

Miniature and Toy Australian Shepherds



Australian Shepherds is a small dog exhibiting more of a big dog personality. The little Aussies make fantastic house dogs and excellent traveling companions. They are highly intelligent, versatile, easily trained, performing assigned tasks with great style and enthusiasm. We have found both sizes to be wonderful companions with fantastic temperaments. They are eager to please, can display outward emotions and feelings and have the need to be touching their owners in some manner.

The Aussies are very, loyal, dedicated to their masters, loving, and seem to know where you are and what you are doing. We work a great deal on our property and they are constantly by our side. These dogs were bred as primarily a working dog with strong herding and guardian instincts. Although they don't exhibit the strong herding instinct of the full sized Aussie they do retain some of the same quality. They sometimes like to herd cats, other dogs, chickens and even small children.

Most are just quite playful and competitive with each other, loving to run. From personal experience, the toy Aussies can outrun the minis and we have witnessed truly amazing speed. These dogs must be exercised in some manner on a daily basis. They cannot just be left in a backyard and do require an active role in the family's activities.

The aussies are reserved with strangers but not exhibit shyness. Once they are introduced to your guest they may warm up but always show their loyalty to the owner. Some may share kisses; most allow petting with a new friend. Others that are more reserved may not want a stranger to give attention to them, though they never show aggression. We encourage much socialization with people and other dogs.

With their many attributes you will find this breed amazingly versatile and affectionate companions being great with children. They are a devoted friend and guardian, for they are naturally protective. The Aussies are eager to please and seem to have a sixth sense about what the owner wants.

Nutrition

Currently we feed the pups Nutro Lamb & Rice – Limited Ingredient for Puppy from Petco. Until their teeth are fully developed, we do soak the food with water until soft to make it easily chewable and digestible. When they become older, this is not necessary and can be given dry. Should you change the food at any time or supplement diarrhea may result.

It normally will take about a week to adjust to a new food. Mix 3-1 of old vs new food until old food is eliminated

We also supplement with Costco Sweet Potatoe breast treats and sirloin burgers on occasion

Excitement Urination and Separation Anxiety

To prevent these conditions we recommend that when leaving or greeting your dog after an absence to refrain from any initial contact for about 5- 10 minutes. "Ignoring" them if you will protects the unwanted behavior from occurring. The excitement triggers this behavior.

For puppies, excitement urination is the result of infant muscles that simply cannot hold their urine when the pup gets excited. Pups can get so excited when he sees his owner that he temporarily loses control of his bladder. The vast majority of dogs outgrow their problem as they become stronger and gain control of their muscles. 00

Submissive urination falls into a completely different category. Dogs have several behaviors designed to reduce violence between them. When challenged, a submissive dog must display some or all of these behaviors to display its lower status and to prevent an attack. Submissive urination is most commonly offered in this type of greeting. By wetting, the dog is merely acknowledging the other dog's superiority.

Sleeping

We crate train all our dogs/pups. It normally takes about one to two weeks to complete and you may encounter a few sleepless nights. Start slowly with perhaps partial sleeping in the crate. The pup will want to be sleep with you. Gradually leave them in the crate longer each night, ignoring their cries. Very hard but must be done.

This process allows you peace of mind at night and because a dog will not sleep where they "go the bathroom", provides less messes you have to clean up.

As they age (about 3.5 months) they will sleep entirely through the night but must be let out promptly in the morning.

Vaccinations

Your pup comes with their 1st shots and is dewormed. They need a series of 4 total series combo shots which include rabies. You should make an appointment with your vet for

The 2nd series in about three weeks from starting ownership.

Until all the shots are received we recommend limited exposure to highly traveled dog areas Such as rest stops, pet stores, parks.

We do hope the information above is helpful and are always just a phone call or email away with any concerns or problems you may encounter.

We appreciate any updates or pictures from time to time as your pup grows. You are welcome to post pictures or feedback on the Facebook site as well.

Thank you for your business with AspenRain Fields

Congratulations on your "newest family member"

