

WAGWISE

Breed Guide



German Shepherd

Loyal, Intelligent, and Always Ready
for Action

German Shepherd Breed Guide

Breed History & Personality Traits

The German Shepherd originated in Germany in the late 19th century, developed by Captain Max von Stephanitz. His goal was to create the ultimate herding dog - intelligent, obedient, and versatile. Today, they are known for their intelligence, courage, and loyalty, excelling in police, military, and service roles. Key Personality Traits: - Highly intelligent and quick learners - Loyal and protective - Confident and courageous - Energetic and hardworking - Strong instinct to guard and herd Max says: "Smart, brave, and loyal? Yeah, yeah, we get it. But don't underestimate their sass - they're not afraid to outsmart you if you slack off with training."

Exercise, Grooming & Training Needs

German Shepherds are active and athletic, needing 1-2 hours of daily exercise including walks, runs, and playtime. Mental stimulation is equally important. Grooming: They have a double coat that sheds year-round. Brush 2-3 times weekly and bathe occasionally. Training: Early socialisation and consistent obedience training are essential due to their intelligence and strength. Max says: "If you're a couch potato, get a cat. These dogs need action - and no, running to the fridge doesn't count as exercise."

Family & Lifestyle Suitability

German Shepherds are devoted family dogs and thrive in active households. They are great with children when properly socialised, but supervision is needed with small kids. Best suited for: - Active families who love the outdoors - Owners committed to training - Homes with space to run and play Max says: "They'll protect your house, your kids, and your snacks. But ignore them, and they'll protect your neighbour instead."

Common Health Considerations

German Shepherds are prone to certain conditions: - Hip and elbow dysplasia - Degenerative myelopathy - Bloat (gastric torsion) - Allergies and skin issues - Digestive disorders like EPI Regular vet visits, balanced diet, and weight management are key. Max says: "Keep them healthy - vet visits may cost you, but a sick Shepherd will cost you even more in carpet cleaning. Trust me."

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Max's No-Nonsense Advice

- Exercise, exercise, exercise. These dogs aren't couch ornaments. - Training isn't optional - you've got a furry genius. - They're not backyard decorations - they need attention and jobs. - Brush that coat unless you want to live in a fur blizzard.