to prevent over protectiveness. Mental stimulation is very important for a truly well adjusted and happy Dobe. He must be consistently and thoroughly trained to be a good pet. Training should be through positive reinforcement.

Dobs can be great family dogs if of good temperament, well trained and with children from early puppyhood. Best with experienced owners. Females are a little more stubborn to train than the male. Although the Dobermann has the reputation of being a very aggressive, dog, this is just not the case.

Dobs make great therapy dogs. They are sweet and gentle with patients while at the same time fiercely defend his master if it becomes necessary.

These dogs are like big, protective babies. Dobermanns have many talents including tracking, watchdogging, guarding, police work, military work, search and rescue, therapy work, obedience and schutzhund.

Agression towards other dogs is accepted in the AKC standard. Though generally a dominant breed, dobermanns vary greatly in temperament. Some are very submissive, some are family dogs, and some bond only to one person.

The Dobermann has been bred to work with man, and needs this interaction often.

They must be with family, and not abandoned to the backyard.

**Height,
Weight:**

Height: 26-28 inches for dogs, 24-26 inches for females
Weight: 30-40 kgs

Characteristics:
with character.

Ask any owner and they will tell you a Dobermann is a character

Look into those dark dancing eyes and you just know the Dobe is off to satisfy his curiosity. Investigating every tree and rock. Letting every blade of grass reveal its secrets to a fine tuned nose, alert for any movement that will provide a chase perhaps with a grin, letting you know how fortunate you are to be protected by such a fine companion.

Caution also needs to be taken if your dobe will be encountering other dogs.

With proper introductions (back to the early socialization and training), some dobes will enjoy playing with other dogs. Others are not at all social.

Male Dobes are known to be territorial and normally WILL NOT accept other males in any situation.

Look into the soft loving eyes of a dobe and read what he is saying.... You are being told you are the centre of this dog's

world.

He will match your emotions, take direction from your acceptance or non-acceptance of a situation. If he perceives there is

“something
attention –

wrong with this picture” or senses your fear he comes to the eyes change- ready to meet the challenge.

This instinct to protect is natural (ie. Early socialization will NOT undermine this trait),and further guard dog training IS NOT necessary.

Dobes are people dogs --- showing an extraordinary devotion to their family or owner.

A Dobe is very happy to settle down once he has had time to exercise) to share your home, your bed (takes it over), and your food.

It is also very normal for you Dobe to smile, lean on you, bump your hand for more attention, and follow you from room to room. For these reasons, dobes are often referred to as “Velcro” dogs and one of the advantages of such as dog is: you never have to go the bathroom alone again!

The Dobermann is no different in their reactions to children than any other breed.

Interaction with children when the Dobermann is a puppy often enables the dog to develop a strong loving bond with the child and family. There are also stories of rescued and older dogs adapting well to children.

HOWEVER, as with any dog, ANY BREED, it is advisable NOT to leave dogs and small children unsupervised..

When faced with illness, dobermanns can be quite stoic,

concealing
wrong. A healthy
in the yard, with a
more walking or plodding,
down.

their pain long before you know something is
Dobermann comes to you,or moves around
special little trot, while a sick Dobe does
perhaps holding its head and neck level or

Some dobes curl up and don't want to move. Their eyes are sometimes sad and almost soul searching.

Depending on the illness, some Dobes don't eat and may pace or move from one spot to another, restless and panting. Others may stretch a lot or try unsuccessfully to urinate. Dobes have been know to swallow items that can block the digestive track.

If this is the case,your dobe may not want to eat, or is he does eat, he will throw up and pace and stretch again. Check with your vet your Dobe shows any of these symptoms.

if

Health Problems: Generally healthy: possible cervical spondylitis (Wobbler syndrome) due to fusion of neck vertebrae and compression of spinal cord: possible inherited blood disorder (Von willebrands disease); obesity in middle age.
Also prone to bloat, hip dysplasia and congenial heart disorders.

Living Conditions: Will do okay in apartment if sufficiently exercised but does best in Average sized yards. Dobses can be cold sensitive so give warm Shelter area. Living outside or expecting them to stay in the backyard without constant attention and in a position as an important member of the family can cause a host of problems.
Often a Dobe that is relegated to this type of living arrangement goes hand in hand with poor training and these Dobses often show evidence of shyness, fear and nervousness.
Although as with any breed there will be dogs that exhibit these traits even when breeding/training are correctly administered.

Exercise: These are energetic dogs and need thorough frequent exercise

Life Expectancy: About 10 – 13 years

Grooming: Needs little grooming and average shedders.

Origin: This is a breed of relatively recent origin. Developed in Germany in 1860s, presumably by crossing German Pinschers with Rottweilers, Beauceron, Pinschers, Greyhounds to create the elegant Dobermann. The creator of this mixture was a German tax collector named Louis Dobermann. He had to travel frequently through bandit infested areas, and decided to “construct” a watchdog and bodyguard capable of handling any situation the might arise. It was an immediately a big success.

The hardest part of owning a Dobe is to confronted with evidence of his mortality, that a loyal companion may no longer be there. It is then that you are faced with your only disappointment in owning a Dobe – the loss of your loved one. “It is then in these hours...that he will best be able to face this difficult time, if he looks to the demeanor of his Dobe... for it is their distinction that they squarely face adversity, not unlike that of a professional soldier”

ANONYMOUS

