



Considering A Chesapeake

A very versatile breed, the Chesapeake can excel in a variety of activities, from hunting and field work to obedience, agility, therapy, dock dogs and tracking. You can choose to participate in one or all of these and conformation as well.

Chesapeakes are naturals in the field. They love the water and are excellent markers with great birdiness and good noses. With basic and consistent training they are superb hunting companions.

It is important to keep the Chesapeake's mind and body occupied. They are naturally active dogs and thrive on work. The advantage of owning a Chesapeake is that you need not settle for one activity with your dog. Solid command training with house rules firmly established form the foundation of whatever you and your Chesapeake enjoy doing together.

Breed Characteristics - A truly American sporting breed and the toughest of water retrievers, the Chesapeake Bay retriever was developed along the Eastern Shore to hunt waterfowl under the most adverse weather and water conditions. Breed characteristics are specifically suited to enable the Chesapeake to work with ease, efficiency, and endurance. Chesapeake lovers conscientiously seek to retain both the form and function of the breed.

Appearance - The Chesapeake's skull is broad and round with a medium stop, his jaw of sufficient length and strength to carry large game birds. His eye is yellow or amber and medium large with a clear steady gaze. Ears are small, set well up on the head, hang loosely, and of medium leather. The preferred bite is scissors but level is acceptable. The important, distinctive double coat consists of a short, harsh, wavy outer coat and a dense fine wooly undercoat. It should resist the water in the same way that a duck's feathers do. The color must be as nearly that of his working surroundings as possible. Any shade of brown, sedge, or deadgrass is acceptable. One color is not to be preferred over another.

He is a strong, well balanced, powerfully built animal of moderate size with medium length of body and leg. The chest is deep and wide. Hindquarters are as high as or a trifle higher than the shoulders. Males should weigh 65 to 80 lbs.; females 55 to 70 lbs. The Chesapeake is valued for his bright and happy disposition, intelligence, quiet good sense, and affectionate, active, loyal nature. Adults may be somewhat aloof with strangers. Extreme shyness or extreme aggressive tendencies are not desirable. (Link here to Official Breed Standard or BREED INFO heading on Home Page)

Basic Training - Basic training is strongly recommended for all Chesapeakes, whether yours is to be a gun dog, show dog, or family pet. Training should begin with puppy classes, which provide socialization as well as the foundations for command training. Obedience class should be fun for both you and the pup and should continue until your Chesapeake is mature. Training must be continued at home and obedience commands incorporated into your daily life. The breed is big, bold, and active - good manners are necessary to help your Chesapeake fit well into family life.

Chesapeakes are physically tough but do not tolerate harsh treatment. They have exceptional memories and once they learn something it really stays with them. Take the time to teach your pup what you expect of him from the very beginning. Be patient, firm, and consistent and you will have a loyal and enjoyable companion.

Crate Training - Pups and dogs should be provided crates as their safe place when they are home alone or unsupervised. Many dogs often seek out their crates as a place to relax. The safest way for the dog to ride