



## The German Shepherd

**Description:** Today, there are German lines of this breed and American lines. The German lines of the German Shepherd Dog tend to be larger dogs with a broader head and darker coat. Dogs with the American line are typically smaller and have less sloping in their hips, which is a traditional German Shepherd Dog characteristic. American lines also show more silver with black coat coloring, whereas the German lines are nearly always black and tan

**Appearance:** German Shepherds are a large-breed dog which are generally between 55 and 65 centimeters (22 and 26 in) at the withers and weigh between 22 and 40 kilograms (49 and 88 lb). The ideal height is 63 centimeters (25 in), according to Kennel Club standards. They have a domed forehead, a long square-cut muzzle and a black nose. The jaws are strong, with a scissor-like bite. The eyes are medium-sized and brown with a lively, intelligent and self-assured look. The ears are large and stand erect, open at the front and parallel, they are often pulled back during movement. They have a long neck, which is raised when excited and lowered when moving at a fast pace. The tail is bushy and reaches to the hock.

German Shepherds can be a variety of colors, the most common of which are the tan and black and red and black. Both varieties have black masks and saddles. Rarer variations include the sable, all-Black, all-White, liver and blue varieties. German Shepherds sport a double coat. The outer coat, which is shed all year round, is close and dense with a thick undercoat. The coat is accepted in two variants; medium and long. The long-hair gene is recessive, making the long-hair variety rarer. Treatment of the long-hair variation differs across standards; they are accepted under the German and UK Kennel Clubs but are considered a fault in the American Kennel Club.

**Temperament:** German Shepherds are highly active dogs, fearless but not hostile and are often described in breed standards as self-assured and never shy. The breed is marked by a willingness to learn and an eagerness to have a purpose. Shepherds can become over-protective of their family and territory, especially if not socialized correctly. Due to their loyal nature Shepherds bond well with children they know. While typically approachable, Shepherds do not become immediate friends with strangers. German Shepherds are highly obedient and not easily distracted, but due to their self-strong will must be trained by a firm hand.

These qualities, which have endeared the German Shepherd Dog to a wide public in practically every country of the globe, are those of the companion, protector, and friend. The German Shepherd is not a pugnacious brawler, but a bold and punishing fighter if need be. In his relation to man he does not give affection lightly; he has plenty of dignity and some suspicion of strangers, but his friendship, once given, is given for life.

**History:** Derived from the old breeds of herding and farm dogs, and associated for centuries with man as servant and companion, the German Shepherd Dog has been subject to intensive development. Sponsored by the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde*, the parent club of the breed founded in 1899 in Germany, the cult of the Shepherd spread rapidly from about 1914 onward in many parts of the world. Interest in the breed has been fostered by specialty clubs in many lands as it has been in the United States by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

## The Bohemian Shepherd / Czech Shepherd

**Description:** The Bohemian Shepherd / Czech Shepherd is a breed of dog also known as the Chodsky Pes or the Chodenhund. The Bohemian / Czech Shepherd is recognized nationally in the Czech Republic but is not recognized by the FCI or any other major kennel club.

**Appearance:** Chodsky pes is a medium-sized breed. They are 19 to 22 inches in height and weigh about 35-55 lbs. The coat is long and thick with a dense undercoat. The color is usually dark with mixtures of black and tan. The ears are erect, small, high-set and pointed.

**Temperament:** This is a very active dog with a wonderful temperament. They are quick in training and are generally very fast learners. This breed is not usually aggressive; they are good with children, dogs and other pets. Chodsky pes is great at agility, rescue work and service-training. It has an excellent nose and exhibits aptitudes for working with handicapped people. Naturally it is also a wonderful watch dog. This is certainly a breed of many talents, excelling in agility, rescue work, guiding the deaf and blind, herding and even recreational sledding.

**History:** Chodsky pes is an old sheepdog breed. They have been also guarding Czech southern borders and homes in the area. "Chodove", the local people living there, had an exceptional permission to hold large dogs for this purpose. Alois Jirasek, writing about a brave uprising of the local people, even assigned these dogs as a flag symbol of them. Though that is actually incorrect, the symbol became part of national knowledge due to drawings of a well known Czech painter Mikolas Ales. The symbol of the chodsky pes is still on Czech young scouts badges.

As the breed of chodsky pes is old, it is possibly also one of the predecessors to the German Shepherd. Chodsky pes is known to exist in the Czech lands as far back as the 1300's, and having been professionally bred as early as the 1500's. A modern breeding program for this dog was started in 1984 and there are now many breeders. About 2000 registered pups have been born since the program started.