

Websites:

Collie Club of America (thecollieclub.org)

American Kennel Club (akc.org)

Collies On Line (colliesonline.com)

CCA Outreach (Facebook)

Collie Health Foundation (colliehealth.org)

Collie Rescue Foundation (collierescuefoundation.org)

American Working Collie Association (awca.net)



Books:

Collie Concept by Mrs. G. H. Roos, Jr.

How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With by C. Rutherford, D. Neil

The Magnificent Collie by Pat Starkweather

The New Collie by The Collie Club of America

The Collie In America by Gayle Kaye

The Collie As A Family Dog



Graceful, intelligent, and steeped in herding tradition, the Collie has long captured hearts across continents—from the rugged hills of Scotland to the warmth of modern family homes.

This booklet invites you to explore the essence of the breed: the Collie Character, known for its loyalty, gentleness, and adaptability.



Collie Character

The key factor in choosing a family dog is how well the breed's character fits the family. The Collie's intelligence, sensitivity, and beauty—both Rough and Smooth—make it an ideal family companion. Immortalized in classics like *Lassie Come Home* and *Lad: A Dog*, the Collie is known for loyalty, devotion, courage, and dignity. Its intelligence and playfulness make it a wonderful pet for children and adults, as well as a loyal protector and worker.

Originally bred as a herding dog, the Collie's focus is people. Adaptable to town or country life, Collies bond easily with their families, showing humor, affection, and awareness. Their intuition and trainability make them excellent service dogs.

With strong herding instincts, Collies get along well with other animals and thrive on family routines. A Collie is not just a pet but a devoted, joyful member of the family.

The breed's primary focus is people. A Collie is equally happy to run in the woods with its family, walk on a leash in town, or herd a gaggle of geese on the farm. They adapt well to suburban yards or large rural spaces. Whether acquired as puppies or older dogs, Collies bond easily with their families. They have a great sense of humor and are joyfully affectionate and playful.

Collie Ownership and Breeders

The Collie Club of America (CCA) is dedicated to preserving the health, well-being, and character of this intelligent and devoted breed.

Our mission is to place Collies in loving homes across the country and around the world. The CCA connects families with trusted breeders through <https://thecollieclub.org/find-a-collie>. Breeding healthy, beautiful Collies requires time, dedication, and care. Our member breeders bring years of experience and a deep commitment to the breed.

Responsible breeders focus on quality over quantity, ensuring every Collie is raised with love and integrity. They provide health checks, pedigrees, and ongoing guidance, offering support long after a Collie joins its new family.



The Collie As A Family Dog

Getting to Know the Collie

The Collie is one of the most beautiful dog breeds. Though many people may have a mental picture of the Collie as looking like Lassie, the Collie is actually bred in two different coat types and four different color variations that add to the breed's great beauty and appeal.

COAT: There are two coat types or varieties of Collie: rough and smooth. Both varieties are the same except for the length of coat. The smooth has a short, hard, dense, flat coat, while the rough Collie has a long well-fitting harsh-textured coat.

COLOR: The four recognized colors are "Sable and White," "Tri-color," "Blue Merle," and "White." There is no preference among them.

Visit <https://thecollieclub.org/about-collies/> to learn all about Collies.

Collie Versatility

Collies are remarkably versatile dogs, eager to engage in a diverse range of activities that showcase their intelligence and gentle spirit. They excel in conformation, performance, and companion events, while their herding heritage shines in herding tests and trials.

Known for their keen instincts and trainability, Collies also thrive in obedience and agility, often partnering with owners to master these skills. Additionally, their sensitive and loyal nature makes them outstanding therapy dogs, bringing comfort to those in need. Whether working alongside their families or captivating audiences with their graceful presence, Collies embody the perfect blend of work and companionship. (see activities page on the Collie Club of America website <https://thecollieclub.org/activities>)

Most important, the Collie is an ideal family dog, responsive to its owners and a loving and devoted companion for all ages.



Health

The Collie is a healthy, sturdy breed with an average life span of about 12 years. Like other white-footed herding breeds, Collies can be sensitive to certain drugs, including Ivermectin (found in some heartworm preventatives) and Imodium. For details on drug sensitivity and MDR1 testing, visit Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine or the Collie Health Foundation.

Prospective owners should also be aware of two eye conditions that may affect the breed: Canine Eye Anomaly (CEA) and Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA). These are unrelated conditions but important to screen for.

The Collie Club of America's Code of Conduct requires eye exams by a Board-certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist before puppies are placed in new homes. Each dog receives a certificate describing its individual vision results, helping ensure the continued health of this remarkable breed.



The Collie in Your Home

Gentle and engaging, the Collie will steal your heart and fill your home with delight. Loyal as a companion, friend for children, or worker on the farm, the Collie brings unconditional, generous, and forever love—alongside lifelong responsibility for its care and well-being.

Females stand at least 22 inches and weigh 50–60 pounds; males are at least 24 inches and weigh 60–75 pounds.

Though often misunderstood, Collies don't need daily brushing or frequent bathing. Coat care depends on the amount of coat and time of year. Rough Collies in full coat should be brushed weekly; summer or out-of-coat dogs need less. Smooth Collies require less brushing and bathing, but both shed. Generally clean and odor-free, Collies need routine brushing, nail trimming, bathing, teeth and ear cleaning, and annual wellness checkups. Grooming shops can help with coat maintenance.

