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What are three classifications of dogs

John McKeen/Getty Images Dogs in a sports group have been farmed to be hunter's best sidekick-aiming to help with catching feathered game. Thanks to the invention of the weapon, sports dogs have been developed as hunters have found that they need canine help with retrieving birds of game or waterfowl. There are four basic types of sports dogs: spaniels, pointers, retrievers and setters. Some of the breeds in this group, such as retrievers, are particularly adept at swimming and specialize in waterfowl like ducks, while setters, spaniels, and showing breeds are known experts in hunting quail, pheasant, and other game birds in grassland. While these breeds may be known for performing multiple tasks to help the hunter, typically pointers and setters would identify and mark the game by showing spaniels would flush the game, and the retriever would be in charge of recovering dead and injured game. All sports groups of dogs are characterized by their natural active and alert personalities, stable temperaments, and their instincts both in the water and out in the forest. Sports dogs make cute, well-rounded pets and are the perfect addition to active families because these energetic, warning dogs will require a lot of exercise and time spent outdoors. Look for some dog breeds in this group: Golden Retriever Labrador Retriever Pedigree Dog Breeds can be divided into seven groups - providing a useful look at the characteristics and internal characteristics. The Kennel Club categorizes purebred dogs into seven groups, according to the origin of the breed and initial use. Knowing these can help you understand your dog's instinctive behavior – although, of course, each animal is definitely individual. Traditionally used for their skills in hunting, gun dogs are divided into three basic types: retrievers, flush dogs and pointing breeds. The most common examples of a gun dog are a golden retriever, a Labrador retriever and a cocker spaniel. Hunters: Cocker spaniel and labrador retriever are gun dogs Credit: Shutterstock It typically refers to a group of small and very small breeds such as pug, Yorkshire terrier and bichon frise that make particularly good pets for smaller pets, weighing in at a neat 8lbs (3.6kg) to 11lbs. Toy dogs: good things come in small packs This group has some of the oldest documented breeds in the world, such as Dalmatian, French bulldogs and poodle, and have mainly unsatis sparring or working origins. Strong pedigree: some of the oldest documented breeds are utility dogs Credit: Shutterstock Known for their strong sense of taste and great speed, dogs have historically been used by hunters to track and chase prey. Examples are beagle, dachshund, whippet and greyhound. Good nose: Dog dogs are known for their sense of sense of health Credit: Shutterstock Typically small, active and fearless, terriers have been in the UK and Ireland for the control of rats, rabbits and foxes. Today the most commonly owned breeds are Jack Russell and West Highland white. Terrier love: Jack Russell and West Highland whites are common breeds Credit: Shutterstock These are not just pets but animals that can also help as farm, service, guard and war dogs. Typically intelligent breeds, such as the great Dane, rottweiler and boxer, must be put to work or performed regularly to thrive. Hard graft: Intelligence is a feature of working dogs Credit: Shutterstock Dogs in this group were treated for their work with grazing animals. Sheep dogs, wheels and corgis are examples that have been developed to help control sheep or cattle. On the farm: Shepherds and collies are common pastoral dogs Credit: Shutterstock Proud to feed generations of guide dogs This winter, Royal Canin will donate £1 to guide dogs for every promotional bag of breed diets sold in participating pet stores across the UK.* For more information visit royalcanin.co.uk/guide dogs* Terms apply. £1 will be donated to guide dogs for the first 10,000 promotional bags weighing 1.5kg, 7.5kg or 12kg purchased from ROYAL CANIN® Breed Health Nutrition between 9 Anders and 12. Available in participating pet shops across the UK. While the supplies last. ROYAL CANIN® has the right to cancel this promotion at any time. The customer will not be charged for this promotion. Supporting Guide Dogs, a charity registered in England and Wales (209617) and Scotland (SC038979). Dog groups have been developed by humans to help us categorize dogs according to their functionality. Dog groups are part of the American Kennel Club (AKC) classification system. There are seven main groups of dogs, such as classified AKC. These are: Sports dogs Sports dogs tend to be natural athletes, active, very vigilant dogs, which usually make well-rounded companions. Sports dogs are well known for their instincts around water and forest and require regular, stimulating exercise. Sport breeds are increasingly becoming family dogs, but many of them are still involved in hunting and field activities. The group of sports dogs includes retrievers, setter, spaniels and pointers. Dog Dogs Most dogs have a common feature: they have been designed to be used for hunting. Typically, dogs either use their acute scent strength to track them, or their stamina to chase them down. Otherwise, the group of dogs is very diverse and difficult to generalize. The Hound group includes The Afghan Dog, Foxhound, Beagle, Greyhound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Dachshund and Harrier. Working Dogs Dogs that fall into the task force have historically done various jobs for humans over the years, including guarding, rescuing and sledging. Most working dogs are intelligent and quickly learn and do Companions. But due to the size of many many labour breeds, many of which are not suitable for certain life situations and require proper training soon. Working dogs include Akita, Boxers, Bernese Mountain Dog, Great Dane, Doggiff and Siberian Husky. Terrier terriers are notorious for being living and feisty dogs whose ancestors were bred to kill pests (rodents, mice). They range in size from a smaller Cairn terrier and the largest of the terriers, the rugged Airedale. Most terriers require regular, special care to maintain their appearance. Terriers make a great addition to families that are ready for a dog with lots of personality. Toys Toy Dog tends to be small breeds that have been bred to sit and look nice and bring joy to their owners. These breeds are popular among people who live in small places and towns. Many individuals and families look for smaller dogs for their easy control, less spillover and lower care costs. Even if these are smaller dogs, do not be bemissed by size, because many of these breeds are difficult and can stand on their land. Breeds that fall into the Toy group include Chihuahua, Maltese, Pomeranian, Papillon, Pug, Toy Puoodle and Shih Tzu. Non-Sports Dogs One of the smaller but most diverse groups when it comes to breeds and sizes is non-athletic dogs. These breeds vary greatly in terms of size, appearance and personality. The non-sports group includes Bichon Frise, Boston Terrier, Bulldog, Poodle and Keeshond. Herd Group Herds is the AKC's most recent classification added in 1983. These breeds were previously included in the working group. As the name suggests, the herd group has a common ability to control the movement of animals. In general, herds of dogs make excellent companions and respond well to training. The group's herds include an Australian cattle dog, a collie, a German Shepherd, an old English Shepherd, a border collie and a Shetland shepherd. When deciding on a breed of dog, it is important to consider the breed, and not the group into which the dog falls into. Specifically, the dog breed may fall into the hunting group, but the breed's characteristics cannot be evaluated according to this category. In addition, some breeds may fall into more than one group depending on size. For example, ay poodle belongs to the ay group, but standard poodlings fall into non-sporting groups. Although you would not want to evaluate the breed exclusively according to its group classification, it is important to understand the group of dogs in order to fully understand their basic characteristics. Find more information about: Family Dogs Choosing the Right Dog Visit our Dog Gift Shop to breed specific products and gifts. The seven dog classifications are: Anamalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Carnivora, Canidae, Canis and Canis lupus. The subspecies of dogs is Canis lupus familiaris, which includes feral and domesticated dogs. According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), there are seven groups of all Include. They are sports dogs, dogs, working dogs, terriers, toys, herds of dogs and non-sheers. Each group, even mixed breeds, can be classified into one of these seven groups. Knowing which group each dog falls into can help potential owners discover the breed that is right for them. The dog was the first domesticated animal in the world. Scientists believe the dog was first domesticated about 33,000 years ago and has been used by humans in one or other function ever since. Your guide to seven different types of dogs found around the world. Discover the key qualities of each breed group and find out which one is your favorite! There are many different types of dogs. But most of our pedigered dog breeds have characteristics in common with several other breeds and are therefore placed together with these other breeds in one of our dog breed groups. Which breeds go in which dog breed group is the decision of the kennel club. Your Kennel Club, which the Kennel Club makes, makes that decision depends on which is the authority that presides over the registration of pedigree dogs in your region. In the US it's the American Kennel Club (AKC) in the UK it's the Kennel Club (KC). In many countries around the world dog kennels divide dogs into only seven different types of dogs. Terriers Toys Sports / Gun Dog Non-Sports / Utility Shepherding / Pastoral Dogs Working Each individual pedigree breed belongs to only one of these groups. And it's not always the group you might expect. To misalrute the problem, these groups are sometimes given different names of different breeding clubs Variations in the names of the dog breed group Group containing all breeds of dogs gun is called sports group AKC, and Gundog groups in the UK So, the US Labradors belong to an AKC sports group, while in the UK they belong to the Kennel Club's Gundog group (we join the words gun and dog together here in Britain), but in both countries, the group that Labrador belongs to consists of mostly the same breeds and they are all dogs that serve the same purpose that hunting companions. Which breed of puppy is best? What does it mean to be a pedigree dog? In this case, it is only the name of the group that is different in the same way, the non-sports group is called utility group in the UK. A pastoral group is called the Working Group So you will find German Shepherd Dogs belong to the Herd group in America, where as here in Britain, the same group of dogs, with the same breeds in it, is called the pastoral group. Again, the role and purpose of this group of dogs is the same - herds of livestock. Differences in the way dogs are allocated to a group In some cases, a breed in one country is classified into a completely different group from the group to which it is assigned in another country. For example, in the United Kingdom Schnauzer is assigned to the Non-Sporting/Utility Group, while in the U.S. he is assigned to the Terrier group. How dog breeds are assigned to groups Some of our dog breed groups have a very clear common historical role. And in many cases it is a task that is the key to why they belong to a certain group of breeds of dogs. Let's look at each group in order We start with the dog group, a group that shares the well-known original purpose of Dogs All dogs in the 'dog' group was originally meant to be hunted. Many of the dog breeds are specifically 'pack' dogs. Dogs like beagles, and bloodhounds, have been hunted for long distances in large groups or packs. These are endurance or marathon runners of a group of dogs who are able to run down or wear their prey for several hours. Some are sighthounds that have been preserved for incredible bursts of speed and used for coursing prey over short distances. Dogs are a very characteristic and characteristic group of dogs. Although in modern times dogs range significantly in size and shape, they all share a common hunting background. From a small elongated dachshund to a tall and sturdy Irish werewolf, they were all besaled with hunting in mind. But despite a clear work history, many of these breeds also have fabulous companion dogs for active households, and have a well-deserved reputation as loyal and peaceful members of their families. Historical role and purpose Although the dog group was beed as hunting companions, they fall into two distinct categories. The smell of dogs and the sight of dogs. The smell and sight of the dogs were both originally preserved as hunting dogs. Beched to follow the quarry and cut it, without the help of its human companions. But they do it in different ways. The smell of Dogs As the name suggests, the smell of dogs hunted primarily with the nose. They follow the smell of trails along their quarry, often over long distances and rugged terrain. These fit and active dogs are marathon runners in the dog world. Packhounds can be tracked on horseback or on foot, and this can be reflected in their size or leg length. Foxhounds, for example, are being preserved to be followed by riding large long legged dogs. As the Bassett Dogs, beed on their feet following, they have shorter legs and progress at a slower pace than their fast foxhound relatives. They usually only cut the quarry of sorts after being brought into the bay, or after a short visual chase at the end of the sidewalk. The pursuit of the quarry is often accompanied by baying or giving language, extraordinary and bone tingling sound aptly described as 'music' catching followers. Due to this tendency to 'talk' however, packing dogs can be noisy as pets, and inclined to bark and leak out. Some of our more popular and well known fragrance dogs include Beagles, Basset Dogs and Blood Hounds. Sight Dogs Sight also known as 'gaze dogs', they were preserved to hunt through the eyes. Unlike their cousins smell of a dog, they are often running singles or in pairs. They were beched to chase the quarry until they catch and kill, so the quarry species tend to be smaller. Dogs themselves tend to be lean and leggy in the body type. Sight dogs have a strong hunting instinct, but can still make great pets with the right training and socialization. Some of the most popular breeds of dog breeds include Whippets, Greyhounds and Salukis. Division type in dogs Some of our dogs have become divided into two strains. Those who work and those that are primarily preserved for the show ring. There are still many packs of working dogs in the UK, and here you will see dogs just as they looked in the history books. Of course most of our modern dogs are family animals, and many of them come mainly show supplies. Over the years, exaggeration has sneaked into many of our show dogs, and although most dogs have not been too badly affected there are one or two exceptions. Health problems in dogs Some of our scent dogs have traditionally been bred with very short legs. Domestic dogs are all derived from wolves, and the wolf has a balanced, quartet body with a leg length similar in length between the front and back legs. Like humans, however, wolves and their domestic canine offspring can carry a genetic defect called achondroplasia, which causes the affected animal to have unreasonably short legs. In the wild, such an animal would be disadvantaged and would not survive to carry the defect. However, once dogs became protected from the power of evolution, we were able to deliberately breed more of these short legged animals. Over the years we have raised ever shorter legs in some of our short leggings breeds. One of these breeds is our Basset Hound. While we may like how it looks, it comes at a price for a dog. Elongated back in proportion to the legs predisposes the dog to the reed problems. And the excess skin that modern show Bassets carry can result in skin fold dermatitis, and painful eye problems. You can see Basset in the photo above having a deeply dangling lower eyelid that makes him vulnerable to soreness and infection. Pet Hound Dogs can make beautiful family animals in the right environment. But you need to thoroughly research the chosen breed before bringing it home. Most of them have very strong hunting instincts, so you have to be paid to teaching a very well evidenced appeal of the word go. Alternatively, just sometimes carry your dog to a training lead outside your garden. Some dogs have a reputation as a bit of an aloof, but this can actually benefit some families. Most dogs will not be so pushy or inclined to bother every strange that they switch to attention. Dogs need a lot of exercise, but depending on breed it will be either in the form of regular short intense sprints or daily forced marches. It will depend on the breed that you go for. The Popular Greyhound Breeds Working Group Working Group is a fairly mixed bag. Many of us think of shepherds as working dogs, but they have their own group, herd or pastoral dogs. Some of us think of gun dogs as working dogs because we 'work' them in the shooting field. But they also have their own group. So why would a dog breed be assigned to a task force? The group, which the Kennel Club describes as working, contains many larger breeds that have been bred for guarding, rescuing or policing, except for some dogs such as Siberian Husky and dogs bred to tow trucks. Some of the task force are multi-purpose, and have been used for herding and towing like a Bernese mountain dog, or for herding and guarding. There are some big, heavy, and individual dogs in this group. And some unusual ones too. Sports group Sports or gundog group includes many very popular domestic breeds. In fact, it consists of more than half of all registered purebred pet dogs born in the UK. Dogs' superior popularity owes much to the nature of their purpose. Like dogs, gundogs have been bred for centuries as hunting dogs. But the gundogs were bred specifically to work in close collaboration with a human partner, rather than put up with other dogs. This had a profound effect on the temperament of dogs within this group. Many of them have a strong tendency to desire for human society and communicate closely with people. Gun dogs are largely a co-operative character. And this makes them rather easier to train than some other groups of dogs. There are some gun dog features that can cause problems in training, and we'll look at those later, but overall it's biddable, and easy to go group of dogs. Terriers The word terrier means 'earth'. And our terrier breeds were selectively bred by man to hunt underground. Many of our British terrier breeds have been specially bred to control foxes and are relatively small dogs that can fit easily down fox lands. Others were beched with rattle in mind. Many terriers are very versaille and turn their hand to a number of roles. Terriers are usually relatively small, compact small dogs, but some of the bull terriers can be substantial dogs. Terrier popularly terriers are our fourth most popular group of dogs, and there are twenty-six different breeds embraced by the group. More than twenty-four thousand terrier puppies were registered with the Kennel Club in 2013, and since there are still many working terriers here in the UK, there are many other terriers that go unregistered in the rural community. These are popular and characterful pets in both urban and rural households, and the role of the breed of terriers goes back a long way, and in the 18th century, the Short legged terrier, and leggy terrier! Being bred in small isolated local communities meant many different terriers breeds, often named after places that come from the UK. That's why we have Norfolk Terriers, Patterdales, West Highland Terriers, Manchester Terriers and so on working terriers A few of these breeds of terriers still work today, as well as some of our popular borders and Jack Russell terriers. Border Terrier is one of the ten most popular dogs in the UK and is the smallest of our longer legged terriers. A well-known and widely acclaimed Jack Russell terrier, he is a popular dog in the rural community, often short-leg, and often weighs less than 15 pounds. These small working dogs, unregistered with the Kennel Club are favored by the hunting community. They were kept for foxing, and surplus puppies were, and still are, often sold as pets at very reasonable prices. Bull Terriers Bull Terriers are very different from our traditional working terrier breeds and are a type of terrier made by mixing terrier and bulldog lines together. The sport of dog

fighting has been illegal for several years in Britain, but the practice still continues in places, and some bull terrier breeds are bred and trained for this unpleasant purpose. The most popular of our bull terriers is Staffordshire, whose reputation has taken quite a blow in recent years. Like all terriers they are robust and good-natured dogs if well socialized, but if isolated or poorly treated their feisty nature can bring them into conflict with humans and/or other dogs. Perhaps one of the most famous bull terriers is the fictional Bull Terrier owned by Bill Sykes in Oliver Twist. Sadly, selective breeding has led to a vague exaggeration of the bull terrier's nose by modern breeders, but the Staffordshire Bull Terrier has retained its traditional look. Although most terriers are relatively small dogs, we have a couple of larger breeds of terriers in the UK, and these are Bedlington, and Airedale. The most popular terrier breed the most popular breed in the terrier group is the border terrier. You can learn more about these small dogs in this article: Which breed of puppy: looking at borderline terrier health Terrier health A good number of our terrier breeds are quite long lived, healthily constructed, and relatively free of health problems. With the exception of the face of the bull terrier, we may not have interfered too much with the conformation of these little dogs. However there are some breeds that have some serious health issues that need to be considered. These include a Scottish terrier that has a number of health problems, including very high rates of bladder cancer (18-20 times higher risk than other Breeds) So it is important that we not only assume the dog breed is healthy because the terrier is found, and that we research any breed thoroughly before making ownership decisions. Terrier temperament terriers such as hunting and chasing wildlife and must be well trained and socialized to prevent them from running riots or pestering neighbors cats. Most terriers are human-friendly and good-natured dogs if well socialized. They have a reputation for mischief, but in fact, they are really no more mischievous than any other hunting dog. However, they are very difficult small dogs and really need to be trained with positive reinforcement. General terrier care Most terriers have light-care coats and do not require more than regular brushing. They need a moderate amount of daily exercise, some of which can be achieved with games and acquisition. Many terriers enjoy a sport like agility and flyball, and love nothing better than a long hike through the peatlands. Terrier tail docking Labor terriers have been exempt from anti-docking laws in recent years in England, and if you buy a terrier from working parents, it will probably have had its tail docked shortly after birth. This will not affect the puppy and contrary to myths, dogs can still balance properly and communicate happily with other dogs with a shortened tail. Tail docking is only allowed if puppies are meant to go to work homes, so if you buy a puppy from a show or pet breeding it should have a full tail. Terrier summary If a terrier appeals to you, you should be able to find a pedigree breed that is in reasonable shape, provided you do your research. Alternatively, there are many unregistered terriers from work lines that are found in rural communities across the UK. Does a dog have a cat in your life in theirs? Don't miss the perfect companion to live with a purrfect friend. Happy Cat Guide – A unique guide to understanding and enjoying your cat! Make sure you meet the puppy's mother and that she is friendly. And make sure that your terrier puppy has not been isolated from everyday human contact. You can use our step-by-step Puppy Search guide by choosing a puppy. Socialize the puppy thoroughly and you should have many years of fun together. Additional links and information Toy Group Toy Dogs are a special group of small dogs specially kept to act as companions. Some of these dogs are miniaturized versions of breeds that probably originally belonged to other groups. So we yorkshire terrier, Italian greyhound and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Others are unique breeds in their own right, and don't really fall into any other category. Health and longevity in dogs with cars Generally speaking, smaller dogs tend to be longer lived than larger ones. Their bodies do not work so hard, so it is subject to less wear and tear and Chivavy (as a puppy pictured above), for example, can reportedly live from 14-18 years (source) But being small is not necessarily a guarantee of a long and healthy life. Brachycephaly in dogs with anemia Many of our breeds are brachycephalic dogs. These are breeds where facial bones have been significantly shortened, compared to the size of a dog. Severe brachycephaly has a significant impact on the health of the dog concerned. Even if the longevity of the dog is not limited, the quality of his life can be poor. And it is important to consider if you are looking for a puppy. Pekinese and Pugs are two examples of hard-to-brachycephalic dogs and have a number of health problems as a result. These include breathing difficulties, eye problems and difficulty keeping you cool. You can learn more about brachycephaly and its effects in this article: brachycephalic puppies. Cup of dogs You've probably heard of the further miniaturization of some of our toy breeds, sometimes referred to as tea dogs. Some Yorkshire terriers have been miniaturized in this way, but it's worth pointing out at this point that cup dogs can keep their health at risk, and have a reduced lifespan compared to other Toy Dogs Dental Problems Some toy breeds are particularly prone to dental problems, partly due to overcrowded teeth. This is another thing that you need to take into account when you are narrowing down your puppy selection. The most popular toy dog the most popular breed in the dog toy group is Pug. You can find more information about Pug and links to many Pug resources on this page: Which Breed a Puppy: Looking at Pugs Here is a list of the ten most popular toy dogs in the UK. These dogs are listed in order of number of puppies registered in 2013 and the position on the list does not indicate quality or health. Pug Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Chihuahua (smoothly coated) Chihuahua (long coated) Yorkshire Terrier Maltese Bichon Frise Pomeranian Papillon Chinese crested dog There are 23 breeds of autistic dog recognized by the UK Kennel Club. The full list and other information can be found here: Kennel Club Toy Breed information Classification of breeds varies slightly from country to country. The American Kennel Club, for example, lists Shih Tzu as a member of the Toy Group, while UK kennel CLub lists in Utility Group. Love 'em or hate 'em Toy Dogs often arouse quite strong feelings. People tend to love or hate! It is important to remember that they are still dogs. And that inside each of these little dogs lies a personality every bit as big as their bigger cousins. Healthy Toy Dogs can be trained to be obedient and even helpful, and if properly behaved, raised and socialized they are no more elegant or grumpy than any other type of dog. Is a breed with anemia for you? There are definitely benefits to owning a smaller dog. Both in terms of general care and for control reasons. It is much easier to drive a boisterous puppy that weighs four pounds than one that weighs forty pounds. From a purely practical point of view, the crate you will need to contain the Chihuahua in comfort will be much more space friendly than the crate you will need to contain boxer. Some breeds of apamien have been bred with too long coats and may need quite a bit of trimming or care, so you need to factor that into your considerations. And very small dogs are prone to injury, especially in a house where there are many young children tearing around. The most important factor to consider though is probably going to be the health of the dog. A healthy future Good health and temperament is just as important in these small breeds as it is in larger ones and should not be neglected. Unfortunately to some extent it was. If you want to see a future where all breeds of dogs are healthy and happy, it is important to avoid promoting breeding extremes (in size, leg length, skull shape, etc.). And look at health problems carefully for any breed that interests you. Remember that (at the time of writing) health problems associated with conformation seem to be listed on the KC breed health information pages. Make sure the temperament of the parents of your future puppy is sound. No matter how small the dog is, he should be happy and friendly, even if he tends to bark. The Group of Herd Herds (Pastoral in the UK) group of dogs is famous and historic. It boasts not only beautiful and distinctive dogs, but also some of the most smart. Pastoral dogs have a very specific sense of purpose that connects it to a relatively small number of breed members in a very unique way. Role & Purpose Pastoral Dogs are perhaps best known colloquially as sheep dogs. This breeding group includes those dogs that you would be familiar with as working on farms. It is primarily used for livestock farming, but also for guarding it. They are most commonly thought to be related to sheep, but are also used today for a herd of other breeds, including cattle and even reindeer in some parts of the world. In order to cooperate with their handlers, they must be kept as a priority because of the need for intelligence. Collies in particular are popularly regarded as one of the most aggressive breeds of dog, with impressive memories of commands, quick learning speed and using these skills to win plentiful prizes for agility, flyball and other obedience events. They are also very loyal as a group. After being raised to work dedicated to one person. Worked all year round even in very cold or wet conditions, their coats are generally strong, warm and waterproof to deal with the most Climate. Divisions of the type Modern pastoral dogs gradually fall into separate types due to a change in purpose. With the gap growing between those that are still working as shepherds, and show/pet lines. Border Collies preserved for the show ring are starting to have a slightly different look than their working companions, but the difference in the German Shepherd for example is stark. Working German sheep farmers retain most of the conformation of their ancestors, but they show that the farmed examples very unfortunately suffered at the hands of exaggeration through selective breeding. Their hips ride much lower than their front legs, and they have a high incidence of back and hip problems as a result. Pastoral Pets Members group of dog herders can make fantastic pets for active outdoorsy families. They are full of energy and willing to accompany you wherever you want to go. As a group, they don't tend to be too pushed with other people or animals. It can be very beneficial if you are not looking for a dog that will want to greet everyone and everything they see when they take a walk. The downside of this loyalty is that it can cause improper hostility to strangers. It is especially known in the breed of German Shepherd, which have been bred for generations to protect sheep herds in isolated areas. Their guard tendencies are innate and without proper socialization they can prove problematic for friends of their families. Another potentially short-term problem that can arise with a pastoral dog as a family pet is related to their herd instincts. It has been anecdotally suggested by many people that shepherds may mistakenly express their instincts to herd around children. He circling and gently nipping to try and manipulate them as if livestock. If you see this behavior from your puppy it can be reduced and controlled by immediately removing the puppy from the situation. For a few minutes, he throws him in the crate for a few minutes and lets him out again. You would need to be vigilant in the same way that you would with toilet training. Whenever your puppy is around children, look at him like a hawk and gently remove him as soon as he starts behaving in this unwanted fashion. He should soon learn that this is not appropriate. However, with proper socialization from an early age and proper attention to positive training, there is no reason why a properly managed pastoral dog can not prove a welcome addition to the family. Like a faithful friend and companion. Health problems As they have been primarily preserved over the years as working dogs, pastoral groups tend to enjoy very good health. In general, their structure mostly still resembles that of their ancient ancestors, and was not too polluted with fads or fashions that can so often lead to health problems. However, there are some health problems that you should take note of specific breeding groups. There are also some breed specific questions that you will need to research if you want a certain pastoral type: for example, those related to the Blue Merle gene in Border Collies, or hip problems in German Shepherds. As a group of pastoral dogs they share some health issues common to all other breeds. Hip dysplasia and blindness are two of the more prevalent examples. The risk of these conditions can be reduced to some extent by reassing that you only buy a puppy from parents who have good hip scores and have recent clear eye tests. Overall, however, pastoral have excellent health and should be a long-term companion for their families. Popular Breeds Pastoral Group is not the largest, but contains some of the greatest dog characters in the world! Perhaps the most popular are as follows: Border Collie German Shepherd Rough Collie Old English Shepherd Shepherd