

Doberman Pinscher

The very most important thing to remember about dogs they are all individuals and have preferences. Some dogs love children some don't. Dogs come in a variety just like people. This is why we temperament test our puppies and ask our client so many questions to make sure everyone gets the very best fitment.

The Doberman Pinscher, or Dobermann, or Doberman, is a medium-large breed of domestic dog originally developed around 1890 by Karl Friedrich Louis Dobermann, a tax collector from Germany.



Doberman Pinscher



Height	24–28 inches
Weight	60–100 pounds
Lifespan	10–12 years
Breed group	Working
Shed level	High
Temperament	Loyal
Energy level	Active
Common health concerns	Von Willebrand disease, bloat, hypothyroidism, hip dysplasia

Life Span: 10-13 years

Breed Varieties: American Doberman Pinscher, European Dobermann

Origin: 1890 Germany

Temperament: Alert, Obedient, Loyal, Energetic, Fearless, Intelligent

Colors: Black/Rust, Red/Rust, Blue/Rust and Fawn/Rust

Non-Standard Colors: White, Melanistic Black, Melanistic Red, Melanistic Blue, and Melanistic Fawn.

Height: Male: 26–28 inches (66–72 cm), Female: 24–27 inches (61–68 cm)

Weight: Male: 75–100 lbs (34–45 kg), Female: 60–90 lbs (27–41 kg)

Health Concerns : Gastric dilatation and volvulus syndrome (GDV or Bloat), hip dysplasia, dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), chronic active hepatitis (CAH), von Willebrand's disease (vWD), cervical vertebral instability (Wobbler Syndrome), progressive retinal atrophy (PRA), hypothyroidism, osteosarcoma (bone cancer)

BREED CHARACTERISTICS

◆ Numbers beside characteristics is based on 1-5 rating 1 being lowest and 5 being best

Adaptability-3

Adapts Well to Apartment Living Contrary to popular belief, small size doesn't necessarily an apartment dog make — plenty of small dogs are too high-energy and yappy for life in a high-rise. Being quiet, low energy, fairly calm indoors, and polite with the other residents, are all good qualities in an apartment dog.

Good For Novice Owners-3

Some dogs are simply easier than others: they take to training better and are fairly easygoing. They're also resilient enough to bounce back from your mistakes or inconsistencies. Dogs who are highly sensitive, independent thinking, or assertive may be harder for a first-time owner to manage. You'll get your best match if you take your dog-owning experience into account as you choose your new pooch.

Sensitivity Level-5

Some dogs will let a stern reprimand roll off their backs, while others take even a dirty look to heart. Low-sensitivity dogs, also called "easygoing," "tolerant," "resilient," and even "thick-skinned," can better handle a noisy, chaotic household, a louder or more assertive owner, and an inconsistent or variable routine. Do you have young kids, throw lots of dinner parties, play in a garage band, or lead a hectic life? Go with a low-sensitivity dog.

Tolerates Being Alone-2

Some breeds bond very closely with their family and are more prone to worry or even panic when left alone by their owner. An anxious dog can be very destructive, barking, whining, chewing, and otherwise causing mayhem. These breeds do best when a family member is home during the day or if you can take the dog to work.

Tolerates Cold Weather-1*Breeds with very short coats and little or no undercoat or body fat, such as Greyhounds, are vulnerable to the cold. Dogs with a low cold tolerance need to live inside in cool climates and should have a jacket or sweater for chilly walks.*

Tolerates Hot Weather-4

Dogs with thick, double coats are more vulnerable to overheating. So are breeds with short noses, like Bulldogs or Pugs, since they can't pant as well to cool themselves off. If you want a heat-sensitive breed, the dog will need to stay indoors with you on warm or humid days, and you'll need to be extra cautious about exercising your dog in the heat.

ALL AROUND FRIENDLINESS

Affectionate with Family-5

Some breeds are independent and aloof, even if they've been raised by the same person since puppyhood; others bond closely to one person and are indifferent to everyone else; and some shower the whole family with affection. Breed isn't the only factor that goes into affection levels; dogs who were raised inside a home with people around feel more comfortable with humans and bond more easily.

Incredibly Kid Friendly Dogs-3

Being gentle with children, sturdy enough to handle the heavy-handed pets and hugs they can dish out, and having a blasé attitude toward running, screaming children are all traits that make a kid-friendly dog. You may be surprised by who's on that list: Fierce-looking Boxers are considered good with children, as are American Staffordshire Terriers (aka pit bulls). Small, delicate, and potentially snappy dogs such as Chihuahuas aren't so family-friendly.

All dogs are individuals. Our ratings are generalizations, and they're not a guarantee of how any breed or individual dog will behave. Dogs from any breed can be good with children based on their past experiences, training on how to get along with kids, and personality. No matter what the breed or breed type, all dogs have strong jaws, sharp pointy teeth, and may bite in stressful circumstances. Young children and dogs of any breed should always be supervised by an adult and **NEVER LEFT ALONE TOGETHER, period.

Dog Friendly-3

Friendliness toward dogs and friendliness toward humans are two completely different things. Some dogs may attack or try to dominate other dogs even if they're love-bugs with people; others would rather play than fight; and some will turn tail and run. Breed isn't the only factor; dogs who lived with their littermates and mother until at least 6 to 8 weeks of age, and who spent lots of time playing with other dogs during puppyhood, are more likely to have good canine social skills.

Friendly Toward Strangers-3*Stranger-friendly dogs will greet guests with a wagging tail and a nuzzle; others are shy, indifferent, or even aggressive. However, no matter what the breed, a dog who was exposed to lots of different types, ages, sizes, and shapes of people as a puppy will respond better to strangers as an adult.*

HEALTH GROOMING

Amount Of Shedding-4

If you're going to share your home with a dog, you'll need to deal with some level of dog hair on your clothes and in your house. However, shedding does vary greatly among the breeds: Some dogs shed year-round, some "blow" seasonally -- produce a snowstorm of loose hair -- some do both, and some shed hardly at all. If you're a neat freak, you'll need to either pick a low-shedding breed or relax your standards.

Drooling Potential-4

Drool-prone dogs may drape ropes of slobber on your arm and leave big, wet spots on your clothes when they come over to say hello. If you've got a laid-back attitude toward slobber, fine; but if you're a neatnik, you may want to choose a dog who rates low in the drool department.

Easy To Groom-5

Some breeds are brush-and-go dogs; others require regular bathing, clipping, and other grooming just to stay clean and healthy. Consider whether you have the time and patience for a dog that needs a lot of grooming, or the money to pay someone else to do it.

General Health-2

Due to poor breeding practices, some breeds are prone to certain genetic health problems, such as hip dysplasia. This doesn't mean that every dog of that breed will develop those diseases; it just means that they're at an increased risk. If you're buying a puppy, it's a good idea to find out which genetic illnesses are common to the breed you're interested in, so you can ask the breeder about the physical health of your potential pup's parents and other relatives.

Potential For Weight Gain-3

Some breeds have hearty appetites and tend to put on weight easily. As in humans, being overweight can cause health problems in dogs. If you pick a breed that's prone to packing on pounds, you'll need to limit treats, make sure he gets enough exercise, and measure out his daily kibble in regular meals rather than leaving food out all the time.

Size-4

come in all sizes, from the world's smallest pooch, the Chihuahua, to the towering Great Dane, how much space a dog takes up is a key factor in deciding if he is compatible with you and your living space. Large dog breeds might seem overpowering and intimidating but some of them are incredibly sweet! Take a look and find the right large dog for you!

TRAINABILITY

Easy To Train-5

Easy to train dogs are more adept at forming an association between a prompt (such as the word "sit"), an action (sitting), and a consequence (getting a treat) very quickly. Other dogs need more time, patience, and repetition during training. Many breeds are intelligent but approach training with a "What's in it for me?" attitude, in which case you'll need to use rewards and games to teach them to want to comply with your requests.

Intelligence-5

Dogs who were bred for jobs that require decision making, intelligence, and concentration, such as herding livestock, need to exercise their brains, just as dogs who were bred to run all day need to exercise their bodies. If they don't get the mental stimulation they need, they'll make their own work -- usually with projects you won't like, such as digging and chewing. Obedience training and interactive dog toys are good ways to give a dog a brain workout, as are dog sports and careers, such as agility and search and rescue.

Potential For Mouthiness-2

Common in most breeds during puppyhood and in retriever breeds at all ages, mouthiness means a tendency to nip, chew, and play-bite (a soft, fairly painless bite that doesn't puncture the skin). Mouthy dogs are more likely to use their mouths to hold or "herd" their human family members, and they need training to learn that it's fine to gnaw on chew toys, but not on people. Mouthy breeds tend to really enjoy a game of fetch, as well as a good chew on a chew toy that's been stuffed with kibble and treats.

Prey Drive-1

Dogs that were bred to hunt, such as terriers, have an inborn desire to chase and sometimes kill other animals. Anything whizzing by — cats, squirrels, perhaps even cars — can trigger that instinct. Dogs that like to chase need to be leashed or kept in a fenced area when outdoors, and you'll need a high, secure fence in your yard. These breeds generally aren't a good fit for homes with smaller pets that can look like prey, such as cats, hamsters, or small dogs. Breeds that were originally used for bird hunting, on the other hand, generally won't chase, but you'll probably have a hard time getting their attention when there are birds flying by.

Tendency To Bark Or Howl-1

Some breeds sound off more often than others. When choosing a breed, think about how the dog vocalizes — with barks or howls — and how often. If you're considering a hound, would you find their trademark howls musical or maddening? If you're considering a watchdog, will a city full of suspicious "strangers" put him on permanent alert? Will the local wildlife literally drive your dog wild? Do you live in housing with noise restrictions? Do you have neighbors nearby?

Wanderlust Potential-2

Some breeds are more free-spirited than others. Nordic dogs such as Siberian Huskies were bred to range long distances, and given the chance, they'll take off after anything that catches their interest. And many hounds simply must follow their noses, or that bunny that just ran across the path, even if it means leaving you behind.

EXERCISE NEEDS

Energy Level-3

High-energy dogs are always ready and waiting for action. Originally bred to perform a canine job of some sort, such as retrieving game for hunters or herding livestock, they have the stamina to put in a full workday. They need a significant amount of exercise and mental stimulation, and they're more likely to spend time jumping, playing, and investigating any new sights and smells. Low-energy dogs are the canine equivalent of a couch potato, content to doze the day away. When picking a breed, consider your own activity level and lifestyle, and think about whether you'll find a frisky, energetic dog invigorating or annoying.

Intensity-3

A vigorous dog may or may not be high-energy, but everything he does, he does with vigor: he strains on the leash (until you train him not to), tries to plow through obstacles, and even eats and drinks with great big gulps. These dynamos need lots of training to learn good manners, and may not be the best fit for a home with young kids or someone who's elderly or frail. A low-vigor dog, on the other hand, has a more subdued approach to life.

Exercise Needs-3

Some breeds do fine with a slow evening stroll around the block. Others need daily, vigorous exercise -- especially those that were originally bred for physically demanding jobs, such as herding or hunting. Without enough exercise, these breeds may put on weight and vent their pent-up energy in ways you don't like, such as barking, chewing, and digging. Breeds that need a lot of exercise are good for outdoorsy, active people, or those interested in training their dog to compete in a high-energy dog sport, such as agility.

Potential For Playfulness-5

Some dogs are perpetual puppies -- always begging for a game -- while others are more serious and sedate. Although a playful pup sounds endearing, consider how many games of fetch or tag you want to play each day, and whether you have kids or other dogs who can stand in as playmates for the dog

Because the Doberman Pinscher (spelled Dobermann in some countries) came into existence at the end of the 19th century, he is, in the world of dogs, the new kid on the block. This hasn't stopped the Dobie, as he is affectionately called, from becoming one of the most popular and recognized breeds in the United States.

His look is elegant and his style is athletic; the Dobie is also intelligent, alert, and loyal. He is a courageous guard dog as well as a beloved family companion.

The Dobie's fierce reputation precedes him. He is feared by those who don't know him, stereotyped as highly aggressive and vicious. True, he is a formidable guardian, but he is usually a gentle, watchful, and loving dog. He does not go looking for trouble, but he is fearless and will defend his family and turf if he perceives danger.

The Doberman Pinscher enjoys being part of a family. He likes to be close to those he loves and, when this love is present, he is a natural protector. He is trustworthy with his family's children, friends, and guests as long as he is treated kindly.

In spite of his positive qualities, the Dobie isn't the right breed for everyone. He's large, at 60 to 80 pounds, and he's extremely active, both physically and mentally. He needs a lot of exercise.

He also needs plenty of mental challenges to keep him from becoming bored. He needs a strong owner/pack leader who can take time to properly socialize and train him, and who will keep him busy every day. This may be too much to handle for people who lead a more laid-back lifestyle.

The current look of the Dobermna is slimmer and sleeker than that of past years. His temperament has also changed somewhat, say breed enthusiasts, softening a bit from his early days in Germany, though he is still an excellent guard dog.

Originally, Dobies' ears were cropped to increase their ability to locate sounds, and tail docking gave the breed a more streamlined look. North American breeders usually dock the tails and crop the ears of Doberman puppies, though it's not mandatory. Docking and ear cropping is illegal in some countries.

Those who know him say that a well-bred and properly socialized Dobie is an excellent pet and companion, suitable for families with other dogs, gentle with young children, and overall a loyal and devoted family member

Health

The Doberman Pinscher breed is susceptible to a number of genetic issues. Reputable breeders in the United States and elsewhere make efforts when selecting breeding pairs to help minimize the chances of passing along many of these genetic disorders.

- **Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus Syndrome (GDV or Bloat):** Bloat is a very painful condition caused when the dog's stomach fills with air (or gas) and twists. This twisted stomach cuts off circulation and can be deadly to the dog if not corrected. A few minimally invasive techniques exist to untwist the stomach. However, surgery may ultimately need to be performed. Steps can be taken to help prevent this, however, such as eating smaller easy to digest meals, encouraging slower eating, and refraining from exercise around mealtimes.
- **Hip Dysplasia:** Hip dysplasia is a genetic condition that causes the hip joint to form incorrectly causing the ball of the leg and the socket of the hip to not fit tightly together. This can lead to lameness and pain in

the hips. Some noninvasive options exist to help manage symptoms (physical therapy, losing weight, and anti-inflammatory medications). Some surgical options may also provide additional relief.

- **Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM):** Also called enlarged heart syndrome, this is a genetic condition that causes the heart muscle to become thicker and larger with time. There are treatments that can be moderately effective at extending life, but DCM is an incurable and terminal disease.
- **Chronic Active Hepatitis (CAH):** Chronic Active Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. This inflammation causes scar tissue to develop in the liver, reducing its function. Copper storage disease is one of the most common causes of CAH in Dobermans. The average age at diagnosis is 6 years, and death typically occurs within 1 to 2 years. Although if caught early enough, medications can often help the dog achieve a full life span. Regular bloodwork is critical for early identification of this disorder.
- **von Willebrand's Disease (vWD):** This is a genetic blood clotting disorder that causes excessive bleeding. It's rarely fatal if managed correctly. Simple tests exist that can be done to determine if your dog has this disorder.
- **Cervical Vertebral Instability (Wobbler Syndrome):** Wobbler syndrome is a genetic neurological disorder that causes compression of the spinal cord in the neck area. This can lead to lameness in the hind legs, weakness, difficulty with mobility, unsteady gait, or paralysis. This doesn't usually appear in an affected dog until they're over the age of 3 years. Symptom management options and surgical options exist to correct the condition.

- **Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA):** Progressive retinal atrophy is an inherited disease that causes degeneration of the cells in the eye causing blindness. PRA is not painful to the dog but blindness can cause additional stress. There is no treatment for this condition.
- **Hypothyroidism:** This is an inherited condition that causes your dog's body to produce too much thyroid hormone. It can cause lethargy, depression, weight gain, and mental dullness. A dog diagnosed with hypothyroidism can usually live a full life span with the assistance of medication.
- **Degenerative Myelopathy (DM):** This is a disorder that affects the dog's spinal cord and usually develops later in life. It typically starts with lameness in the dog's rear end, progressing to the rest of the body until the dog is unable to stand or walk. As debilitating as this disorder is, it does not directly cause pain to the dog.
- **Osteosarcoma (Bone Cancer):** Osteosarcoma is a type of cancerous bone tumor that can begin showing symptoms such as lameness, joint pain, and swelling around the site of the tumor. The cancerous cells usually spread throughout the body making this a terminal illness with little that can be done to mitigate the issue.
- **Head Bobbing Syndrome:** Also frequently called Episodic Head Tremor Syndrome, Idiopathic Head Tremors, or simply head tremors, this is a common issue with the Doberman breed where the dog will uncontrollably shake their head side-to-side or up-and-down. It's thought that this doesn't cause the dog any discomfort and episodes typically only last for a few minutes.

Temperament

The modern-day Doberman possesses a temperament that is much different from its ancestors. Whereas Louis Dobermann's early dogs were likely fairly aggressive dogs, today the Doberman is a much more mild, family-oriented dog. This is especially true if the dog is well socialized from an early age. However, they still possess great protective instincts and are certainly capable of guard work. The modern-day Doberman is a much more mild-tempered dog than its ancestors.

Intelligent

The Doberman Pinscher is consistently ranked among the top most intelligent dog breeds in the world. In the "Hart and Hart" study in 1985, the Doberman was ranked as the most intelligent dog of all breeds. Another study in 1980 ranked the Doberman as the most trainable dog breed in the world. Other studies have consistently put the Doberman among the top five breeds in terms of intelligence.

Calm

These dogs are known for being calm, elegant, and stoic in nature. Not easily phased, they know how to study their surroundings with watchful patience. However, they certainly have a playful and energetic side when they feel comfortable letting loose, making them great for families with active kids. They also require lots of regular exercise to keep them happy.

Obedient

Their high level of intelligence makes these dogs not only highly trainable but also very obedient. They have a strong drive to please their owners which means they tend to listen closely to commands given to them.

Watchful and Alert

Always aware of their surroundings, Dobermans like to keep an eye on everything that's going on around them. They're especially focused on their masters and will have a strong desire to stay by their owner's side if they are in unfamiliar or seemingly dangerous surroundings due to their protective instincts.

This is also the reason you'll almost always find a Doberman sleeping facing the door, especially in new surroundings.

Determined

A high level of determination and drive is present in the Doberman. While this is certainly true for the American Doberman Pinscher, it's even more noticeable in the European variant. When given a task, they're committed to carrying it out. This adds to their trainability and makes them great for agility and working dog competitions.

Loyal

The Doberman Pinscher is incredibly loyal and devoted to their families. They will not hesitate to put themselves in harm's way for the sake of their owners.

Fearless

Most Doberman owners will agree that their dogs are not afraid of any person or animal. This is likely due to their powerful protective instincts. However, when their protective instincts are not engaged, it's common to find the Doberman expressing their own unique personality by avoiding rain, your vacuum cleaner, or that cardboard box stacked in the corner that might tip over near them.

People Oriented

These dogs are very people-oriented and pay close attention to the emotions and body language of their masters. This helps them with trainability and personal protection work since they can easily sense when their masters are fearful, even if it isn't obvious to others. They're known for maintaining eye contact while interacting with people. They also have a tendency to bond strongly to one specific member of the family.

Care

Dobermans are considered to be easy to care for. Their shedding is light and easy to deal with, their coats don't hold onto dirt and debris the way many other breeds do, and they instinctually prefer to stay clean.

•**Feeding:** Doberman's do best with two or three meals spread out evenly throughout the day. If feeding two meals per day, feed one meal in the morning and one in the evening. Generally, 3.5 to 4 cups of dry food per day is ideal. See your food manufacturer for recommended portions for your food specific food.

•**Shedding:** This breed is considered to be a low to moderate shedder. They have a single layer coat (with the exception of around the neck area) that sheds short thick hairs similar to that of a human eyelash. The hair is easy to sweep up on hardwood or tile floors but may stick into fabrics and be semidifficult to remove.

•**Grooming:** Ideally you should brush your Doberman once per week and bathe your Doberman every 6 to 8 weeks. Increased brushing of the coat can be done to help reduce shedding. Brushing of the teeth is optional depending on plaque build-up, but brushing even just once per week will provide significant benefits.

•**Exercise:** This breed has high exercise requirements and is happiest if provided with regular physical activity. However, significant physical exertion should be limited when the dog is under 18 months of age, especially on hard surfaces like concrete as it risks damage to their joints which are still developing.

•**Training:** Dobermans are highly intelligent and respond very well to frequent training. It keeps their mind engaged and helps to reduce overall anxiety in the dog.

Overall, this is a very clean breed of dog that requires far less grooming and other care than many other breeds. Dobermans don't like to get dirty and are usually able to keep their home fairly clean. Many owners can get away with bathing their Dobermans only occasionally while still maintaining a shiny, healthy coat.

Aggression

Dobermans are more protective than they are aggressive. This means that they are more likely to react defensively to a situation than they are to act offensively. This is a quality that helps make them great personal protection dogs. The old stereotype of the Doberman as an aggressive and dangerous dog is dying as the modern-day Doberman is certainly far more family-oriented than an aggressive "junkyard dog."

Aggression with Other Dogs

There is some aggression issues often noted in Dobermans with other dogs of the same sex who live in the same household. This is more of an issue with two male dogs living together however than two females. The temperament of the modern-day Doberman, however, is much more conducive to life with other dogs in the same house. Many owners have seen success in raising Dobermans alongside smaller breeds as well.

Aggression with Cats

With cats, there doesn't seem to be a general rule. Some owners report no issues with cats at all, while others have ongoing issues. The one common thread seems to be that if the dog is raised with the cat from a young age, they're much more likely to get along without problems as an adult.