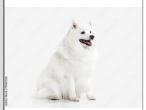
Table 1

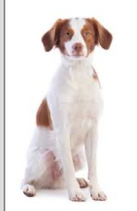
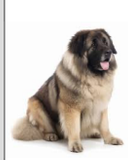
Breed	Picture	Lifespan	Weight	Height	Temperament	Description
Affenpinscher		12 - 14 years	2.9 - 6kg	25 - 30cm	Curious Playful Fun-loving Stubborn Active Adventurous	The Affenpinscher is a small toy breed that originated in Germany, with its name pronounced as [ˈafn̩pɪnʃɐ] in German. Initially bred to catch mice, this energetic little dog is now a beloved companion all around the globe. Affenpinschers have a distinctive appearance that some liken to terriers, but they are classified under “Group 2, Section 1: Pinschers and Schnauzers” in the FCI classification, rather than the terrier group. They are energetic, adventurous, curious, and stubborn, yet also playful and fun-loving. The breed is known for its confidence and liveliness, being affectionate and protective toward family members. Affenpinschers can be somewhat territorial about their toys and food, making them less suited for homes with very small children. While typically quiet, they can become highly excitable if attacked or threatened, showing no fear in the face of danger.
Afghan Hound		12 - 14 years	20 - 27kg	61 - 73cm	Aloof Dignified Happy Independent	The Afghan Hound is a distinctive breed known for its long, fine, and silky coat, along with a tail that features a ring curl at the tip. Originating in the cold mountains of Afghanistan, it is locally known as Sag-e Tāzī (Dari: سگ تازی) or Tāžī Spay (Pashto: تاژي سپی). Other names for this breed include Tāzī, Balkh Hound, Baluchi Hound, and Barakzai Hound. According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), the Afghan Hound is considered one of the most visually striking breeds, characterised as “aloof and dignified, an aristocrat of sublime beauty.” Beneath this regal exterior, however, lies an “endearing streak of silliness” and profound loyalty. This breed has been admired since ancient times for its elegance, and its unique coat was developed to protect against the harsh mountain climate. Their large paw pads act as shock absorbers on rocky terrains, further enhancing their ability to navigate their native landscape. The typical Afghan Hound temperament is often described as aloof and dignified, yet they can also be playful and clownish when in a joyful mood. Like many sighthounds, Afghan Hounds possess a high prey drive, which means they may chase or even kill small animals and livestock.
Airedale Terrier		10 - 12 years	Males: 23 - 29kg Females: 18 - 20kg	Males: 58 - 61cm Females: 56 - 59cm	Intelligent Outgoing Alert Friendly Confident Courageous	The Airedale Terrier, often simply referred to as “Airedale,” is a distinguished dog breed known for its terrier roots. Originating from the picturesque valley of the River Aire in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England, this breed is affectionately dubbed the “King of Terriers” due to its stature as the largest among them. The Airedale is a product of crossbreeding between the Old English Black and Tan Terrier and the Otterhound, along with possibly other terrier breeds. Interestingly, it has also played a role in the development of other breeds, including the Yorkshire Terrier. Originally bred as a versatile hunting and working farm dog, the Airedale has taken on many roles throughout its history. It has served bravely as a war dog, a guide dog, and a police dog in Britain. In the United States, Airedales have been used for hunting big game, upland birds, and waterfowl, showcasing their adaptability and strong work ethic in various capacities. The Airedale Terrier is not only a versatile working dog but also a capable hunting companion. With some herding instincts in their repertoire, Airedales can exhibit a natural tendency to chase smaller animals. While they’re quite effective when working with cattle and livestock, it’s important to note that an untrained Airedale may become a nuisance to these animals. Bred for independent hunting, Airedales possess a unique blend of intelligence, independence, and determination. Their strong-minded and sometimes stubborn nature means they thrive best with consistent training. When both children and Airedales receive the proper guidance, these dogs can make wonderful family pets. Airedales are generally good with cats and other small animals, especially if they grow up together. Above all, they are incredibly loyal to their owners, making them a cherished addition to any household.
Akita		Akita: 10 - 15 years Akita Inu: 10 - 12 years	Akita males: 32 - 39kg Akita females: 23 - 29kg	Akita males: 64 - 70cm Akita females: 58 - 64cm	Reserved Protective Independent Dominant	The Akita (秋田, Akita) is a large Japanese dog breed that originated in the mountainous regions of northern Japan. It has a short double coat, typical of many northern spitz breeds. Historically, Akitas were used by matagi hunters for guarding and hunting bears. Akitas are known for their strength, dominance, and loyalty. They tend to be aloof with strangers but are affectionate and deeply devoted to their families. Generally a hardy breed, Akitas come in two distinct varieties: the pure Japanese strain, known as Akita Inu or Akita-ken, and the larger mixed strain, often called the “American Akita.” There is ongoing debate over whether these strains represent two separate breeds or variations within the same breed. The Akita is often perceived as territorial and reserved around strangers. In some countries, breed-specific legislation has categorised the Akita as a dangerous dog. Known for being large, strong, independent, and dominant, a well-trained Akita should tolerate non-threatening strangers; otherwise, they may display aggressive behavior toward unfamiliar people. A survey of canine behaviour in five ancient breeds in Poland found the Akita to be the most aggressive toward other dogs, with 59% of Akitas displaying such behaviour. Additionally, 13% were reported to show aggression toward humans, placing them second in this category. The study also noted stereotypic behaviour in 27% of Akitas, ranking it second out of the five breeds, while excessive vocalisation was reported in only 17% of Akitas, lower than the other breeds. Akitas also had the lowest incidence of separation anxiety, with less than 10% affected. The study found that 70% of human-directed aggression occurred when a visitor was on the Akita’s territory, highlighting the breed’s defensive nature. A Japanese study revealed a correlation between the CAG repeat polymorphism in the AR gene and increased aggression in male Akitas, but not in females.
Alaskan Husky		12 - 15 years	16 - 34kg	51 - 66cm	Energetic Intelligent Stubborn Trainable	The Alaskan Husky is a medium-sized working sled dog, bred specifically for its exceptional performance in sledding. This breed is the preferred choice for competitive sled dog racing, excelling in both short-distance sprint races and long-distance endurance events like the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, the Yukon Quest, and the Finnmarksløpet. The behaviour and temperament of Alaskan Huskies can vary significantly due to their diverse genetic backgrounds and the various purposes for which they are bred. In all cases, however, a strong desire to pull and run is essential, and this drive is a key factor in breeding decisions. Mental soundness is equally important because these dogs work closely with other team members, are handled regularly by humans, and must perform well in challenging environments like crowded race trails with spectators and other dog teams. Alaskan Huskies are also selectively bred for their intelligence and problem-solving abilities, particularly in the absence of direct feedback from the driver. These traits are highly valued in lead dogs, who are responsible for guiding the team through the trail and navigating obstacles. Lead dogs with superior cognitive skills and strong instincts are often considered prime candidates for breeding, along with their physical athleticism, to continue improving the working performance of the breed.
Alaskan Malamute		10 - 14 years	Males: 36 - 43kg Females: 32 - 38kg	Males: 61 - 66cm Females: 56 - 61cm	Friendly Loyal Affectionate Devoted Dignified	The Alaskan Malamute is a large dog breed originally bred for strength and endurance, primarily used for hauling heavy freight as a sled dog. It shares similarities with other Arctic breeds, including the Siberian Husky, Greenland Dog, Canadian Eskimo Dog, and Samoyed. The Alaskan Malamute has a double coat, featuring a thick, oily undercoat and a coarse outer guard coat that stands off the body. Its ears are small and erect. Heavier and more robust than the Siberian Husky, the Malamute is bred for power and endurance, aligning with its original function as a sled dog.
American Bulldog		10 - 15 years	Males: 30 - 58kg Females: 27 - 41kg	Males: 50 - 71cm Females: 50 - 61cm	Friendly Loyal Energetic Confident Gentle Dominant	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** Not to be confused with American Bully. The American Bulldog is a large, muscular breed of the mastiff type. Its ancestors were originally brought to the British North American colonies, where they played a vital role on small farms and ranches. These dogs were commonly used for a variety of tasks, including guarding livestock, working as farm dogs, and even hunting. Known for their strength, loyalty, and tenacity, the American Bulldog has evolved into a protective yet friendly companion.

American Bully		8 - 13 years	20 - 60kg	33 - 50cm	Adaptable Trainable Confident Loyal Courageous Fearless Protective	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The American Bully is a modern breed of dog developed primarily as a companion animal, officially standardised and recognised by the American Bully Kennel Club (ABKC) in 2004. Their breed standard emphasises an “impression of great strength for its size.” The American Bully was later recognised by the European Bully Kennel Club (EBKC) in 2008 and by the United Kennel Club (UKC) on July 15, 2013. However, it is not recognised as a separate breed by the UK Kennel Club, American Kennel Club, or the International Canine Federation. The temperament of adult American Bullies is highly influenced by their training, and they can be quite demanding, necessitating proper training and socialisation. The ABKC has categorised the American Bully into four types: XL, Pocket, Standard, and Classic. In contrast, other registries, including the UKC, maintain a single size standard. The **American Bully** is a highly adaptable and trainable breed, developed as a companion dog. Despite their strength and muscular build, they can often be found acting as affectionate lapdogs at home. The breed excels in various sports, including weight pull and flirt pole, showcasing their versatility. According to breed standards, human aggression is discouraged, emphasising the importance of a stable temperament. However, breeders have recognised that American Bullies can pose a danger if improperly raised or bred. Proper training and socialisation are essential for ensuring that these dogs develop into well-mannered companions.
American Eskimo Dog		13 - 15 years	Toy: 2.27 - 4.5kg Miniature: 4.5 - 9kg Standard: 6.8 - 18kg	Toy: 22 - 30cm Miniature: 30 - 40cm Standard: 38 - 50cm	Intelligent Alert Friendly Reserved Protective	The American Eskimo Dog, originally from Germany, belongs to the Spitz family and descends from the German Spitz. However, due to anti-German sentiment during World War I, the breed was renamed “American Eskimo Dog.” While they are sometimes exported as German Spitz Gross or Mittel based on height, the American Eskimo Dog has evolved into a distinct breed with its own standards. In addition to being loyal companions and watchdogs, these dogs gained fame in the 1930s and 1940s as popular circus performers in the U.S. The breed comes in three sizes: toy, miniature, and standard, and they share visual similarities with breeds like the Japanese Spitz, Danish Spitz, Volpino Italiano, German Spitz, Indian Spitz, and Samoyeds. American Eskimo Dogs typically have a striking white coat, though the American Kennel Club (AKC) also accepts a white and biscuit-coloured variation. Their double-layered coat is thick and straight, with a distinctive ruff around the neck and shoulders, giving them a regal appearance. Their bushy tails are heavily furred and usually curl over their backs, adding to their fluffy, spitz-like look.
American Pit Bull Terrier		8 - 15 years	Males: 16 - 27kg Females: 14 - 23kg	Males: 45 - 53cm Females: 43 - 50cm	Clownish Stubborn Intelligent Loyal Affectionate Obedient Gentle Strong Courageous	The American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT) is characterised by its strength, confidence, and zest for life. This breed is known for being eager to please, enthusiastic, and highly intelligent. Its natural agility makes it an exceptional climber, necessitating secure fencing to contain them. The APBT excels in performance events, showcasing its intelligence and willingness to work alongside its handler. Various breed registries have established standards for the APBT’s temperament. The American Dog Breeders Association (ADBA) and the Old Family Red Nose Registry (OFRNR) disqualify any signs of human aggression, while the American Preservation Dog Registry (APDR) emphasises the importance of having a temperament that is completely reliable with people. The perception of the American Pit Bull Terrier has been heavily influenced by media portrayal. A 2000 study conducted by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) examined dog-bite-related fatalities over a 20-year period and found that Rottweilers and pit bull-type dogs accounted for 67% of such fatalities in the U.S. during that time. However, the study also noted that these breeds likely represented a much smaller percentage of the overall dog population, indicating a potential breed-specific issue regarding fatal attacks. Media coverage has often exaggerated the problems associated with the breed, leading to a widespread perception of aggression that does not accurately reflect the temperament of many APBTs. Additionally, misidentification of dogs by breed has further complicated the issue; stocky, short-haired dogs are frequently misclassified as Pit Bulls, impacting the breed’s adoption rates and increasing the likelihood of them being placed in shelters. Despite these challenges, the American Pit Bull Terrier is a breed with a loyal, affectionate nature, capable of forming strong bonds with families and individuals when properly trained and socialised.
American Staffordshire Terrier		12 - 16 years	Males: 25 - 32kg Females: 18 - 25kg	Males: 46 - 48cm Females: 43 - 46cm	Tenacious Friendly Loyal Devoted Energetic Attentive Courageous	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The American Staffordshire Terrier, often called the AmStaff, is a medium-sized dog breed with a short coat, recognised by the American Kennel Club (AKC). However, it is not recognised by the United Kennel Club (UKC), which classifies American Staffordshire Terriers under the American Pit Bull Terrier breed. These dogs typically stand 18–19 inches (46–48 cm) tall and weigh between 40–70 pounds (18–32 kg). According to the AKC, the breed is known for being “confident, smart, and good-natured.” While they share a common ancestry with the American Pit Bull Terrier, they are recognised as two distinct breeds. Additionally, the AmStaff should not be confused with the Staffordshire Bull Terrier (“Staffy”) of the United Kingdom.
Anatolian Shepherd Dog		10 - 13 years	Males: 50 - 65kg Females: 40 - 55kg	Males: 74 - 81cm Females: 71 - 79cm	Intelligent Bold Confident Independent Proud	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a robust and formidable flock guardian with an ancient lineage. Known for their protective and territorial nature, these dogs are also intelligent, patient, and incredibly loyal. They are highly regarded as unmatched working guard dogs. Standing between 27 and 29 inches at the shoulder and weighing up to 150 pounds, Anatolian Shepherds are muscular yet agile, well-suited to confront the predators and navigate the rugged terrain of their homeland. Descended from some of the oldest domestic canine bloodlines, this breed embodies a timeless and unrefined quality, harkening back to the Bronze Age, approximately 6,000 years ago. Anatolians are smart, devoted, and adaptable, displaying a fierce protectiveness over their flock, which may include livestock, children, smaller dogs, and even family cats. Owners of Anatolian Shepherds must be strong leaders, capable of managing a dog that is both commanding and demanding, yet calm and affectionate.
Australian Cattle Dog		13 - 15 years	Males: 15 - 22kg Females: 15 - 22kg	Males: 46 - 51cm Females: 43 - 48cm	Trainable Protective High energy Working	The Australian Cattle Dog, also known as the Cattle Dog, is a medium-sized herding breed developed in Australia for driving cattle across challenging terrains. It features a short coat that comes in two main colour forms: red or blue, with a white base. Energetic and intelligent, this breed has an independent streak and thrives with structured, engaging training. Originally bred to herd by nipping, they may nip at running children and are known for forming strong bonds with their owners, often becoming protective. Grooming is straightforward, requiring minimal maintenance except during shedding. Common health issues include hereditary deafness, progressive blindness, and accidental injuries. The Australian Cattle Dog is a high-energy, intelligent breed known for its independence and ranked 10th in obedience command trainability. This breed requires ample exercise, companionship, and mental stimulation, often engaging in dog sports or learning tricks. At home, they are affectionate and playful but can be reserved and cautious around strangers. Their protective nature makes them effective guard dogs, and early socialisation is important for adapting to various people. While good with older children, they may nip at younger, more active kids. The bond with their owner is strong, and they may react defensively to perceived threats. Although generally quiet, they will bark to alert or when bored. They are not suited for living in packs with other dogs, as establishing a hierarchy can lead to aggression.
Australian Kelpie		11 - 16 years	Males: 14 - 21kg Females: 14 - 21kg	Males: 46 - 51cm Females: 43 - 48cm	Intelligent Alert Friendly Loyal Energetic Eager	The Australian Kelpie, commonly known as the Kelpie, is a highly skilled Australian sheepdog renowned for its ability to muster and drive livestock, often with minimal human guidance. A medium-sized breed, the Kelpie comes in various colours and is used to herd sheep, cattle, and goats worldwide. There are two distinct varieties of the breed: the Show Kelpie and the Working Kelpie. The Show Kelpie is bred primarily for appearance and competes in conformation dog shows, while the Working Kelpie is valued for its herding instincts and working ability rather than looks. Show Kelpies typically excel in agility trials and may also compete in conformation shows, particularly in Australia. These dogs are intelligent, easy to train, and generally have good temperaments, making them excellent companions, especially for families with children. However, they require a significant amount of physical exercise and mental stimulation. Without sufficient activity, Kelpies can become bored and develop disruptive behaviours such as excessive barking, digging, or chewing. Working Kelpies, in particular, are often described as “workaholics” due to their intense drive to herd and perform tasks. Their high energy levels and need for engagement make them well-suited for active lifestyles.

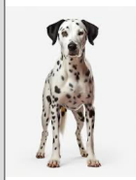
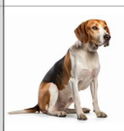
Australian Shepherd		13 - 15 years	Males: 23 - 29kg Females: 14 - 20kg	Males: 51 - 58cm Females: 46 - 54cm	Intelligent Good-natured Affectionate Protective Active	The Australian Shepherd is a lively herding dog that actually hails from the United States, despite its name suggesting otherwise. This breed emerged in California during the 19th century and is thought to have roots in various sheepdog breeds from northwest Spain, along with collies brought over from Australia and New Zealand as part of the sheep trade. While they were initially bred for herding, Australian Shepherds have evolved into one of North America's most beloved companion breeds. Their intelligence, agility, and affectionate nature make them fantastic family pets and loyal companions, while their herding instincts and energy ensure they remain active and engaged in a variety of activities. The Australian Shepherd is often characterised by its intelligence, energy, loyalty, protectiveness, playfulness, and adaptability. Although most of today's Australian Shepherds are primarily bred as companion animals, many still hold onto their strong herding instincts. It's not unusual to see these dogs trying to herd children or other pets in the household! Being a highly active breed, Australian Shepherds need plenty of exercise to stay happy and healthy. If they don't get enough physical activity, they can become bored and potentially destructive. So, whether it's playing fetch in the yard, going for long walks, or engaging in agility training, keeping them active is key to their well-being.
Basset Artesien Normand		12 - 15 years	15 - 20kg	30 - 36cm	Calm Good-natured	The Basset Artésien Normand (Norman Artesian Basset) is a short-legged hound breed that was developed in France. The term "basset" refers specifically to hounds with short legs, highlighting the breed's distinctive physical characteristics. These dogs are known for their keen sense of smell and excellent tracking abilities, making them skilled hunters and companions. Their friendly disposition and adaptability also contribute to their popularity as family pets.
Basset Bleu de Gascogne		12 - 15 years	16 - 18kg	34 - 38cm	Calm Good-natured	The Basset Bleu de Gascogne, also known as the Blue Gascony Basset, is a long-backed, short-legged hound breed that originates from France. This breed is relatively rare outside of its homeland and is recognised by various kennel clubs, including the Fédération Cynologique Internationale, The Kennel Club in the UK, and the United Kennel Club in the United States. The term "bleu" in its name refers to the distinctive ticked appearance of its coat, which adds to its unique charm. Known for their excellent tracking abilities and friendly nature, Basset Bleu de Gascogne dogs make great companions for those who appreciate their gentle temperament.
Basset Fauve de Bretagne		10 - 12 years	16 - 18kg	32 - 38cm	Affectionate Stubborn Sociable Adaptable Courageous	The Basset Fauve de Bretagne is a short-legged scent hound breed that hails from Brittany, a historical region in France. This breed is known for its keen hunting abilities and has a distinctive, sturdy build suited for tracking and chasing game. With its lively and affectionate temperament, the Basset Fauve de Bretagne makes for a great companion, combining a love for the outdoors with a friendly disposition. Its short legs and unique appearance reflect its hunting heritage, making it a charming addition to any family that appreciates an active and engaged dog.
Basset Hound		10 - 12 years	Males: 25 - 34kg Females: 20 - 29kg	Males: 30 - 38cm Females: 28 - 36cm	Sweet-tempered Tenacious Affectionate Devoted Gentle	The Basset Hound is a short-legged breed belonging to the hound family. Known as a scent hound, the Basset was originally bred for hunting hares. Their exceptional sense of smell and ability to ground-scent is second only to that of the Bloodhound. Basset Hounds are among six recognised "basset"-type breeds in France. The term "Basset" is derived from the French word *bas*, meaning 'low', combined with the suffix *-et*, which together translates to 'rather low'. Basset Hounds typically exhibit bicolored or tricolored coats featuring standard hound coloration. The Basset Hound is known for its friendly, outgoing, and playful demeanour, making it a tolerant companion for children and other pets.
Beagle		12 - 15 years	Males: 10 - 11.3kg Females: 9.1 - 10.4kg	Male: 36 - 41cm Females: 33 - 38cm	Amiable Curious Even tempered Intelligent Alert Friendly Bold Excitable Determined Gentle	The Beagle is a small scent hound breed, resembling a larger foxhound, originally developed for hunting hare, known as beagling. With an excellent sense of smell and tracking abilities, Beagles are commonly used as detection dogs for prohibited agricultural imports worldwide. Their friendly temperament and manageable size make them popular pets. The modern Beagle was developed in Great Britain in the 1830s, derived from several breeds, including the Talbot Hound, North Country Beagle, Southern Hound, and possibly the Harrier Beagles are known for their even temper and gentle disposition, often described as "merry." They are generally friendly and sociable, although individual personalities may vary. While they can be standoffish with strangers initially, they are easily won over, making them poor guard dogs. However, their tendency to bark or howl in unfamiliar situations makes them good watchdogs. In a 1985 study, Beagles received the highest excitability rating alongside a few other breeds. They rank 72nd in Stanley Coren's dog intelligence rankings, indicating a lower degree of working and obedience intelligence, although this does not assess other forms of intelligence. Beagles are excellent with children and are popular family pets due to their amiable nature. As pack animals, they can experience separation anxiety, leading to destructive behaviour when left alone. Most Beagles will bark at strange situations and may bay when they catch a scent. They generally get along well with cats and other dogs. Their exercise needs are moderate; while they have good stamina and won't tire easily, they don't require excessive exercise. Regular activity helps prevent weight gain, which the breed is prone to.
Bearded Collie		14 - 15 years	Males: 18 - 27kg Females: 18 - 27kg	Males: 51 - 56cm Females: 51 - 53cm	Intelligent Alert Lively Active Hardy	The Bearded Collie, often affectionately referred to as the "Beardie," is a herding dog breed that was originally utilised by Scottish shepherds. While it was once primarily bred for its herding abilities, this breed has gained popularity as a beloved family companion. Known for its friendly and playful nature, the Bearded Collie is characterised by its long, flowing coat and distinctive beard-like facial hair. These dogs are intelligent, energetic, and thrive on regular exercise and mental stimulation, making them excellent partners for active families. Their affectionate disposition and loyalty further enhance their appeal as cherished pets.
Beauceron		10 - 12 years	30 - 45kg	Males: 65 - 70cm Females: 61 - 68cm	Intelligent Protective Alert Calm Gentle Fearless	The Beauceron is a herding dog breed that hails from the plains of Central France. Also known as the Berger de Beauce (sheepdog from Beauce) or Bas Rouge (red-stockings), this breed is recognised for its strength, intelligence, and versatility. The Beauceron was traditionally used for herding livestock, but it is also adept in various canine sports and as a loyal family companion. With a distinctive appearance, characterised by a short coat and unique markings, the Beauceron is known for its protective nature and keen instincts, making it an excellent working dog as well as a devoted pet. The Beauceron is recognised in France for its roles as a guard dog, farm helper (herding sheep or cattle), and a participant in ring sports, especially in protection training. This athletic and healthy breed has been selectively bred for intelligence, calmness, gentleness, and fearlessness. Adults typically exhibit a natural suspicion of strangers, making them excellent guard dogs; however, without proper training, they may display aggressive tendencies. The Beauceron thrives when integrated into family life, though they can also adapt to sleeping outside, as their weatherproof coats make them well-suited for kennel living, even in harsh winter conditions. Their double smooth coat is short and requires minimal maintenance. While Beaucerons are eager learners and can be trained to high standards, their physical and mental development is slower than that of other large shepherd breeds, such as the German Shepherd. They typically reach full maturity around the age of three. For effective training, it is recommended to conduct several short five- to ten-minute sessions daily in their early years, as opposed to longer, more strenuous training sessions. This approach can yield better results and enhance their learning experience.
Bedlington Terrier		12 - 14 years	Males: 7.7 - 10kg Females: 7.7 - 10kg	Males: 41 - 44cm Females: 38 - 42cm	Intelligent Affectionate Good-tempered Spirited	The Bedlington Terrier is a small dog breed named after the mining town of Bedlington in Northumberland, North East England. Originally bred for hunting, this versatile breed has since found its place in dog racing, various dog sports, conformation shows, and as a beloved companion. Bedlington Terriers are closely related to several breeds, including the Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Whippet, and Otterhound. They are known for their unique and somewhat contradictory characteristics. For instance, they possess powerful swimming abilities that rival those of water dogs like the Newfoundland, combined with impressive speed and endurance. These dogs are particularly fond of snow and can achieve remarkable agility and speed in icy or deep powder conditions, using their strong noses to navigate. Visually, Bedlington Terriers bear a striking resemblance to lambs, thanks to their distinctive appearance. Their coats come in three primary colourations: blue, liver, or sandy, often with tan points. One of the breed's most recognisable features is the characteristic topknot of fur on their heads. While their coats are nonshedding and have minimal odour, they require weekly grooming to maintain their appearance and remove dead hair. Originally referred to as the Rothbury or Rodbury Terrier, the breed officially adopted the name Bedlington Terrier in 1825, although some dogs can trace their lineage back as far as 1782. The first dog show to include a class for Bedlington Terriers took place in 1870 in Bedlington itself. Historically, Bedlington Terriers at early shows were often dyed to enhance their coat's appearance. A notable achievement for the breed occurred in 1948 when a Bedlington Terrier named Rock Ridge Night Rocket won Best in Show at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. While the breed is known for its charm and unique qualities, it's important for prospective owners to be aware of certain health concerns, particularly the breed's predisposition to copper toxicosis.

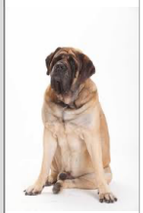
Belgian Shepherd		10 - 14 years	Males: 25 - 30kg Females: 20 - 25kg	Males: 60 - 66cm Females: 56 - 61cm	Stubborn Alert Friendly Hard-working Confident Protective Active Watchful	The Belgian Shepherd, also known as the Belgian Sheepdog or Chien de Berger Belge, is a medium-sized herding dog breed originating from Belgium. This breed comprises four distinct varieties based on coat type and colour: the long-haired black Groenendael, the rough-haired fawn Laekenois, the short-haired fawn Malinois, and the long-haired fawn Tervuren. Notably, the American Kennel Club recognises these four varieties as separate breeds. The Belgian Shepherd descends from a common type of shepherd dog prevalent throughout Western Europe, sharing ancestry with modern breeds such as the Bouvier des Ardennes, Dutch Shepherd, and German Shepherd. These dogs have served Belgian shepherds for centuries. In the late 19th century, a breed club was established to standardise the breed. Historically, the Belgian Shepherd has been employed as a herding dog. In contemporary settings, they are often kept as companion animals or utilised in various roles, including assistance dogs, detection dogs, guard dogs, guide dogs, police dogs, and search and rescue dogs. The breed has a long-standing history of service in Belgian police forces and military operations, having been utilised by Belgian armed forces during both World Wars and later by the U.S. Army. Today, the Belgian Shepherd continues to serve in various capacities within armed forces worldwide. Belgian Shepherds are renowned for their high intelligence, alertness, and sensitivity. Typically, they are highly trainable, vigilant, and hardworking, with a strong guarding instinct that makes them protective of property and family. This breed is well-suited for various roles in security services. The Groenendael and Tervuren varieties are known to be occasionally snappy, which can make them less suitable as companion dogs for children. In contrast, the Laekenois is generally very good with kids but may sometimes be troublesome with other dogs. Training is essential, and Belgian Shepherds respond exceptionally well to firm and understanding guidance. Early training is particularly crucial for the Laekenois, which may attempt to dominate a weaker-willed owner. The breed is very active, especially the Malinois, reflecting its ongoing use in security roles. All varieties require regular exercise and can adapt to indoor living, although the Malinois is the least suited for such environments.
Bernese Mountain Dog		7 - 10 years	Males: 35 - 55kg Females: 30 - 50kg	Males: 64 - 70cm Females: 58 - 66cm	Intelligent Loyal Affectionate Faithful	The Bernese Mountain Dog, known in German as the Berner Sennenhund, is a large breed that hails from Bern, Switzerland, and the Swiss Alps. It's one of four breeds in the Sennenhund group, which traces its origins back to Roman mastiffs. The name "Berner" (or "Bernese" in English) comes from the breed's home region in the canton of Bern, while "Sennenhund" combines the German words Senne (meaning "alpine pasture") and Hund (meaning "hound" or "dog"). Historically, these dogs served as versatile farm helpers and were also used as draft animals to pull carts. The breed standard for the Bernese Mountain Dog emphasises that these dogs should not be aggressive, anxious, or overly shy. Instead, they are expected to be good-natured, self-assured, and docile. While they may come across as a bit aloof with strangers, they often form a strong bond with one favourite person. In the home, Bernese Mountain Dogs can be quite calm, but they do need regular activity and exercise. Although they don't have high endurance levels, they can surprise you with impressive bursts of speed when motivated. As long as they're healthy—without any issues with their hips, elbows, or joints—they love to hike and usually stay close to their humans. These dogs are known for their affectionate nature, making them great companions for children. They are patient and tolerant, even when kids climb over them. While they possess a good amount of energy, they're just as happy to relax with you during a quiet evening at home. Bernese Mountain Dogs generally get along well with other pets and are good around strangers. They serve as excellent guardians and typically bond closely with one owner or family while maintaining a somewhat standoffish demeanour with unfamiliar faces.
Bichon Frise		12 - 15 years	5kg	Males: 25 - 30cm Females: 23 - 29cm	Playful Affectionate Feisty Sensitive Gentle Cheerful	The Bichon Frisé, also known as Bichon à Poil Frisé, is a small toy dog breed that originated from the Franco-Belgian region. This breed belongs to the bichon type, characterised by its playful and cheerful disposition. With a history in the spotlight, Bichon Frises are sociable little dogs that thrive on being at the centre of attention. Known for their intelligence and eagerness to please, they excel in learning new commands and tricks. However, they can be prone to separation anxiety, making it important for them to have companionship throughout the day. These dogs do best in homes where someone is present most of the time. Additionally, Bichon Frises can be quite vocal, so early training and socialisation are essential for managing their barking tendencies.
Black Russian Terrier		10 - 11 years	Males: 45 - 68kg Females: 36 - 59kg	Males: 66 - 72cm Females: 68 - 70cm	Hardy Lively Brave Energetic Confident	The Black Russian Terrier (Русский чёрный терьер), also known as the Chornyi Terrier (with "chornyi" meaning "black" in Russian), is a distinctive breed that originated in the USSR. Developed in the late 1940s and early 1950s at the Red Star (Krasnaya Zvezda) Kennel, this breed was initially bred for military and working purposes. Officially recognised by various cynological organisations, including the FCI in September 1983 and the AKC in July 2004, the Black Russian Terrier serves as a versatile working dog, guarding dog, sporting dog, and companion animal. Contrary to what its name suggests, the Black Russian Terrier is not a true terrier. Its development involved the careful selection of approximately seventeen different breeds, including the Airedale Terrier, Giant Schnauzer, Rottweiler, Newfoundland, Caucasian Shepherd Dog, and South Russian Shepherd Dog. This diverse lineage contributes to the breed's strength, intelligence, and adaptability. The Black Russian Terrier is known for its imposing size, with a muscular build and a dense, water-resistant coat that is typically black. They are recognised for their protective instincts and loyalty, making them excellent guard dogs. With proper training and socialisation, they can also be friendly and affectionate companions, suitable for families and individuals alike. Due to their working background, Black Russian Terriers require regular exercise and mental stimulation. They thrive in environments where they can engage in activities that challenge their physical and intellectual capabilities. This breed is best suited for experienced dog owners who can provide strong leadership and consistent training.
Bloodhound		10 - 12 years	Males: 41 - 50kg Females: 36 - 45kg	Males: 64 - 69cm Females: 58 - 64cm	Even-tempered Stubborn Gentle Affectionate	The bloodhound is a large scent hound originally bred for hunting deer, wild boar, and rabbits, and since the Middle Ages, for tracking humans. This breed is believed to be descended from hounds once kept at the Abbey of Saint-Hubert in Belgium, and in French, it is referred to as "le chien de Saint-Hubert." Renowned for its exceptional ability to detect human scent over long distances, even days later, the bloodhound possesses an extraordinarily keen sense of smell coupled with a strong and tenacious tracking instinct. This combination makes it an ideal scent hound, widely utilised by police and law enforcement agencies around the world to track escaped prisoners, locate missing persons, and find lost pets. The bloodhound is known for its gentle demeanour and tireless dedication when following a scent. Due to its strong tracking instinct, this breed can be wilful and somewhat challenging to obedience train, especially when handling on a leash. However, bloodhounds are also recognised for their affectionate and even-tempered nature towards humans, making them excellent family pets.
Boerboel		10 - 12 years	Males: 68 - 91kg Females: 68 - 91kg	Males: 61 - 69cm Females: 56 - 64cm	Intelligent Obedient Loyal Dominant Territorial Confident	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The Boerboel (pronounced [ˈbuːrbul]) is a large South African dog breed of mastiff type, primarily used as a family guard dog. This breed is characterised by its large size, short coat, strong bone structure, and well-developed muscles. While it is recognised by the Kennel Union of Southern Africa, it is not recognised by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale. The Boerboel is a large dog known for its robust bone structure and well-developed muscles. It features a large head with a short muzzle. The coat is short and sleek, offering dense hair coverage, and the recognised colours include brindle, fawn, and brown, with or without a black mask. Notably, there is a divergence in breed standards regarding colour acceptance; the Kennel Union of South Africa does not recognise black, whereas the South African Boerboel Breeders Society (SABBS) does. Boerboels are known for their courage when faced with threats and may exhibit aggression towards other dogs or strangers.
Bolognese		12 - 14 years	Males: 2.5 - 4kg Females: 2.5 - 4kg	Males: 27 - 30cm Females: 25 - 28cm	Serious Docile Loyal Reserved Enterprising	The Bolognese is a small dog breed of the bichon type that hails from Italy, specifically named after the northern city of Bologna. Classified as part of the toy dog group, this breed is primarily recognised as a companion dog. The Bolognese features a unique single coat, lacking an undercoat, which drapes in loose, open ringlets or flocks across its body, with shorter hair on the face. The texture of the hair is woolly rather than silky, and it is typically not trimmed or clipped unless the dog is kept as a pet. Although this breed sheds very little, its coat requires regular combing to prevent matting.
Border Collie		12 - 15 years	Males: 14 - 20kg Females: 12 - 19kg	Males: 48 - 56cm Females: 46 - 53cm	Intelligent Alert Tenacious Keen Responsive Loyal Energetic Athletic	The Border Collie is a medium-sized herding dog that hails from the British Isles, specifically the region along the Anglo-Scottish border. This breed is a descendant of traditional sheepdogs that were once common throughout the British Isles. While many Border Collies are kept as working sheep-herding dogs, they also make excellent companion animals. Known for their remarkable intelligence, they often excel in sheepdog trials, showcasing their skills and abilities. In fact, many people claim that the Border Collie is the most intelligent dog breed out there!

Border Terrier		12 - 15 years	Males: 5.9 - 7kg Females: 5.2 - 6.4kg	Males: 33 - 41cm Females: 28 - 36cm	Intelligent Even-tempered Affectionate Fearless Obedient	The Border Terrier is a small, rough-coated terrier breed from Britain, originating near the Anglo-Scottish border. It shares ancestry with both the Dandie Dinmont Terrier and the Bedlington Terrier, both hailing from the same region. Historically, these dogs were utilised in fox hunting and worked closely with the Border Hunt in Northumberland. The breed gained official recognition from The Kennel Club in Great Britain in 1920 and from the American Kennel Club in 1930. The Border Terrier was specifically bred with long enough legs to keep pace with horses and foxhounds while also being small enough to navigate into the burrows of foxes. This agility allowed them to flush out the foxes for hunters to take their shot, as the larger foxhounds were not able to perform this task effectively.
Borzoi		7 - 10 years	Males: 34 - 47kg Females: 25 - 40kg	Males: 75 - 85cm Females: 68 - 78cm	Intelligent Athletic Respectful Independent Gentle Quiet	The Borzoi, also known as the Russian Hunting Sighthound, is a breed of hunting dog that originated in Russia. This elegant sighthound was historically employed in hunting wolves and was referred to as the Russian Wolfhound until 1936. The Borzoi is a loving and athletic breed known for its calm demeanour. While they can be trained in obedience, Borzois tend to be selective learners who may lose interest in repetitive tasks they perceive as unimportant. This stubbornness can make training challenging unless they are properly motivated, such as with food rewards or "baiting." However, with the right training approach, Borzois can excel in competitive obedience and agility trials.
Boston Terrier		13 - 15 years	4.5 - 11kg		Lively Intelligent Friendly	The Boston Terrier is a small breed of dog that originated in the United States, often referred to as the "American Gentleman." Recognised by the American Kennel Club as a non-sporting breed in 1893, Boston Terriers are known for their compact stature, short tail, and erect ears. The Boston Terrier is a gentle breed known for its strong, happy-go-lucky personality and a delightful sense of humour. Eager to please, Boston Terriers are typically easy to train and are generally quiet, barking only when necessary. This sensible attitude makes them excellent companions for apartment dwellers. While they are usually friendly and sociable with children, the elderly, and other pets, they can display protective tendencies, which may lead to territorial behaviour toward unfamiliar animals and strangers. Proper socialisation from an early age helps ensure that they get along well with others. Overall, Boston Terriers thrive on human interaction and enjoy being part of family life.
Boxer		10 - 12 years	Males: 30 - 32kg Females: 25 - 27kg	Males: 56 - 64cm Females: 53 - 61cm	Intelligent Friendly Loyal Energetic Confident Playful	The Boxer is a medium to large, short-haired dog breed of mastiff-type that originated in Germany. It has a smooth, tight-fitting coat that comes in fawn or brindled colours, often with white markings. Boxers are known for their broad, short skulls (brachycephalic), square muzzles, and strong jaws with an underbite (mandibular prognathism), giving them a powerful bite suitable for holding onto large prey. The breed was developed from the Old English Bulldog and the now-extinct Bullenbeisser, which disappeared due to crossbreeding rather than the decline of the breed itself. The character of the Boxer is of utmost importance and requires careful attention. Historically, the Boxer is known for its deep love and loyalty to its master and family. While gentle and harmless within the household, it can be wary of strangers. Boxers are known for their bright, playful temperament, but they exhibit courage and determination when provoked. Their intelligence, trainability, modesty, and cleanliness make them an excellent family pet and joyful companion. Boxers are the embodiment of honesty and loyalty, remaining faithful and true even in their old age, never displaying deceit or betrayal. Boxers are known for their bright, energetic, and playful nature, and they are typically very good with children. Their patience and lively spirit make them excellent companions for young ones, while their protective instincts also make them a popular choice for families. However, Boxers are strong, active dogs that need plenty of exercise to prevent boredom, which can lead to undesirable behaviours like chewing, digging, or excessive licking. Though Boxers have a reputation for being somewhat "headstrong," this is often linked to improper obedience training. Due to their intelligence and working-dog background, traditional training methods based on corrections may not be very effective. Instead, Boxers tend to respond better to positive reinforcement techniques, such as clicker training, which encourages them to think independently and solve problems. The Boxer is naturally neither aggressive nor vicious, making it a breed well-suited for family life. Known for its instinctive guardian tendencies, the Boxer can become deeply attached to its family members, showing both loyalty and affection. However, as with all dogs, proper socialisation from an early age is essential to ensure well-rounded behaviour. While Boxers are generally patient with smaller dogs and puppies, they may experience challenges when interacting with larger adult dogs, particularly those of the same sex. Despite this, Boxers thrive on companionship, whether it's from humans or other pets. Their gentle demeanour and patience, especially with children, make them an excellent choice as family dogs. They adapt well to various social environments and are known for being friendly with people of all kinds.
Bracco Italiano		12 - 13 years	Males: 25 - 40kg Females: 25 - 40kg	Males: 58 - 67cm Females: 55 - 62cm	Affectionate Trainable Stubborn Loyal	The Bracco Italiano is an Italian breed known for its skills as a pointing dog. The Bracco Italiano is known for its gentle and affectionate temperament, making it a great companion for families and individuals alike. This breed is typically friendly and sociable, often forming strong bonds with its human family. Bracco Italianos are intelligent and eager to please, which aids in training; however, they can also exhibit a stubborn streak at times. They are generally calm and relaxed at home, but they thrive on regular exercise and mental stimulation, as they were bred for hunting and outdoor activities. Overall, their amiable nature and loyalty make them well-suited as both working dogs and family pets.
Braque d'Auvergne		12 - 14 years	Males: 22 - 28kg Females: 22 - 28kg	Males: 56 - 65cm Females: 52 - 61cm	Affectionate Intelligent Obedient Adaptable	The Braque d'Auvergne is a versatile gundog breed that hails from the mountainous region of Cantal in the historic Auvergne province of France. Known for its keen sense of smell and strong hunting instincts, this breed excels as a pointer, adept at locating game. The Braque d'Auvergne has ancestral roots in ancient hunting dogs specific to the area, which have contributed to its well-rounded abilities in various hunting scenarios. With a medium build and a short, dense coat, this breed is both agile and robust, making it well-suited for the rugged terrains of its homeland. The Braque d'Auvergne is known for its intelligence and good-natured temperament, making it an excellent family dog as well as a reliable hunting partner. This breed is eager to please, which contributes to its trainability and adaptability in various environments. Its affectionate nature allows it to bond well with family members, while its keen hunting instincts ensure it performs effectively in the field. Overall, the Braque d'Auvergne combines the qualities of a loyal companion and a skilled working dog, making it a versatile addition to any household
Braque de Bourbonnais		10 - 12 years	Males: 18 - 25kg Females: 16 - 22kg	Males: 50 - 58cm Females: 47 - 56cm	Affectionate Intelligent Kind Affectionate Calm Agreeable	The Braque du Bourbonnais is a rustic-looking gundog characterised by its distinctive ticking in various colours, including liver, fawn, black, and white. Some individuals may be born with a naturally short tail, adding to their unique appearance. This breed is known for its versatility in the field, excelling in both pointing and retrieving tasks. With a friendly disposition and an eagerness to please, the Braque du Bourbonnais makes an excellent companion for hunters and families alike. Its athleticism and keen sense of smell enable it to thrive in various hunting environments, while its gentle nature ensures it integrates well into family life.
Braque Français		12 - 15 years	Males: 17 - 25kg Females: 17 - 25kg	Males: 47 - 58cm Females: 47 - 56cm	Sociable Obedient Athletic	The Braques Français are traditional hunting dogs originating from the south of France, known for their historical role as gun dogs that point out the location of game birds for hunters. This breed comprises two distinct types: the Braque français, type Gascogne, which is larger, and the Braque français, type Pyrénées, which is smaller in stature. Both types exhibit a strong work ethic and exceptional tracking abilities, making them popular among hunters in France. Although highly regarded for their hunting skills, they remain relatively uncommon outside their native country. With their friendly demeanour and intelligence, Braques Français can also make excellent family companions when properly trained and socialised.

Braque Saint-Germain		12 - 13 years	Males: 18 - 26kg Females: 18 - 26kg	Males: 56 - 62cm Females: 54 - 59cm	Affectionate Sociable Passionate Trainable	The Braque Saint-Germain, or St. Germain Pointing Dog, is a medium-large breed known for its versatility as a hunter. Developed around 1830, this breed emerged from the crossing of English and French pointing dogs, resulting in a skilled gun dog and pointer adept at hunting various small game. Characterised by its keen sense of smell and strong tracking abilities, the Braque Saint-Germain is not only an effective hunting companion but also a friendly and affectionate pet. Their intelligent and eager-to-please nature makes them highly trainable, ensuring they can thrive both in the field and as a family companion.
Briquet Griffon Vendeen		12 - 14 years	Males: 22 - 24kg Females: 22 - 24kg	Males: 50 - 55cm Females: 48 - 53cm	Passionate Independent Dominant	The Briquet Griffon Vendéen is a medium-sized scenthound that hails from the Vendée region of France. Known for its distinctive rough coat and keen sense of smell, this breed was originally developed for hunting small game, particularly in dense underbrush. The Briquet Griffon Vendéen is characterised by its energetic and enthusiastic nature, making it an excellent companion for outdoor activities. These dogs are intelligent and eager to please, which enhances their trainability. They are known for their friendly disposition and can make great family pets, thriving in active households where they receive plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. The Briquet Griffon Vendéen is a passionate and resilient hunter, known for its ability to track both cold and hot trails. This breed thrives in outdoor environments, enjoying time spent with its family and displaying a lively and enthusiastic demeanour. While they are not overly excitable, their playful nature makes them great companions, especially for children. Bred to work both in packs and independently, they generally get along well with other dogs and are not overly possessive. Griffons can be somewhat independent-minded; they respond better to encouragement and play than to strict commands. This friendly disposition makes training a more enjoyable experience for both the dog and its owner.
Brittany Spaniel		12 - 15 years	Males: 14 - 18kg Females: 14 - 18kg	Males: 47 - 52cm Females: 46 - 51cm	Attentive Intelligent Agile Happy Adaptable Active	The Brittany Spaniel, also known as the Breton Spaniel (French: Épagneul Breton), is a distinguished French breed of gun dog belonging to the spaniel type, primarily bred for bird hunting. Developed between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries in the Brittany region of north-west France, the breed gained official recognition in the early twentieth century. Notably, the Brittany Spaniel has evolved differently in the United States, where it is often referred to as the "American Brittany." This variation reflects the breed's adaptability and popularity across different hunting styles and environments. The Brittany Spaniel was originally bred as a hunting dog and is renowned for its easy trainability and sweet-natured temperament. This breed is generally more sensitive to correction compared to other hunting breeds, meaning that harsh corrections are often unnecessary and can be counterproductive. Instead, positive reinforcement methods tend to yield the best results in training. The Brittany's eagerness to please makes it a favourite among hunters and families alike, as they thrive on human companionship and can adapt well to various lifestyles. Their intelligence and willingness to learn ensure they excel in the field, showcasing their natural abilities while remaining affectionate companions at home.
Bullmastiff		8 - 10 years	Males: 50 - 59kg Females: 45 - 54kg	Males: 64 - 68cm Females: 61 - 66cm	Powerful Protective Reliable Docile Loyal Reserved Devoted Loving Calm Courageous	The Bullmastiff is an English breed of dog characterised by its large size, solid build, and distinctive short muzzle. Developed in the nineteenth century, this breed was specifically created as a guard dog through the cross-breeding of the English Mastiff and the now-extinct Old English Bulldog. With a strong, powerful physique, Bullmastiffs are known for their impressive strength and endurance. They were originally bred to protect estates and gamekeepers from poachers, making them both protective and loyal companions. Recognised by The Kennel Club in 1924, the breed has since gained popularity not only for its guarding abilities but also for its gentle and affectionate nature towards family members. Despite their imposing appearance, Bullmastiffs are known for their calm demeanour and good-natured temperament. They are typically friendly, confident, and loving, making them excellent family pets. Proper socialisation and training from an early age are essential to ensure they develop into well-mannered adults, as their protective instincts may lead them to be wary of strangers.
Cairn Terrier		12 - 15 years	4.5 - 7.3kg	23 - 33cm	Hardy Intelligent Assertive Active Fearless	The Cairn Terrier is a spirited breed originating from the Scottish Highlands, recognised as one of Scotland's earliest working dogs. Known for their feisty nature and robust build, these terriers were originally bred for hunting small game and controlling vermin. The name "Cairn Terrier" was adopted as a compromise when the breed was first introduced to official shows in the United Kingdom in 1909. Initially presented under the name "Short-haired Skye Terrier," this designation faced opposition from Skye Terrier breeders. As a result, the Kennel Club accepted the alternative name, Cairn Terrier, which pays homage to the stone piles, or cairns, where these dogs were often used to hunt.
Cane Corso		10 - 12 years	Males: 45 - 50kg Females: 40 - 45kg	Males: 62 - 70cm Females: 58 - 66cm	Stable Intelligent Even-tempered Loyal Reserved Fearless Calm Trainable	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The Cane Corso is a powerful Italian breed of mastiff known for its versatility as a companion and guard dog. Historically, it was employed in hunting large game and herding cattle, showcasing its strength and agility. Today, the Cane Corso is primarily valued for its protective instincts and loyalty, making it an excellent choice for guarding homes and livestock. With a strong, muscular build and a confident demeanour, this breed requires proper training and socialisation to thrive in a family environment, ensuring it is both a devoted companion and a responsible protector.
Cardigan Welsh Corgi		12 - 15 years	Males: 14 - 17kg Females: 11 - 15kg	Males: 25 - 33cm Females: 25 - 33cm	Intelligent Alert Affectionate Devoted Active	The Cardigan Welsh Corgi is one of the two distinct varieties of Welsh corgis, recognised for its herding abilities and deep-rooted history in Wales. This breed is one of the oldest in the British Isles and is renowned for its loyalty and trainability. Cardigans are naturally inclined to herd a wide range of animals, including poultry, waterfowl, and larger livestock like sheep and cattle. Their versatility allows them to adapt well to various living environments, making them excellent companions for both active families and individuals. With their keen intelligence and strong work ethic, Cardigan Welsh Corgis thrive when given tasks and challenges to engage their minds. Cardigan Welsh Corgis excel in a variety of canine sports, including agility trials, obedience competitions, showmanship, flyball, and tracking events. Their natural herding instincts and trainability can be evaluated in noncompetitive herding tests, with those displaying basic instincts often trained for competitive herding trials. Known for their high intelligence and athleticism, Cardigans are not only active but also affectionate and devoted companions, making them excellent house pets. Despite their small size, they can serve effectively as guard dogs, showcasing their protective instincts and ability to alert their owners to any potential threats.
Catalan Sheepdog		12 - 14 years	Males: 16 - 20kg Females: 16 - 20kg	Males: 47 - 55cm Females: 45 - 53cm	Intelligent Agile Protective Trainable	The Catalan Sheepdog (Catalan: Gos d'atura català, French: Berger Catalan, Spanish: Pastor catalán) is a breed of herding dog hailing from the Catalan region of the Pyrenees. Known for its remarkable skills as a sheepdog, this breed is primarily bred in various European countries, including Spain, Finland, Germany, and Sweden. With its strong work ethic and adaptability, the Catalan Sheepdog excels in herding livestock and is well-regarded for its intelligence and loyalty to its handlers. The Catalan Sheepdog is a versatile breed utilised for both herding and as a companion animal. Known for its intelligence, the Gos d'Atura is easy to train and often excels in dog sports such as agility and canine freestyle. Despite its friendly demeanour, this courageous dog also serves effectively as a watchdog. As an "all-around dog," it makes a wonderful companion. These dogs can independently guard sheep without needing direct supervision, and with sufficient outdoor activity and mental stimulation, they become calm and balanced home companions. They thrive in environments where they receive consistent exercise and firm training techniques. Early socialisation is crucial, especially for families with children, as these dogs are protective of their loved ones and form strong bonds with their families.
Caucasian Shepherd Dog		10 - 12 years	Males: Minimum 50kg Females: Minimum 45kg	Males: 72 - 75cm Females: 67 - 70cm	Strong Powerful Alert Dominant Calm	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The Caucasian Shepherd Dog, also known as the Caucasian Ovcharka, is a robust livestock guardian breed hailing from the Caucasus region, including countries like Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Dagestan. Developed in the Soviet Union around the 1920s, this breed descended from native dogs of the Caucasus Mountains and the steppe regions of Southern Russia. The Caucasus Mountains in Georgia have historically been the primary area for both the population and quality of these dogs, making them highly regarded for their protective instincts and strength. Known for their loyalty and formidable presence, Caucasian Shepherds are often used to guard livestock against predators and are characterised by their impressive size and thick, weather-resistant coats. The Caucasian Shepherd Dog is known for its courageous and protective temperament, making it an excellent guardian for livestock and property. These dogs are highly loyal and develop strong bonds with their families, often displaying a natural instinct to defend them. While they can be aloof or reserved with strangers, their affectionate nature shines through with loved ones. Despite their imposing size, they are calm and confident, requiring consistent training and socialisation from an early age to ensure they are well-behaved. This breed is intelligent and independent, which can sometimes lead to stubbornness, but with proper guidance, they can be both devoted companions and effective protectors.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel		9 - 14 years	Males: 5.9 - 8.2kg Females: 5.9 - 8.2kg		Playful Affectionate Sociable Gentle Patient Adaptable	The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (CKCS) is a British breed of toy dog belonging to the spaniel group. Recognised in four distinct colours—Blenheim (chestnut and white), tricolor (black/white/tan), black and tan, and ruby—these dogs have a smooth and silky coat. Their lifespan typically ranges from eight to twelve years. The breed underwent significant changes in the late seventeenth century when it was interbred with flat-nosed breeds. Up until the 1920s, it shared a common history with the smaller King Charles Spaniel. In response to these changes, breeders sought to recreate what they believed to be the original appearance—a dog reminiscent of the spaniel favoured by Charles II during the English Civil War, when his supporters were referred to as Cavaliers. The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is known for its affectionate, playful, and extremely patient demeanour, making it an ideal companion for families with children and other dogs. These dogs are confident and unafraid to socialise with much larger breeds. They adapt quickly to various environments, whether urban or rural, and thrive in homes with multiple dog breeds, provided that the other dogs are well-trained. Naturally curious and playful, they also enjoy lounging on a cushion or lap, which makes them excellent companion or lap dogs for medical patients and the elderly. Cavaliers are active and sporty, excelling in conformation shows, obedience competitions, and agility courses. Their sweet and gentle nature makes them wonderful therapy dogs. The breed is versatile in its exercise needs, content with both leisurely naps on the couch and long walks outdoors. Renowned for their loving temperament, Cavaliers have a strong instinct to chase anything that moves, including vehicles, so they may not be the best candidates for street-smart living. While they generally view strangers as friends and may not excel as guard dogs, with proper training, they can live harmoniously with various small animals, including hamsters and gerbils.
Chihuahua		12 - 20 years	1 - 3kg	8 - 23cm	Lively Alert Aggressive Quick Devoted Courageous	The Chihuahua, also known as Chihuahueño in Spanish, is a toy dog breed originating from Mexico. Named after the Mexican state of Chihuahua, it is one of the smallest dog breeds and is typically kept as a companion animal or for dog shows Chihuahuas are recognised as the smallest dog breed by some kennel clubs, with specific breed standards highlighting an “apple-head” or “apple-dome” skull shape. They can come in a wide range of colour combinations, from solid to marked. Apple-dome Chihuahuas feature large, round eyes and erect ears on a dramatically rounded skull, with a well-defined stop creating a near-90-degree angle at the muzzle. While older “deer” type Chihuahuas, characterised by a flatter head and longer legs, can still be registered, they are not considered a separate type in competitions, and deviations from the breed standard are viewed as faults.
Chinese Crested Dog		13 - 15 years	3.3 - 5.4kg	Males: 28 - 33cm Females: 23 - 30cm	Affectionate Playful Lively Sweet-tempered Alert Happy	The Chinese Crested Dog is a unique and charming breed known for its hairless variety, though it also comes in a fluffy form called the powderpuff. The hairless version features soft, exposed skin, while the powderpuff is covered in a long, silky coat. Both varieties can be born in the same litter, showcasing the breed’s diverse appearance. The Chinese Crested is playful, affectionate, and known for its lively personality, making it a popular choice for families and individuals alike. Despite their delicate appearance, they are sturdy little dogs with a spirited temperament and a strong bond with their owners.
Chow Chow		9 - 15 years	Males: 18 - 41kg Females: 16 - 39kg	Males: 48 - 56cm Females: 46 - 51cm	Aloof Loyal Independent Quiet	The Chow Chow is a robust spitz-type dog breed that originated in Northern China. Characterised by its square build, broad skull, and small triangular ears with rounded tips, the Chow Chow has a striking appearance. It boasts a dense double coat that can be either smooth or rough, with particularly thick fur around the neck, creating a distinctive ruff or mane. The breed’s coat comes in various colours, including shades of red, black, blue, cinnamon, fawn, and cream. Known for its aloof and independent nature, the Chow Chow can be reserved around strangers but is loyal and protective toward its family, making it a unique companion. Owning a Chow Chow may increase homeowners insurance premiums, as many insurance companies classify them as high-risk dogs. According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, Chow Chows were linked to 8 out of 238 dog bite-related fatalities between 1979 and 1998. This statistic highlights the breed’s potential for aggression if not properly trained and socialised, making it crucial for owners to understand and manage their temperament effectively.
Cocker Spaniel		12 - 15 years	Males: 13 - 16kg Females: 13 - 15kg	Males: 39 - 41cm Females: 38 - 39cm	Intelligent Playful Affectionate Alert Friendly Determined Faithful	The English Cocker Spaniel holds the record for the most Best in Show wins at Crufts, the UK’s premier dog show, with seven wins since the prize’s inception in 1928. Much of this success can be attributed to H.S. Lloyd’s renowned Ware Kennel, which produced six Best in Show winners between 1930 and 1950. In terms of popularity, the English Cocker Spaniel ranked as the second most registered dog breed in the UK, with 22,211 registrations in 2009, only behind the Labrador Retriever with 40,943 registrations. The English Springer Spaniel followed in third place with 12,700 registrations.
Czechoslovakian Wolfdog		12 - 16 years	Males: 30kg Females: 26kg	Males: 65cm Females: 60cm	Lively Quick Sociable Fearless Active Courageous	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The Czechoslovakian Wolfdog (Czech: Československý vlčák, Slovak: Československý vlčiak, German: Tschechoslowakischer Wolfhund) is a unique breed that originated from an experiment in Czechoslovakia in 1955. Initially known as the Czech Wolfdog until 1982, this breed was developed by crossing working line German Shepherds with Carpathian grey wolves. The goal was to create a dog that combined the trainability and temperament of the German Shepherd with the strength, physical build, and stamina of the Carpathian wolf. Originally utilised as border patrol dogs, Czechoslovakian Wolfdogs have found a variety of roles, including search and rescue, Schutzhund sport, tracking, herding, agility, obedience, hunting, and drafting, in both Europe and the United States. The breed was officially recognised as a national breed in Czechoslovakia in 1982 and gained recognition from the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) in 1989. The Czechoslovak Wolfdog is known for forming strong social bonds not just with its owner but with the entire family. This breed can typically adapt well to living with other household pets; however, it may show challenges when interacting with unfamiliar animals. Early socialisation is crucial, especially to manage its hunting instincts, which can lead to aggressive behaviour toward smaller animals if not properly addressed during puppyhood. It’s essential to avoid isolating the puppy in a kennel, as it needs to become accustomed to diverse environments and experiences. Czechoslovak Wolfdogs are playful and intelligent, capable of learning quickly. However, their training requires motivation, as they do not respond well to repetitive tasks that bore them. They tend to communicate through body language and softer sounds like growls and whines rather than barking, which can complicate training. Their independent nature allows them to work well in a pack, and they can adjust their activity levels to nighttime if necessary. Although they have excelled as Search and Rescue (SAR) dogs, they require more extensive training and handling than more traditional breeds, making patience and consistency essential for successful training.
Dachshund		12 - 16 years	Miniature: up to 5kg Standard: 7.3 - 14.5kg	Miniature: 13 - 15cm Standard: 20 - 23cm	Clever Playful Lively Stubborn Active Independant Courageous	The dachshund, often affectionately referred to as the “wiener dog” or “sausage dog,” is a unique breed known for its short legs and long body. Also called the badger dog or doxie, this hound-type dog comes in three coat types: smooth-haired, wire-haired, and long-haired, showcasing a variety of colours. Originally, dachshunds were bred for their keen sense of smell and agility, allowing them to scent, chase, and flush out badgers and other animals that dwell in burrows. The miniature version of this breed was specifically developed to hunt smaller prey, such as rabbits. Dachshunds have a bit of a stubborn streak and can sometimes ignore commands, especially when they catch sight of a small animal—something they just can’t resist chasing! This tendency comes from their history as badger hunters, which has given them a strong instinct for pursuing smaller creatures. Because of their strong-willed nature, training a dachshund can be quite a challenge. Dachshunds can be a bit aggressive when it comes to strangers and other dogs. Despite this tendency, they’re considered average in intelligence among dog breeds and can reliably follow commands about 50% of the time or more. These little dogs can also be quite vocal; some bark a lot and may need a bit of training to keep it in check, while others are more quiet. Dachshunds can be a bit aggressive when it comes to strangers and other dogs. Despite this tendency, they’re considered average in intelligence among dog breeds and can reliably follow commands about 50% of the time or more. These little dogs can also be quite vocal; some bark a lot and may need a bit of training to keep it in check, while others are more quiet. Interestingly, a Japanese study found that Miniature Dachshunds often exhibit behaviours like refusing to move during walks, barking at outside noises from inside, and being wary of new people or dogs. They also showed signs of separation anxiety and occasionally had issues with inappropriate elimination. This highlights their stubborn nature and potential for aggression, even towards family members.

Dalmatian		10 - 13 years	Males: 15 - 32kg Females: 16 - 24kg	Males: 58 - 61cm Females: 56 - 58cm	Outgoing Intelligent Friendly Energetic Sensitive Active Playful	Dalmatians are known for their distinctive white coat adorned with dark-coloured spots, making them one of the most recognisable dog breeds. Originally bred as hunting dogs, they also served as carriage dogs in earlier times, showcasing their versatility. The breed's roots can be traced back to Croatia, particularly the historical region of Dalmatia, where their ancestors likely included various pointers and possibly spotted Great Danes. Today, Dalmatians have transitioned primarily into the role of beloved pets and are often featured in kennel club competitions, where their unique appearance and lively personality make them a favourite among dog enthusiasts. Dalmatians are known for their energetic and playful temperament. They are intelligent and highly trainable but can also display a stubborn streak. Regular exercise and mental stimulation are essential for this breed, as they are prone to boredom and may develop undesirable behaviours if not adequately engaged. Socialisation from a young age is crucial to ensure they grow up to be well-rounded dogs.
Dobermann		10 - 13 years	Males: 40 - 45kg Females: 32 - 35kg	Males: 68 - 72cm Females: 63 - 68cm	Intelligent Alert Loyal Energetic Obedient Confident	The Dobermann is a German breed of medium to large working dog, categorised as a pinscher type. Originating in Thuringia around 1890, it was developed by Louis Dobermann, a tax collector. The breed is characterised by its long muzzle and ideally exhibits an even, graceful gait. Traditionally, Dobermanns had their ears cropped and tails docked, though these practices are now illegal in many countries. Known for its intelligence and alertness, the Dobermann is highly loyal and is commonly kept as a guard dog as well as a companion animal. In Canada and the United States, this breed is often referred to as the Doberman Pinscher. The Dobermann is a German breed of medium to large working dog, categorised as a pinscher type. Originating in Thuringia around 1890, it was developed by Louis Dobermann, a tax collector. The breed is characterised by its long muzzle and ideally exhibits an even, graceful gait. Traditionally, Dobermanns had their ears cropped and tails docked, though these practices are now illegal in many countries. Despite being considered working dogs, Dobermanns are often stereotyped as ferocious and aggressive. However, evidence suggests that Doberman Pinschers in North America tend to have a calmer and more even temperament compared to their European counterparts, due in part to different breeding strategies. The American breed standard notes that aggression toward other dogs does not count as viciousness for conformation purposes. Scientific research has established that Doberman Pinschers exhibit stable psychological traits, with various studies indicating their high levels of playfulness, average curiosity, low aggressiveness, and low sociability. A study published in 2008 categorised aggression and found that Doberman Pinschers rank high in stranger-directed aggression but extremely low in owner-directed aggression. They also show average aggression towards other dogs and rivalry. Importantly, Doberman Pinschers have been found to be less aggressive toward humans compared to several breeds with worse reputations, such as Cocker Spaniels and Dalmatians. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 1979 and 1998, Doberman Pinschers were involved in fatal dog attacks less frequently than breeds like Pit Bulls, German Shepherds, and Rottweilers. The CDC study emphasised that responsible ownership is a crucial factor in preventing dog bites. Overall, the Dobermann is known for its intelligence, loyalty, and protective nature, making it a popular choice for guard duties and companionship.
Dogue de Bordeaux		5 - 8 years	Males: 50 - 68kg Females: 45 - 54kg	Males: 60 - 67cm Females: 57 - 65cm	Even-tempered Loyal Devoted Vigilant Courageous	The Dogue de Bordeaux, or Bordeaux Mastiff, is a prominent French breed known for its muscular build and powerful presence. As a brachycephalic mastiff, it features a distinctive broad head and a short muzzle. This breed is characterised by its loyalty and protective instincts, making it an excellent guard dog and family companion. While they can be gentle and affectionate with their families, their size and strength require consistent training and socialisation from an early age. Overall, the Dogue de Bordeaux is a devoted and courageous breed that thrives in a loving environment. The Dogue de Bordeaux possesses a strong personality and can be quite stubborn, typical of many mastiff breeds. Their significant physical strength underscores the importance of strict and consistent training, which should begin at an early age. Proper socialisation is also essential to prevent potential aggression toward other dogs or strangers. Owners should be mindful to establish themselves as the pack leader, as allowing a Dogue de Bordeaux to assume this role can lead to behavioural challenges. With appropriate training and leadership, they can become well-mannered and loving companions.
Dutch Shepherd		8 - 15 years	Males: 30kg Females: 30kg	Males: 57 - 62cm Females: 55 - 60cm	Reliable Obedient Alert Loyal Affectionate Trainable	The Dutch Shepherd is a versatile herding dog from the Netherlands, originally bred for shepherds and farmers who needed a hardy, low-maintenance working dog. Known for their adaptability, they were able to thrive in harsh conditions and assist with a wide range of tasks, from herding livestock to guarding farms. This breed is known for its intelligence, loyalty, and strong work ethic, making it a reliable and valuable companion for those who need a dedicated working dog or an active, trainable family pet. Dutch Shepherds are known for their loyalty, reliability, and keen intelligence. These dogs are alert, watchful, and highly active, making them excellent working companions. With a true shepherding temperament, they are independent yet eager to collaborate with their owners, capable of handling tasks with little guidance. Obedience and discipline come naturally to them, allowing for remarkable training results. Despite their strong character and independence, they are neither aggressive nor shy, and with proper socialisation and training, they make well-balanced, intuitive, and adaptable companions.
English Bull Terrier		10 - 14 years	No limits	No limits	Stubborn Keen Protective Active Trainable	The Bull Terrier is a distinctive breed in the terrier family, with a smaller counterpart known as the Miniature Bull Terrier. Originating in 19th-century England, Bull Terriers are most recognised for their unique head shape, which sets them apart from other breeds. Initially bred for vermin control and blood sports, Bull Terriers possess a strong and muscular build, showcasing their working heritage. Bull Terriers can exhibit both independence and stubbornness, making them less suitable for inexperienced dog owners. Despite their obstinate nature, they have an even temperament and are receptive to discipline. The Bull Terrier Club describes the breed as particularly friendly and good with people. Early socialisation is crucial to ensure they get along well with other dogs and animals. Their personalities are characterised as courageous, spirited, and fun-loving, making them great companions for children and ideal family members. Although the breed has faced scrutiny from breed-specific legislation, a 2008 study in Germany found no significant differences in temperament between Bull Terriers and Golden Retrievers in overall temperament assessments.
English Bulldog		8 - 10 years	Males: 23 - 25kg Females: 18 - 23kg		Docile Wilful Friendly Gregarious	The Bulldog, also known as the English or British Bulldog, is a medium-sized, muscular dog weighing 40-55 lbs (18-25 kg). Characterised by its large head, wrinkled face, and protruding lower jaw, the breed suffers from health issues due to its distinctive features, including breathing difficulties, hip dysplasia, and skin infections. Bulldogs originated from the Old English Bulldog, once used for bull-baiting before the sport was banned. Despite their tough appearance, modern Bulldogs are friendly and often kept as pets. Breeding Bulldogs is now banned in Norway and the Netherlands due to health concerns. Bulldogs are known for their wide heads, broad shoulders, and underbite with a protruding jaw. They have thick skin folds on their forehead, round black eyes, a short muzzle with a nose roll, and drooping skin around the neck and lips. Their coats are short and smooth, coming in colours like red, fawn, white, brindle, and piebald. Bulldogs also have short tails that can be straight or curled into a corkscrew shape. According to the American Kennel Club, Bulldogs should be calm, kind, and courageous, with a dignified, peaceful demeanour. They are known for being good with children, other dogs, and pets
English Cocker Spaniel		12 - 15 years	Males: 13 - 16kg Females: 13 - 15kg	Males: 39 - 41cm Females: 38 - 39cm	Intelligent Kind Alert Friendly Athletic Determined Faithful	The English Cocker Spaniel is a breed of gun dog known for its ability to produce one of the largest litters among all dog breeds. This active and good-natured sporting dog is compactly built and stands well at the withers. There are two types of English Cocker Spaniels: "field" or "working" cockers and "house" cockers. This breed serves as the foundation for its American counterpart, the American Cocker Spaniel. The English Cocker Spaniel is more closely related to the working-dog forms of the Field Spaniel and the English Springer Spaniel. They are often referred to as the "Merry Spaniel" due to their cheerful disposition and constantly wagging tails. With proper socialisation from an early age, Cocker Spaniels can thrive in the company of people, children, other dogs, and various pets. This breed is known for its perpetually wagging tail and enjoys being around people, making it unsuitable for a life spent alone in the backyard. They can become easily stressed by loud noises or rough handling. When trained with kindness and plenty of rewards, Cocker Spaniels become obedient and affectionate companions, displaying a happy and cheerful demeanour.
English Fox Hound		10 - 13 years	Males: 27 - 34kg Females: 25 - 32kg	Males: 56 - 63cm Females: 53 - 61cm	Tolerant Friendly Sociable Active Gentle	The English Foxhound is a scent hound, one of the four distinct foxhound breeds, and a cousin of the American Foxhound. Bred specifically for fox hunting, these dogs are known for their endurance, speed, and ability to track foxes by scent. Traditionally used in packs for organised hunts, English Foxhounds are energetic, social, and thrive in environments where they can be active and engaged. Despite their hunting heritage, they are also known for their gentle and sociable nature when raised in a family setting.

English Mastiff		6 - 12 years	Males: 73 - 100kg Females: 54 - 77kg	Males: Minimum 76cm Females: Minimum 70cm	Protective Dignified Good-natured Affectionate Calm Courageous	The English Mastiff, commonly referred to as the Mastiff, is a British dog breed known for its immense size and distinctive appearance. It likely descends from ancient breeds like the Alaunt and Pugnaces Britanniae, with influences from the Alpine Mastiff. The breed is characterised by its massive head, muscular build, short coat (available in limited colours), and signature black mask. Despite their formidable stature, English Mastiffs are renowned for their gentle and affectionate temperament. Though modern Mastiffs have their roots in the early 19th century, the breed was refined in the 1880s. Over time, Mastiffs have contributed to the development of other mastiff-type breeds. Today, they are the largest living canines, significantly outweighing wolves, with a reputation as loyal and loving companions. The American Kennel Club describes the Mastiff as a breed that combines "grandeur and good nature" with both courage and docility. These powerful yet gentle and loyal dogs possess a noble demeanour and are well-suited for families who can provide them with ample space to thrive. Due to their considerable size and need for room to move, Mastiffs are best suited for living in the countryside or suburban areas, where they can comfortably coexist with their environment while displaying their gentle and protective nature.
English Pointer		12 - 17 years	Males: 25 - 34kg Females: 20 - 30kg	Males: 64 - 69cm Females: 61 - 66cm	Even-tempered Kind Amiable Loyal Affectionate Active	The Pointer, often referred to as the English Pointer, is a medium-sized breed of pointing dog that originated in England. This breed is primarily used to locate game for hunters and is regarded by gundog enthusiasts as one of the finest of its kind. Unlike many other hunting breeds, the Pointer's main function is to point rather than retrieve game. It is widely believed that the Pointer descends from the Old Spanish Pointer, which was brought to England by returning soldiers in the early 18th century. Upon arrival, these dogs were bred with local breeds to enhance their hunting capabilities. The Pointer is a versatile and obedient breed known for its even temperament. Field lines, in particular, tend to be very energetic. When compared to other gundog breeds, Pointers are generally more aloof and less demanding of human companionship, which may be a trait inherited from their more reserved greyhound ancestors.
English Setter		10 - 12 years	25 - 35kg	61 - 69cm	Affectionate Mischievous Intelligent Energetic	The English Setter is a medium-sized dog breed known for its elegant, primarily white coat with silky fringes and characteristic coloured flecks called "ticking." The breed belongs to the setter group, which includes other setters like the Irish Setter and Gordon Setter. English Setters are versatile gun dogs traditionally used for hunting game birds such as quail, pheasant, and grouse. They have two notable strains, Laverack and Llewellin, which were influential during the breed's development in the 19th century. Hunting varieties tend to be sleeker with shorter coats, while show dogs have more abundant feathering. The English Setter is known for its gentle temperament, often described as a "Gentleman by Nature." While these dogs are energetic and love human companionship, they can also exhibit a strong-willed and mischievous side, especially if bred from working or field lines. They are well-suited for families, requiring plenty of attention and physical activity, with up to two hours of daily exercise recommended. Despite their lively nature outdoors, they are affectionate couch potatoes at home and adore children and visitors. English Setters are highly intelligent, ranking above average in working intelligence, but their natural bird-hunting instincts can make training challenging in outdoor environments. Positive reinforcement is essential due to their sensitivity to criticism.
English Springer Spaniel		12 - 14 years	Males: 20 - 25kg Females: 18 - 23kg	Males: 48 - 53cm Females: 46 - 51cm	Affectionate Cheerful Intelligent Alert Active Attentive	The English Springer Spaniel is a versatile gun dog from the Spaniel group, traditionally used for flushing and retrieving game. Descended from the Norfolk or Shropshire Spaniels of the mid-19th century, the breed has since split into distinct show and working lines. It shares close ancestry with the Welsh Springer Spaniel and is even more closely related to the English Cocker Spaniel, with springers and cockers once coming from the same litters. The smaller cockers were employed in woodcock hunting, while the larger springers were used to flush, or "spring," game birds—hence the name. Officially recognised by The Kennel Club in 1902, English Springer Spaniels are also widely utilised as sniffer dogs.
Entlebucher Mountain Dog		11 - 15 years	Males: 20 - 30kg Females: 20 - 30kg	Males: 44 - 52cm Females: 42 - 50cm	Intelligent Agile Loyal Devoted Independent	The Entlebucher Sennenhund, also known as the Entlebucher Mountain Dog, is a medium-sized herding breed and is the smallest among the four breeds that make up the Sennenhund type. The term "Sennenhund" refers to the herders known as "Senn," who worked in the Swiss Alps. The breed originates from the Entlebuch region in the canton of Lucerne, Switzerland. In English, it is also referred to as the Entelbuch Mountain Dog or the Entelbucher Cattle Dog, among other variations. Like all large, active working breeds, early socialisation with other dogs and people is essential for this breed, along with consistent exercise and training. Individual dogs may exhibit different temperaments. According to the breed standard, they are described as "good-natured and devoted to familiar people, while being somewhat suspicious of strangers."
Finnish Lapphund		12 - 14 years	Males: 15 - 24kg Females: 15 - 24kg	Males: 46 - 52cm Females: 41 - 47cm	Friendly Faithful Keen Calm Courageous	The Finnish Lapphund, also known as the Finnish Lapponian Dog (Finnish: Suomenlapinkoira), is a resilient and laid-back medium-sized breed belonging to the Spitz family. Historically, this breed has been utilised for herding reindeer. While it enjoys great popularity in its homeland of Finland, it remains relatively uncommon outside the Nordic countries.
Finnish Spitz		12 - 14 years	Males: 12 - 13kg Females: 7 - 10kg	Males: 44 - 50cm Females: 39 - 45cm	Intelligent Loyal Happy Independent Playful Vocal	The Finnish Spitz (Finnish: suomenpystykorva) is a dog breed that hails from Finland. Initially bred for hunting a variety of game, from small rodents like squirrels to larger animals like bears, this breed is known as a "bark pointer." It alerts hunters to the location of game by barking, drawing the attention of the animals and allowing for a closer approach. Originally, it was used to point out game that fled into trees, such as grouse and capercaillies, but it is also effective for hunting elk, and some individuals have been known to pursue bears. In Finland, the breed continues to be primarily employed as a hunting dog. Typically friendly and good with children, the Finnish Spitz is well-suited for family life. It has held the title of Finland's national dog since 1979. The Finnish Spitz is an active, alert, and lively breed that requires one or two long walks each day and tends to be relatively inactive indoors. They do not adapt well to a life spent solely in a kennel; instead, they thrive on a mix of outdoor exercise and indoor playtime with their families. Known for their friendly interactions with people, Finnish Spitzes are particularly great with children. They are always eager to play, but if overlooked, they may simply walk away. As with all dogs, supervision is essential when young children and dogs are together. While they are independent and closely bond with their families, they can be aloof around strangers. Males often exhibit more dominant traits than females. Most Finnish Spitzes get along well with other dogs in the household. However, as a breed developed for hunting, they may not be reliable around small animals or pet birds. On an individual basis, they can live harmoniously with cats, especially if raised together from a young age. The breed is known for barking at anything it deems unusual, as barking plays a significant role in their hunting activities. In Finland, these dogs are highly valued for their vocal talents, which can range from quick, sharp barks to a rapid series of yodel-like sounds. The Finnish Spitz can bark up to 160 times per minute. In Scandinavia, there are competitions to determine the "King of the Barkers." Additionally, in Finland, a dog's barking prowess in the field must be demonstrated to qualify for a conformation championship.
French Bulldog		10 - 12 years	Males: 9 - 14kg Females: 8 - 13kg	Males: 27 - 35cm Females: 24 - 32cm	Playful Lively Easygoing Alert Keen Affectionate Sociable Bright Patient	The French Bulldog is a small companion dog that originated in Paris in the mid-19th century, likely from crossbreeding English Toy Bulldogs with local Parisian ratters. It is a popular pet in many countries, including Australia, the UK, and the US. However, due to its distinctive appearance, the breed is prone to health issues such as brachycephaly and skin wrinkles The American Kennel Club (AKC) standard for French Bulldogs describes them as muscular with soft, loose coats that form wrinkles. They should weigh no more than 28 pounds (13 kg) and have a square-shaped head with large, bat-like ears. French Bulldogs are flat-faced with dark, almost black eyes. Their short, fine coat comes in brindle, fawn, cream, or white with brindle patches. Blue-eyed or non-standard colours are not approved by the AKC. The most common coat colours are brindle, followed by fawn, with pied being less common
French Spaniel		10 - 12 years	Males: 20 - 27kg Females: 20 - 27kg	Males: 55 - 61cm Females: 54 - 69cm	Intelligent Tough Adaptable Energetic Loving	The French Spaniel (Epagneul Français) is a breed of dog that resembles a setter, originally developed in France and Canada as a hunting companion. Its lineage can be traced back to the 14th century, and it was particularly favoured by royalty during the Middle Ages. Unfortunately, the breed faced near extinction by the early 20th century, but it was rescued thanks to the efforts of Father Fournier, a dedicated French priest. As one of the largest Spaniel breeds, the French Spaniel typically features a white coat with brown markings. This friendly breed is generally healthy, although it can be affected by a condition known as acral mutilation and analgesia. While the breed is recognised by Canadian and international kennel clubs, it is not yet acknowledged by The Kennel Club (UK). The American Kennel Club has included the French Spaniel in its Foundation Stock Service, marking the first step toward full recognition. The French Spaniel is known for its friendly and sociable nature, displaying a well-balanced and patient demeanour. This breed is not inherently aggressive and is eager to please, making it easy to train. Typically a working dog, the French Spaniel forms a strong bond with its owner. With a high level of stamina, it requires regular vigorous exercise to stay healthy and happy.

German Pinscher		12 - 14 years	11 - 20kg	45 - 50cm	Intelligent Loving Lively Even-tempered Spirited	The German Pinscher, known as the Deutscher Pinscher, is a terrier breed originating from Germany and belongs to the Pinscher and Schnauzer group. It shares its roots with the Schnauzer, serving as a short-haired counterpart. This breed is available in two colours: black-and-tan and a solid shade of red, ranging from deer-red to dark reddish-brown. The German Pinscher is considered an endangered breed, classified as category III on the Rote Liste maintained by the Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung alter und gefährdeter Haustierrassen. It is important to note that the German Pinscher is a distinct breed, separate from the Affenpinscher, Austrian Pinscher, and Miniature Pinscher (Zwergpinscher). The German Pinscher is known for its lively and alert temperament. This breed is intelligent and highly trainable, making it an excellent companion for active families. German Pinschers are confident and protective, often forming strong bonds with their owners while being naturally wary of strangers. They are energetic dogs that require regular exercise and mental stimulation to keep them happy and well-behaved. With proper socialisation and training from a young age, they can be playful, loyal, and affectionate family members.
German Pointer		12 - 14 years	Males: 25 - 32kg Females: 20 - 27kg		Intelligent Affectionate Boisterous Trainable Bold	The German Shorthaired Pointer, known in Germany as the Deutsch Kurzhaar, is a medium-sized breed of pointing dog that originated in the nineteenth century in Germany. This versatile gun dog excels in hunting and retrieving on both land and water, making it an excellent choice for various hunting tasks. Additionally, it can serve as a loyal companion for dog owners. The German Shorthaired Pointer is known for its energetic, intelligent, and versatile temperament. This breed is eager to please, making it highly trainable and responsive to commands. With a strong hunting instinct, they thrive on physical activity and mental stimulation, which helps to channel their energy positively. German Shorthaired Pointers are typically friendly, social dogs that enjoy being part of family activities and get along well with children and other pets. Their affectionate nature, combined with their keen intelligence, makes them both excellent companions and effective working dogs.
German Shepherd		9 - 13 years	Males: 30 - 40kg Females: 22 - 32kg	Males: 60 - 65cm (24 - 26in) Females: 55 - 65cm (22 - 24in)	Intelligent Alert Loyal Obedient	German Shepherds are medium to large-sized dogs, typically standing 60–65 cm (24–26 in) tall for males and 55–60 cm (22–24 in) for females. They can sprint at speeds up to 30 mph and are longer than they are tall, with a sturdy build. They have distinct features like a domed forehead, long square-cut muzzle, large erect ears, and a bushy tail. Their double coat can be medium or long, with long-haired varieties being rarer. Most German Shepherds are tan/black or red/black with black markings, though rarer colours like sable, pure-black, and panda exist. However, colours like blue and liver are considered faults, while all-white dogs are disqualified from certain shows. German Shepherds were specifically bred for their intelligence, making them highly desirable for various working roles. Stanley Coren ranked them second among breeds most likely to bark as watchdogs. Their combination of intelligence and strength makes them ideal for tasks such as police work, guarding, and search and rescue operations. German Shepherds are quick learners and can interpret commands more effectively than many other breeds, which is why they are commonly used in demanding roles. German Shepherds are moderately active dogs, known for their self-assured nature and strong desire to learn. Their curiosity makes them excellent guard dogs and perfect for search missions. They are highly intelligent, obedient, and protective of their owners, often showing loyalty and a keen sense of duty. However, without proper socialisation, they can become overprotective of their family and territory. While they are not quick to befriend strangers, their loyalty and eagerness to have a purpose make them exceptional companions and working dogs.
German Spitz		13 - 15 years	9.5 - 13kg	30 - 38cm	Attentive Robust Lively Devoted Trainable	The German Spitz (German: Deutscher Spitz) is a breed of spitz-type dogs that originated in Germany. Although regarded as a single breed, it encompasses five distinct varieties classified by size and colour: the Wolfsspitz (also known as the Keeshond), the Giant Spitz (Großspitz), the Medium Spitz (Mittelspitz), the Miniature Spitz (Kleinspitz), and the Pomeranian (Zwergspitz or “Dwarf Spitz”). The German Spitz is known for its lively and cheerful temperament. These dogs are intelligent, curious, and eager to please, making them highly trainable and adaptable to various environments. Their friendly nature allows them to bond closely with their families, and they often thrive on companionship and interaction. While they can be reserved with strangers, they are generally sociable and playful with other dogs and children. The German Spitz is alert and vocal, serving as an excellent watchdog while maintaining a fun-loving spirit that keeps them active and engaged.
Golden Retriever		10 - 12 years	25 - 34kg	Males: 56 - 61cm Females: 51 - 56cm	Intelligent Kind Friendly Reliable Trustworthy Confident	The Golden Retriever is a medium-sized dog breed originating from Scotland, known for its friendly and affectionate demeanour, as well as its beautiful golden coat. As a versatile working dog, its registration requires successful completion of a working trial. While many Golden Retrievers are cherished family pets and rank among the most popular breeds in several Western countries, they also participate in dog shows, obedience competitions, and serve as guide dogs. The Golden Retriever is renowned for its intelligence, gentle temperament, and affectionate nature. As is common with retriever breeds, they are generally calm and eager to please, making them easy to train. This breed is known for being exceptional family pets, displaying remarkable tolerance toward children and enthusiasm for participating in various family activities. Their friendly disposition often leads to a lack of guarding instincts; however, there have been instances of aggression in certain lineages, which may be linked to genetic factors. Golden Retrievers typically retain many traits and instincts associated with gundogs, including a keen sense of smell and a strong desire to retrieve. Even those not trained for hunting often present their owners with toys or other objects. Notably, Golden Retrievers tend to mature more slowly compared to other retriever breeds.
Great Dane		8 - 10 years	Males: 54 - 90kg Females: 45 - 59kg	Males: 76 - 90cm Females: 71 - 84cm	Friendly Reserved Devoted Confident Gentle Loving	The Great Dane is a German breed of large mastiff-sighthound that originated from the hunting dogs of the Middle Ages, which were used to hunt bears, wild boar, and deer. These powerful dogs were also employed as guardians for German nobility. The Great Dane is one of the two largest dog breeds in the world, sharing this distinction with the Irish Wolfhound. The Great Dane is an exceptionally large domestic dog of the mastiff-sighthound type, often referred to as the “Apollo of dogs” due to its impressive stature and noble bearing. According to the American Kennel Club, the breed embodies a combination of strength, elegance, and grandeur, with a powerfully built and smoothly muscled body. Despite its massive size, a well-bred Great Dane should have balanced proportions, allowing it to move with grace and agility without appearing clumsy. The breed features a short coat and a strong, galloping figure, making it one of the most distinctive giant working breeds.
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog		10 - 11 years	Males: 60 - 70kg Females: 50 - 60kg	Males: 65 - 72cm Females: 60 - 68cm	Alert Good-natured Devoted Fearless Protective	The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (German: Grosser Schweizer Sennenhund; French: Grand Bouvier Suisse) is a breed that originated in the Swiss Alps. The term “Sennenhund” refers to the Senn or Senner, which are the dairymen and herders of the region. This breed likely emerged from a combination of native dogs and large mastiff-type breeds introduced to Switzerland by early settlers. By the late 19th century, the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog was thought to be on the verge of extinction due to the rise of machinery and other breeds performing its traditional roles, but it was rediscovered in the early 1900s. The breed standard specifies a striking coat featuring black, white, and rust colours. Among the four Sennenhunde (Swiss mountain dogs), the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is recognised as the oldest and largest of the group. The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is known for its cheerful disposition and strong bond with people, especially children. This breed is sociable, active, calm, and dignified. Although they require regular exercise, they don’t need a large space to thrive. They tend to stay close to their owners, rarely wandering off without checking in.

Greenland Dog		10 - 14 years	Males: 30 - 32kg Females: 30 - 32kg	Males: 58 - 68cm Females: 51 - 61cm	Friendly Boisterous Loyal Bold Independent	The Greenland Dog (Greenlandic: Kalaallit Qimmiat, Danish: Grønlandshund) is a large husky-type breed known for its role as a sled dog. It was introduced to North America from Siberia by the Thule people around 1,000 years ago, alongside the Canadian Eskimo Dog. These two breeds are often considered the same due to their close genetic ties, despite being geographically isolated. Today, the Greenland Dog holds significant national and cultural importance in Greenland, leading to efforts aimed at preserving its purity. In western Greenland, north of the Arctic Circle and throughout eastern Greenland, importing dogs from outside sources is prohibited (with exceptions for police and assistance dogs granted special permits). Since 2017, all dogs in these areas must be microchipped and registered in the Greenland dog database. In the southwest, however, there are no such restrictions, and the purity of the dog population is not actively monitored. As the population of Greenland Dogs has been declining (approximately 15,000 as of 2016), various initiatives have been launched to ensure that the culture, knowledge, and practices of dog sledding, as well as the breed itself, are preserved. The Greenland Dog is known for its strong, independent, and intelligent temperament. This breed is hardworking and resilient, originally bred for sledding and hunting in harsh Arctic conditions. They are highly loyal and protective of their families, making them excellent companions. However, their strong-willed nature can also lead to stubbornness, so consistent training and early socialisation are essential. With the right guidance, Greenland Dogs can be friendly and affectionate, thriving in active households where they can exercise their physical and mental abilities.
Greyhound		10 - 14 years	Males: 27 - 40kg Females: 25 - 34kg	Males: 71 - 76cm Females: 68 - 71cm	Even-tempered Intelligent Athletic Affectionate Gentle Quiet	The English Greyhound, commonly known as the Greyhound, is a breed of sighthound traditionally bred for coursing, greyhound racing, and hunting. In recent years, the widespread adoption of retired racing Greyhounds has contributed to a rise in their popularity as family pets. Greyhounds are characterised by their tall, muscular build, smooth coat, “S-shaped” silhouette, long tail, and durable feet. They are distinct from related breeds like the Italian Greyhound. With a combination of long legs, a deep chest, a flexible spine, and a slim frame, Greyhounds are built for speed, often reaching average racing speeds over 64 km/h (40 mph). In peak condition, a racing Greyhound can reach speeds of up to 77 km/h (47 mph). Greyhounds thrive as pets in quiet environments and do well in families with children, provided the children are taught to treat them politely and respectfully. Due to their sensitive nature, Greyhounds respond best to gentle training methods. Although they may occasionally bark, Greyhounds are typically quiet and friendly, even towards strangers, which makes them well-suited for suburban living. A 2008 University of Pennsylvania study ranked Greyhounds among the least aggressive dog breeds towards strangers, owners, and other dogs. Rescue Greyhounds tend to have higher short-term adoption success rates compared to dogs from shelters, and they exhibit lower levels of hyperactivity. In Victoria, Australia, racing Greyhounds are required by law to be controlled and wear muzzles in public, though this rule does not apply to retired or non-racing Greyhounds. Greyhounds are outgoing, happy, and sociable dogs, often seeking human contact and following their owners from room to room, earning them the nickname “Velcro dogs.” However, their prey drive may lead them to chase small animals, including cats.
Ibizan Hound		10 - 12 years	Males: 20 - 30kg Females: 20 - 30kg	Males: 66 - 72cm Females: 60 - 67cm	Clownish Stubborn Intelligent Active Independent Engaging	The Ibizan Hound (Spanish: podenco ibicenco, Catalan: ca eivissenc) is a slender and agile breed belonging to the hound family. It comes in two coat types: smooth and wire, with the smooth variety being more common. Some suggest a third coat type, long, though it is generally considered a variation of the wire-haired type. Ibizan Hounds are intelligent, active, and engaging dogs. Ranked 53rd in Stanley Coren’s *The Intelligence of Dogs* for working and obedience intelligence, they are known for their problem-solving skills and playful antics. Often called the “clowns” of the dog world, they love entertaining their owners. While they can be somewhat independent and stubborn, they respond well to positive training methods and resist harsh, punitive techniques. Generally quiet, they will bark when necessary, making them good watchdogs. Sensitive and gentle, they are excellent around children and other dogs. Though they make good house pets, their athletic nature requires plenty of daily exercise, and they are not suited to kennel life. Ibizan Hounds are also known for their remarkable ability to escape. They can leap great heights from a standstill and are skilled climbers, often finding ways to escape from crates, open baby gates, and even locks. With a strong prey drive, they should not be trusted off-leash unless in a secure area, as they may not return immediately. However, if familiar with their surroundings, they usually find their way back home safely.
Irish Setter		10 - 15 years	Males: 27 - 32kg Females: 24 - 29kg	Males: 61 - 71cm Females: 61 - 71cm	Affectionate Lively Energetic Independent Playful	The Irish Setter (Irish: sotar rua, meaning “red setter”) is a breed of gundog and family companion that originated in Ireland. The name “Irish Setter” typically refers to both the show-bred version recognised by the American Kennel Club and the field-bred Red Setter recognised by the Field Dog Stud Book. Irish Setters are known for their friendly nature, getting along well with children and other dogs, and greeting visitors with enthusiasm. While they generally do well with household pets, their hunting instincts can make smaller animals, such as cats, problematic. Some Irish Setters may be too boisterous for small children. According to the FCI, ANKC, and UK standards, the breed should be “demonstrably affectionate,” making them excellent companion animals and family pets. Being an active breed, Irish Setters require long daily walks and off-leash running in open spaces. However, they have a reputation for being “selectively deaf,” so recall training is essential before letting them off-lead. Irish Setters enjoy having a job to do, and without sufficient activity, they can become bored, destructive, or overly energetic. They are not suited for long periods of isolation in a backyard and thrive on human companionship. Responding well to positive training, Irish Setters are highly intelligent and eager to learn. While alert to their surroundings, Irish Setters are not ideal guard dogs due to their naturally friendly disposition. They are also widely used as therapy dogs in schools and hospitals, providing a calming presence. In schools, they help create a relaxed environment where children can read to them without fear of correction or judgment.
Irish Wolfhound		6 - 10 years	Males: Minimum 54.5kg Females: Minimum 40.5kg	Males: Minimum 79cm Females: Minimum 71cm	Sweet-tempered Loyal Dignified Generous Patient Thoughtful	The Irish Wolfhound is a large sighthound breed that has inspired literature, poetry, and mythology with its imposing presence and substantial size. Known as one of the tallest dog breeds, it has been highly valued by coursing hunters for its ability to finish off prey caught by faster sighthounds. In 1902, the Irish Wolfhound was officially named the regimental mascot of the Irish Guards. Irish Wolfhounds are known for their unique personalities, often displaying individual quirks and a sense of distinctiveness. Despite their large size, they are rarely destructive or overly boisterous in the home. This is due to their generally introverted, intelligent, and reserved nature. Typically calm and easygoing, Irish Wolfhounds form strong bonds with their families and can become distressed or destructive if left alone for extended periods. While imposing and effective as guardians, Irish Wolfhounds are deeply attached to their owners and other animals they are raised with, making them less adaptable to new environments. Although bred for independence and not inherently territorial, they embody the motto “gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked.” They tend not to be aggressive toward other dogs, though they may display play behaviours resembling hunting, which is not related to dominance or fighting. Irish Wolfhounds are known for their gentle demeanour around children and are relatively easy to train. They respond best to firm but gentle leadership. Historically, these dogs were bred to work independently, often at great distances from their masters, and this self-reliant trait still surfaces today. Praised for their loyalty, affection, patience, and devotion, Irish Wolfhounds may not be the most reliable watchdogs as they are often friendly toward strangers. However, their sheer size serves as a deterrent. When the situation calls for it, they are fearless protectors. Linda Glover, an Irish Wolfhound breeder, notes that the breed’s strong bond with humans makes them especially sensitive to malicious intent, excelling as guardians rather than traditional guard dogs.
Italian Greyhound		12 - 15 years	3.6 - 5kg	32 - 38cm	Affectionate Mischievous Intelligent Athletic	The Italian Greyhound, also known as the Italian Sighthound (Italian: Piccolo levriero Italiano), is a small sighthound breed from Italy. Originally bred for hunting hare and rabbit, it is now primarily kept as a companion dog. The Italian Greyhound is known for its playful and affectionate temperament. These dogs are incredibly loyal and form strong bonds with their families, often seeking companionship and attention. They are lively and energetic, enjoying playtime and outdoor activities, but they also have a gentle side, making them great lap dogs. Italian Greyhounds are generally friendly with other pets and people, though they may exhibit some shyness around strangers. Their sensitive nature requires gentle training and socialisation, as they thrive in a loving and supportive environment.

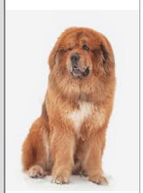
Jack Russel Terrier		13 - 16 years	6 - 8kg	23 - 38cm	Clownish Stubborn Energetic Athletic Fearless Vocal	The Jack Russell Terrier is a small terrier breed from Britain, primarily characterised by its white body and coat that can be smooth, rough, or broken, with a variety of colour options. This breed originated in North Devon in the early 19th century, developed by a country parson named Jack Russell, after whom it is named. While it shares similar roots with the modern Fox Terrier, the Jack Russell Terrier is a distinct breed, separate from the Parson Russell Terrier. Known for their high energy levels, Jack Russells require plenty of exercise and mental stimulation to thrive. ack Russells are primarily recognised as working terriers. Originally bred to flush foxes from their dens during hunts, they are adept at pursuing various ground-dwelling quarry, including groundhogs, badgers, otters, and both red and grey foxes. A working Jack Russell terrier must locate quarry underground and either flush it out or hold it in place until they can be retrieved. Unlike some other breeds, they typically do not bark; instead, they expect attention to be drawn to the quarry. Preserving this working ability is paramount for many registered breeders with JRTCA and JRTCGB affiliations, which contributes to the breed's reputation for being highly intelligent, athletic, fearless, and vocal. Without proper stimulation and exercise, Jack Russells can become moody or destructive, often leading to the affectionate yet semi-derogatory nickname "Jack Russell Terrorist" among suburban pet owners. Their energetic nature makes them well-suited for various dog sports, such as flyball and agility. Potential owners are advised to enroll them in obedience classes, as Jack Russells can be stubborn and may exhibit aggression towards other animals and humans if not properly socialised. Despite their small stature, they are not ideal for condominium or apartment living unless the owner is committed to meeting their significant exercise and stimulation needs, as they possess an abundance of energy for their size.
Labrador Retriever		10 - 12 years	Males: 29 - 36kg Females: 25 - 32kg	Males: 56 - 57cm Females: 54 - 56cm	Outgoing Even-tempered Intelligent Friendly Agile Gentle Trusting	The Labrador Retriever, often simply called the Labrador, is a British breed of retriever gun dog. This breed was developed in the United Kingdom from St. John's water dogs that were brought over from Newfoundland, a province of Canada. Named after the Labrador region of this colony, the Labrador is one of the most popular dog breeds in various countries, especially in Europe. Labradors are known for their friendly, energetic, and playful nature. Initially bred for sporting and hunting purposes, they are now primarily kept as beloved companion animals. Additionally, they can be trained for roles such as guide dogs, assistance dogs, and in rescue or therapy work. Labrador Retrievers have demonstrated a high success rate as guide dogs. A 2006 study assessed the suitability of four breeds—Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Labrador/Golden Retriever mixes, and German Shepherds—as guide dogs. Interestingly, German Shepherds and Golden Retrievers showed improved success rates after undergoing longer training than that required for Labradors. Originally bred as gun dogs for retrieving on land and in water, Labrador Retrievers possess several traits that enhance their effectiveness in these roles. Their soft mouths allow them to carry game and waterfowl without causing damage, while their fully webbed paws, otter-like tails, and waterproof coats aid in swimming. The breed is known for its intelligence, initiative, and self-direction in various working roles. An exemplary case is Endal, a Labrador trained to assist his human, who uses a wheelchair, by placing him in the recovery position, covering him with a blanket, and activating an emergency phone when necessary. Additionally, many Labradors have been trained to help their owners retrieve cash and credit cards from ATMs. Labradors are also employed in water rescue and lifesaving roles, continuing this service alongside breeds like Leonbergers, Newfoundlands, and Golden Retrievers at the Italian School of Canine Lifeguard.
Lakeland Terrier		12 - 16 years	7 - 8kg	33 - 38cm	Bold Confident Independent	The Lakeland Terrier is a dog breed named after its origin in the Lake District of England. This breed is a small to medium-sized member of the Terrier family. Known for its independent nature, the Lakeland Terrier is also sociable and interacts well with its owners and family members. In the UK, the Lakeland Terrier is classified as a vulnerable breed by The Kennel Club, facing the risk of extinction due to low breeding numbers. The Lakeland Terrier is known for its friendly, bold, and confident personality. Shyness and aggression are rare traits for this breed. Highly intelligent and independent, they are quick learners and generally easy to train. However, they can sometimes show "selective deafness" when something piques their interest. They respond well to crate training as well. Like most terriers, Lakelands are energetic and require daily exercise and playtime. Without sufficient physical activity, they may find other ways to channel their energy, which could lead to undesirable behaviours for their owners.
Leonberger		8 - 9 years	Males: 50 - 77kg Females: 41 - 64kg	Males: 72 - 80cm Females: 65 - 75cm	Loyal Fearless Obedient Loving Adaptable	he Leonberger is a large dog breed named after the city of Leonberg, located in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The Leonberger is primarily a family dog, and its temperament is one of its most defining traits. When properly socialised and trained, a Leonberger exhibits a self-assured demeanour, is unbothered by noise, and shows submission to family members. They are friendly with children, calm around passersby, and self-disciplined when protecting their home and loved ones. Known for their robustness, loyalty, intelligence, playfulness, and gentle nature, they adapt easily to various situations, including interactions with other dogs. Given their giant size, effective training and early socialisation are crucial. This breed excels as a water rescue dog, requiring minimal training to enhance its natural instincts. Their double-layered waterproof coat helps trap air for buoyancy, and the webbing between their toes enables them to swim powerfully.
Lhasa Apso		12 - 14 years	Males: 6.4 - 8.2kg Females: 5.4 - 6.4kg	25cm	Playful Intelligent Assertive Lively Alert Friendly Devoted	The Lhasa Apso is a non-sporting dog breed that hails from Tibet. Historically, this breed has served as an interior watchdog. The Lhasa Apso is known for its lively and affectionate temperament. These small dogs are typically alert and confident, making them excellent watchdogs despite their size. They are also known for their independent nature, which can sometimes come across as stubbornness during training. However, with consistent, positive reinforcement, Lhasa Apsos can be trained effectively. They tend to form strong bonds with their families and are often quite loyal and protective, making them loving companions. Their playful demeanour and adaptability also make them great pets for various living situations.
Maltese Dog		12 - 15 years	3 - 4kg	Males: 21 - 25cm Females: 20 - 23cm	Playful Affectionate Docile Intelligent Easygoing Gentle	The Maltese dog refers to both an ancient variety of small, white-coated dog from Italy, traditionally linked to the island of Malta, and to a modern breed within the toy group that shares genetic ties with the Bichon, Bolognese, and Havanese breeds. The exact connection between the ancient and contemporary breeds remains uncertain. Nicholas Cutillo has proposed that Maltese dogs may have descended from spitz-type canines, suggesting that the ancient variety likely resembled Pomeranian breeds, characterised by their short snouts, pricked ears, and rounded heads. Maltese dogs exhibit a lively, calm, and affectionate demeanour. They do not shed, which is a notable feature of the breed. However, like other white dogs, they may develop tear stains. Health issues such as liver and heart problems, as well as luxating patella, can be prevalent in the breed. It's important to monitor them for conditions like patent ductus arteriosus. Additionally, Maltese dogs are often recommended for individuals with dog allergies, as they are considered hypoallergenic. This means that some people with allergies may tolerate living with a Maltese due to their minimal shedding.
Neapolitan Mastiff		8 - 10 years	Males: 60 - 70kg Females: 50 - 60kg	Males: 63 - 77cm Females: 58 - 70cm	Protective Stubborn Fearless Obedient Dominant Trainable	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The Neapolitan Mastiff, known as Mastino Napoletano, is a large Italian dog breed of the mastiff type. It traces its origins back to the traditional guard dogs of central Italy. The breed was officially recognised by the Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana in 1949 and accepted by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale in 1956. The Neapolitan Mastiff shares a close relationship with the Cane Corso. The Neapolitan Mastiff is known for its calm and affectionate temperament. This breed is typically gentle and loyal, forming strong bonds with its family. While they can be protective and wary of strangers, Neapolitan Mastiffs are generally not aggressive. Their laid-back nature makes them suitable companions for families, but they do require consistent training and socialisation to ensure they develop into well-mannered dogs. Despite their imposing size, they often have a sweet disposition and enjoy spending time with their loved ones.

Newfoundland Dog		8 - 10 years	Males: 65 - 80kg Females: 55 - 65kg	Males: 69 - 71cm Females: 63 - 66cm	Sweet-tempered Gentle Trainable	The Newfoundland is a large working dog breed known for its impressive size and strength. They come in various colours, including black, grey, brown, and black and white. Historically, in the Dominion of Newfoundland, only black and Landseer (white-and-black) dogs were recognised as true representatives of the breed. Originally bred to assist fishermen, Newfoundlands are exceptional swimmers and lifeguards. Their muscular build, thick double coat, and webbed paws enhance their swimming abilities, making them well-suited for water rescue operations. The Newfoundland breed has a rich history of varied working roles, particularly in adventuring and lifesaving. Numerous tales highlight the breed's courage, inspiring artists over the last two centuries to depict these remarkable dogs in various mediums, including paint, stone, bronze, and porcelain. One notable Newfoundland named Seaman was one of the most traveled dogs in history, accompanying American explorers Lewis and Clark on their expedition from the Mississippi to the Pacific and back—a journey that spanned three years. A statue of Seaman can be found in many Lewis and Clark monuments, and he has been featured in several children's books. The breed flourished in the United Kingdom until the onset of World War I in 1914 and again during World War II in 1939, which nearly decimated their numbers due to wartime restrictions. Since the 1950s, there has been a steady resurgence in their popularity, despite the Newfoundland's considerable size and love for mud and water, making them less suitable as pets for many households.
Norfolk Terrier		12 - 15 years	5 - 7kg	23 - 30cm	Lovable Happy Spirited Fearless	The Norfolk Terrier is a British dog breed that gained recognition as an independent breed in 1964. Before this, it was considered a variety of the Norwich Terrier, distinguished by its "drop ears" (folded ears) compared to the "prick ears" of the Norwich Terrier. Both the Norfolk and Norwich Terriers are among the smallest of the working terrier breeds. Norfolk Terriers are known for their fearless nature, though they can be a bit independent at times. Along with Norwich Terriers and Border Terriers, they have one of the gentlest temperaments in the Terrier Group. As pack dogs, they get along well with other dogs, and as companions, they adore people and children, making them excellent pets. Their energy level typically matches the environment they're in. Norfolks thrive on human interaction and should not be kept outdoors. While they aren't generally prone to digging, Norfolks may dig out of boredom if left alone for extended periods. They are not excessive barkers, though they will bark appropriately when acting as watchdogs. When introduced to other household pets as puppies, they usually get along well. Outdoors, their strong prey drive makes them natural hunters, particularly of small vermin.
Northern Inuit Dog / Tamaskan		10 - 13 years	Males: 29 - 43kg Females: 25 - 39kg	Males: 64 - 84cm Females: 61 - 71cm	Friendly Gentle Familial Dependable	Tamaskan dogs are a breed developed to closely resemble wolves or wolfdogs. While their precise origins are unclear, they are known to be a mix of arctic breeds, including Alaskan Husky, Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo Dog, German Shepherd, Labrador Husky, and Siberian Husky. Although not recognised by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), the breed is recognised by the American Rare Breed Association. Some sources describe the Northern Inuit Dog as part of a breeding project from the 1980s in the United Kingdom, aimed at creating a dog that resembled a wolf. The Tamaskan, British Timber Dog, and Utonagan are considered offshoots of this project. Northern Inuit Dogs originated from dogs of unknown ancestry imported from North America during the 1980s, which were crossed with Alaskan Malamutes, German Shepherds, Siberian Huskies, and possibly Samoyeds. The goal of these crossbreedings was to produce a dog with a wolf-like appearance, suitable for companionship and trainable for various tasks. Over time, this initiative led to the development of several related breeds, including the Tamaskan, British Timber Dog, and Utonagan.
Norwegian Elkhound		12 - 15 years	22 - 25kg	49 - 52cm	Hardy Strong willed Alert Loyal Bold Playful	The Norwegian Elkhound is a Northern Spitz-type breed and is recognised as the National Dog of Norway. Historically, it has served multiple roles, including hunting, guarding, herding, and protecting. The breed is renowned for its bravery in tracking and hunting large game such as elk, bears, and wolves. The Norwegian Elkhound made its first appearance at a dog exhibition in Norway in 1877. Known as the "Norsk elghund" in Norwegian, the breed's primary role in hunting is to independently locate and keep elk or moose at bay. It does this by darting in and out, distracting the animal while loudly barking to alert the hunter. The dog only barks when the elk is stationary but can also drive the animal toward hunters waiting in position. When hunting on a leash, the Elkhound quietly leads the hunter toward the game without barking. Norwegian Elkhounds are bred for hunting large game, such as wolves, bears, and moose. Despite their strength and hardiness, these dogs form a deep bond with their owners and are known for their loyalty. They possess a sharp, loud bark, making them excellent watchdogs. Elkhounds are devoted to their "pack" and, with proper care and attention, make great family pets. They are bold, playful, independent, alert, and highly intelligent, though sometimes a bit boisterous. Ranked 36th in Stanley Coren's *The Intelligence of Dogs*, they are considered above average in working and obedience intelligence.
Old English Sheepdog		10 - 12 years	Males: 36 - 46kg Females: 30 - 40kg	Males: 56 - 61cm Females: 51 - 56cm	Intelligent Playful Sociable Bubbly Loving Adaptable	The Old English Sheepdog is a large breed that originated in England, developed from early herding dogs. It was once known by names like Shepherd's Dog and bob-tailed sheep-dog. The nickname "Bobtail" comes from the traditional practice of tail docking in this breed. Old English Sheepdogs are known for their long, shaggy coats that can grow to cover their face and eyes. Interestingly, they don't shed unless their fur is brushed, making regular grooming essential.
Papillon		13 - 15 years	Males: 3.6 - 4.5kg Females: 3.2 - 4.1kg	20 - 28cm	Intelligent Friendly Alert Energetic Happy	The Papillon (pronounced [papijɔ̃] in French, meaning 'butterfly-eared') is also known as the Continental Toy Spaniel. As one of the oldest toy spaniel breeds, it gets its name from the butterfly-like appearance of its long, fringed ears. A variation of the breed with drooping ears is referred to as the Phalène. Papillons are intelligent and confident dogs, known for easily picking up new tricks. While they can be sociable with children and strangers, they tend to be reserved around unfamiliar people. With proper socialisation, Papillons can get along well with other pets, though caution is needed around energetic animals or cats with claws, as they may accidentally cause injury. Without proper socialisation, Papillons may become distrustful and show aggression towards other dogs and people. These dogs are playful, affectionate, and make excellent companions. They have the energy to keep up with active families but are also content to relax and cuddle with their owners. Due to their high energy levels, Papillons require more exercise than the average companion breed. They are excellent watchdogs, alerting their owners to any changes in their environment, and may be quite vocal, like many toy breeds. While they tolerate heat, Papillons are sensitive to cold because of their single coat and should not be left outside in cold weather unattended.
Patterdale Terrier		12 - 15 years	6 - 12kg	25 - 38cm	Intelligent Energetic Friendly Inquisitive Bold Confident	The Patterdale Terrier is a dog breed that originated from the Northern terrier breeds of the early 18th century, initially developed in Patterdale, located in the Lake District. Patterdale Terrier puppies are often bold and exhibit a confidence that exceeds their abilities. Recognised primarily as working terriers rather than show dogs, Patterdales are full of energy and possess a strong instinct to chase prey, which can make socialisation challenging. While they can be kept as pets, their breeding for high-intensity tasks means they may be too energetic for a more sedentary lifestyle.
Pekingese		12 - 15 years	3.2 - 6.4kg	15 - 23cm	Affectionate Aggressive tendencies Stubborn	The Pekingese, also spelled Pekinese, is a toy dog breed that hails from China. This breed was a beloved companion of the Chinese Imperial court, and its name references Beijing (formerly known as Peking), the city where the Forbidden City is situated. The Pekingese has distinct traits and health concerns associated with its unique appearance. Due to its appealing qualities, the Pekingese has contributed to the creation of designer crossbreeds, including the Peekapoo (a mix with a Poodle) and the Peke-a-tese (a mix with a Maltese). To keep a Pekingese's coat healthy and looking its best, daily brushing is essential, along with a visit to the groomer every 8 to 12 weeks. For pet owners, opting for a puppy cut can be a low-maintenance alternative to a show coat. Daily eye cleaning is necessary to remove any debris, and the facial creases should be cleaned regularly to prevent sores or hot spots. Additionally, maintaining the long fur around the rear, often referred to as the "trousers" or "skirt," is crucial, as this area can easily get soiled. In colder climates, this fur can also trap snow, leading to clumping. Due to their thick fur, it's vital to keep Pekingese cool, as they are susceptible to heatstroke in high temperatures. When it comes to exercise, Pekingese require minimal activity. Their short snouts increase their risk of breathing difficulties, particularly brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome, limiting their exercise capacity to about 30 minutes a day. It's important to monitor their breathing during exercise, especially in warm weather. If wheezing occurs, all activity should stop immediately, and they should rest in a cool area until their breathing normalises. Ensuring they have access to plenty of water before, during, and after exercise is essential to prevent overheating and dehydration.

Pembroke Welsh Corgi		12 - 15 years	Males: 10 - 14kg Females: 10 - 13kg	25 - 30cm	Playful Tenacious Outgoing Friendly Protective	The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is a cattle herding dog breed that originated in Pembrokeshire, Wales. This breed is one of two types known as Welsh Corgis, the other being the Cardigan Welsh Corgi, and it descends from the Spitz family of dogs. Pembroke Welsh Corgis are particularly famous as the favoured breed of Queen Elizabeth II, who owned over 30 royal corgis during her reign. Despite their longstanding popularity among British royalty for more than seventy years, their demand and popularity among the general British public have recently declined. Pembroke Welsh Corgis are highly social dogs that love to be involved with their families, often following their owners wherever they go. They have a strong desire to please, making them eager learners. However, their working background, intelligence, and stubbornness can make training a challenge; they are ranked as the eleventh most intelligent dog in Stanley Coren's *The Intelligence of Dogs*. In addition to herding, Pembrokes serve as effective watchdogs due to their alertness and tendency to bark, which can become excessive if they are not adequately stimulated. Most Pembrokes seek attention from everyone they meet and generally behave well around children and other pets. It is crucial to socialise this breed with various animals, adults, and children from a young age to prevent any potential anti-social behaviour or aggression later in life. Due to their herding instinct—and for some, a prey drive—they love to chase anything that moves, so it's best to keep them in fenced areas. Additionally, younger Pembrokes may nip at their owners' ankles, reflecting their natural herding behaviour.
Pharaoh Hound		11 - 14 years	Males: 18 - 27kg Females: 18 - 27kg	Males: 56 - 64cm Females: 53 - 61cm	Affectionate Sociable Active Playful Trainable	The Pharaoh Hound, also known as Kelb tal-Fenek, is a Maltese breed of hunting dog renowned for its role in rabbit hunting across the rocky landscapes of Malta. The Maltese name translates to "rabbit dog." This breed falls under the "Spitz and primitive" group as classified by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) and shares similarities with other Mediterranean breeds in this category, such as the Cirneco dell'Etna, Podenco Andaluz, Podenco Canario, Podenco Ibicenco, and Portuguese Podengo. Notably, it is the only Maltese dog breed that enjoys international recognition.
Podenco Andaluz		10 - 12 years	21 - 33kg	53 - 64cm	Active Lively Alert Affectionate Loyal	The Podenco Andaluz is an ancient breed of warren hound from Spain, specifically utilised for hunting small game in Andalusia. It is one of four podenco breeds officially recognised by the Real Sociedad Canina de España. Known for its agility, this breed is typically employed to hunt ducks, rabbits, wild boar, and fowl. The Podenco Andaluz comes in three accepted sizes—small, medium, and large—and features three coat types: wire-haired, long-haired, and smooth. The Podenco Andaluz comes in three sizes—large, medium, and small—and features three types of coats: wire-haired (Spanish: Cerdeño), long-haired (Spanish: Sedeño), and smooth. This results in a total of nine distinct varieties. This diversity may stem from adaptations to the various microclimates in Andalusia, which include mountains, agricultural areas, and marshlands, as well as the different game that hunters pursue. Their coat colours can range from white to deep red. Notably, Podenco Andaluz have a trot that matches the speed of their gallop. Like other warren hounds, Podenco Andaluz possess exceptional sight, hearing, and sense of smell. They are known for their methodical hunting techniques and impressive stamina, allowing them to work effectively in the mild winters, characterised by irregular rainfall, and the hot, dry summers of Andalusia. Podenco Andaluz are lively, affectionate dogs that are loyal to their owners but tend to be cautious around strangers.
Pomeranian		12 - 16 years	1.4 - 3.2kg	18 - 30cm	Playful Extroverted Intelligent Lively Friendly Sociable	The Pomeranian, often referred to as a Pom, Pommy, or Pome, is a small breed of dog belonging to the Spitz type, named after the Pomerania region located in north-west Poland and north-east Germany in Central Europe. Classified as a toy dog breed due to its petite size, the Pomeranian is a descendant of larger Spitz-type dogs, specifically the German Spitz. The breed gained popularity through several royal owners since the 18th century. Queen Victoria, in particular, owned a notably small Pomeranian, leading to the widespread admiration for the smaller variety. During Queen Victoria's lifetime, the breed's size decreased by half. Pomeranians are vigilant and attentive to changes in their surroundings, often barking at new stimuli. This behaviour can evolve into a habit of excessive barking in various situations. They tend to be somewhat protective of their territory, which may lead them to bark at outside noises.
Poodle		12 - 15 years	Toy: 2 - 3kg Miniature: 4.5 - 7kg Standard: 20 - 32kg Medium: 9 - 13kg	Toy: 24 - 28cm Miniature: 28 - 35cm Standard: 45 - 60cm Medium: 35 - 45cm	Intelligent Alert Active Instinctual Faithful	The Poodle, known as Pudel in German and Caniche in French, is a versatile water dog breed divided into four size varieties: Standard, Miniature, Toy, and Medium (the latter not universally recognised). They are characterised by their thick, curly coat available in various colours and patterns, although only solid colours are recognised by breed registries. Poodles are active, intelligent, and quick learners, with a lifespan of 10–18 years, generally longer for the smaller varieties. Poodles are known for their high intelligence, energy, and sociability. According to Stanley Coren's 1994 ranking, they placed second out of 130 breeds in "working and obedience intelligence," indicating their strong ability to learn from humans. Shyness or sharpness is viewed as a significant flaw in the breed.
Portuguese Water Dog		12 - 15 years	Males: 18 - 27kg Females: 15 - 22kg	Males: 50 - 57cm Females: 43 - 52cm	Docile Impetuous Quarrelsome Obedient Brave	The Portuguese Water Dog hails from the Algarve region of Portugal and has since spread along the entire Portuguese coastline. These dogs were trained to herd fish into fishermen's nets, retrieve lost tackle or damaged nets, and serve as couriers between ships or between ships and the shore. They often accompanied fishing trawlers, traveling from the Atlantic waters of Portugal to the coasts of Iceland in search of cod. Portuguese Water Dogs (PWDs) are affectionate, intelligent, and independent, making them easy to train in obedience and agility. They are generally friendly toward strangers and enjoy being petted. As working dogs, PWDs are content to stay by their owner's side, eagerly awaiting instructions. When properly trained, they are capable of following complex commands and learn quickly, often enjoying the training process. They have a remarkable memory for names of objects. Their non-shedding coats and temperament make them excellent candidates for various service roles, including hearing assistance, mobility support, and seizure response, as well as being exceptional therapy dogs. Typically, a PWD prefers to stay close to its owners, both indoors and outdoors. While they are social animals, they tend to form a strong bond with one primary family member. This close relationship may stem from their history of working alongside their masters on small fishing boats, unlike other working breeds that often roam to perform tasks. Regardless of whether they are working on a boat or enjoying life as a pet, modern PWDs love water, crave attention, and thrive on activities within sight of their human companions. This breed does not do well when left alone for extended periods. As water dogs, PWDs possess a strong retrieving instinct, which can lead to tugging and chewing behaviours. It's common for them to jump up in greeting, and owners may want to manage this behaviour. Some PWDs may walk, hop, or even "dance" on their hind legs when excited or greeting someone. Additionally, they have a tendency to stand on their hind legs at kitchen counters and tables, especially if they smell food, a behaviour known as "counter surfing." Due to their intelligence and work ethic, PWDs require regular, intensive exercise along with mental stimulation. They are gentle and patient, but they are not sedentary dogs; boredom can lead to destructive behaviour.
Pug		12 - 15 years	6.3 - 8.1kg	Males: 30 - 36cm Females: 25 - 30cm	Playful Docile Mischievous Stubborn Affectionate Calm	The Pug is a dog breed known for its unique features, including a wrinkled, short-muzzled face and a curled tail. This ancient breed dates back to around 400 B.C. and boasts a fine, glossy coat available in various colours, most commonly fawn (light brown) or black. Pugs have a compact, square body with well-developed, muscular build. Brought from China to Europe in the sixteenth century, Pugs gained popularity in Western Europe, particularly through the influence of the House of Orange in the Netherlands and the House of Stuart. In the nineteenth century, Queen Victoria developed a strong fondness for Pugs, which she passed on to other members of the royal family, further enhancing the breed's status. Pugs are known for their intuition and sensitivity to their owners' moods, often displaying a strong desire to please them. These playful dogs thrive on human companionship and are often referred to as "shadows" due to their tendency to follow their owners closely. They enjoy being part of the action and crave attention and affection from those they love.
Puli		12 - 16 years	Males: 13 - 15kg Females: 10 - 13kg	Males: 39 - 45cm Females: 36 - 42cm	Agile Loyal Energetic Obedient Faithful	The Puli (plural: pulis or pulik) is a small to medium-sized Hungarian herding dog renowned for its distinctive long, corded coat, which resembles dreadlocks due to its tight curls. A related breed that shares a similar appearance but is significantly larger is the Komondor, also hailing from Hungary. The Puli is an intelligent and energetic breed that requires obedience training from a young age. While they can adapt to city living with sufficient exercise, they thrive best in environments that allow for more space and outdoor activity. Without adequate physical activity, Pulis may become shy or overly energetic. These dogs are ideally suited to homes with gardens where they can engage in the activities they were bred for. They are affectionate and friendly, especially towards children, but can be sensitive and may hold onto grievances if not treated well.

Pyrenean Mastiff		8 - 12 years	60 - 90kg	Minimum 71cm	Loyal Protective Calm Friendly	The Pyrenean Mastiff, known in Spanish as Mastín del Pirineo, is a large breed of livestock guardian dog native to the Aragón region in northeastern Spain. Historically, this breed was employed to safeguard livestock during the seasonal transhumance to high summer pastures in the Pyrenees. It is important to note that the Pyrenean Mastiff is a unique and separate breed from the Spanish Mastiff (Mastin Español), as well as from the Pyrenean Mountain Dog and the Pyrenean Shepherd. The Pyrenean Mastiff is known for its gentle and affectionate temperament. This breed is calm and patient, making it an excellent family companion. Pyrenean Mastiffs are protective and loyal, often forming strong bonds with their families. They are typically good with children and other pets, showcasing a friendly and sociable nature. While they can be reserved with strangers, they are not aggressive and will usually assess situations before reacting. Their natural instinct to guard and protect, combined with their laid-back demeanour, makes them both loving companions and reliable guardians.
Pyrenean Sheepdog		15 - 17 years	7 - 15kg	Males: 40 - 54cm Females: 38 - 52cm	Dedicated Clever Watchful Energetic Trainable Bossy	The Pyrenean Sheepdog, known in French as the Chien de Berger des Pyrénées, is a small to medium-sized herding breed originating from the Pyrenees Mountains in France. This agile dog works alongside the larger Pyrenean Mountain Dog, which serves as a guardian for sheep flocks in the region. The Pyrenean Sheepdog comes in three coat varieties: the long-haired and goat-haired types, collectively referred to as *Chien de Berger des Pyrénées À Poil Long*, and the smooth-faced variety, known as the *Chien de Berger des Pyrénées À Face Rase*. The smooth-faced type is recognised as a separate breed by the Société Centrale Canine. The Pyrenean Sheepdog is an exceptionally energetic breed, often referred to as a "ball of fire." It is known for its intelligence and quick-wittedness, displaying a mischievous nature, rapid reactions, and a surplus of nervous energy. Like many sheepdog breeds, it tends to be cautious around strangers; however, the smooth-faced variety is said to be somewhat more approachable.
Rhodesian Ridgeback		10 - 12 years	Males: 36 - 41kg Females: 29 - 34kg	Males: 63 - 69cm Females: 61 - 66cm	Dignified Intelligent Sensitive Mischievous Loyal Strong willed	The Rhodesian Ridgeback is a large dog breed that originated in Southern Africa. The breed standard was first established by F.R. Barnes in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), in 1922, and it received approval from the South African Kennel Union in 1927. The lineage of the Rhodesian Ridgeback can be traced back to the ridged hunting and guardian dogs of the Khoikhoi people. Early colonists in the Cape Colony interbred these native dogs with European breeds to create a versatile hunting companion, particularly for lion hunting. Rhodesian Ridgebacks are recognised for their loyalty and intelligence. While they tend to be somewhat reserved around strangers, this should not be mistaken for aggression; a well-tempered Ridgeback will not attack an unfamiliar person without cause. They need consistent training and proper socialisation, which means they may not be the best fit for inexperienced dog owners or families with young children. Although Rhodesian Ridgebacks are highly athletic and can appear imposing, they also possess a sensitive nature. Francis R. Barnes, who established the breed standard in 1922, noted that "rough treatment… should never be administered to these dogs, especially when they are young. They can become quite distressed under such handling." These dogs respond well to fair and justified corrections, particularly when they come from someone they know and trust.
Rottweiler		8- 10 years	Males: 50 - 60kg Females: 35 - 48kg	Males: 61 - 69cm Females: 56 - 63cm	Alert Good-natured Devoted Fearless Obedient Confident Calm Self-assured Courageous	The Rottweiler is a medium-to-large breed of domestic dog known for its strength and versatility. In German, they're called Rottweiler Metzgerhund, which translates to "Rottweil butchers' dogs." Historically, these dogs were primarily used for herding livestock and pulling carts filled with butchered meat to market. This practice continued until the mid-19th century when railways began to take over the transport of goods. Today, while Rottweilers are still utilised for herding in various parts of the world, they have also taken on roles as search and rescue dogs, guard dogs, and police dogs, showcasing their adaptability and intelligence. A study from 2008 discovered that male Rottweilers tend to exhibit higher confidence, sharpness, and both defence and play drives compared to their female counterparts. Another 2008 study, which surveyed members of breed clubs, found that Rottweilers are generally average when it comes to aggression towards their owners and other dogs. However, they do show a tendency to be more aggressive than average towards strangers. This behaviour seems to be linked to their natural watchdog and territorial instincts. According to Joan H. Walker in *The Rottweiler Handbook*, Rottweilers are known for their territorial nature. This means owners need to regularly train and work with their dogs to manage any territorial aggressiveness they might display.
Saluki		12 - 14 years	18 - 27kg	58 - 71cm	Aloof Intelligent Reserved Quiet	The Saluki (Arabic: سلوقي) is a standardised breed that evolved from sighthounds, dogs that primarily hunt by sight rather than by scent. Historically, they were used by nomadic tribes to pursue game animals and were originally bred in the Fertile Crescent. The modern Saluki is characterised by its deep chest and long legs, with similar dogs depicted in medieval and ancient art. Closely related to the Afghan hound, which predates many modern breeds from the 19th century, the Saluki has been selectively bred in the Middle East, including by royalty, for centuries. In the West, particularly in Britain and Germany, breeding efforts began in the 1840s, and breed standards were established in the 1920s and 1930s. Despite being a standardised breed, similar dogs are often found as feral animals in the Middle East. Another related standardised breed is the North African Sloughi. Additionally, the Saluki is considered one possible inspiration for the mythical Set animal. The modern Saluki has retained its hunting hound characteristics and may appear reserved around strangers. This breed tends to be independent and aloof, making training a challenge, and they generally cannot be relied upon to return to their owner when off-leash. It is recommended that training methods be gentle and patient. Salukis can become bored easily and are not the best choice for being left alone for extended periods. However, they adapt well to apartment living, as they are usually calm and quiet as adults. While they don't typically enjoy rough play or activities like fetching balls, they do appreciate soft toys. Early socialisation is important to prevent timidity and shyness later in life. Due to their hunting instincts, Salukis are prone to chasing moving objects, including cats, birds, squirrels, and even insects.
Samoyed		12 - 14 years	Males: 20 - 30kg Females: 16 - 20kg	Males: 51 - 56cm Females: 46 - 51cm	Playful Friendly Lively Stubborn Sociable	The Samoyed is a breed of medium-sized herding dog recognised for its thick, white, double-layer coat. These spitz-type dogs derive their name from the Samoyedic peoples of Siberia and descend from the Nenets Herding Laika. Traditionally, Samoyeds have been domesticated for various roles, including herding, hunting, protection, and sled-pulling. The Samoyed is a breed of medium-sized herding dog recognised for its thick, white, double-layer coat, which can sometimes have a brown tint. This coat is naturally dirt-repellent. Samoyeds are known for their friendly and agreeable disposition, making them excellent companions. Historically, they have been utilised in expeditions in both Arctic and Antarctic regions and have a strong lineage that includes the Nenets Herding Laika. Their versatile roles include herding, hunting, protection, and sled-pulling. The Samoyed is a medium-sized herding dog known for its thick, white, double-layer coat, which can sometimes have a brown tint and is naturally dirt-repellent. They are recognised for their friendly and affable nature, making them poor guard dogs, as aggressive behaviour is rare in this breed. Their alert and happy expression has earned them the nicknames "Sammie smile" and "smiley dog." While Samoyeds are diligent watchdogs due to their tendency to bark at approaching strangers, they excel as companions, especially for small children and other dogs. They remain playful into old age, but when bored, they may become destructive or engage in digging. Historically, Samoyeds have assisted in herding, hunting, protection, and sled-pulling and have been utilised in expeditions in both Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Schnauzer		Miniature: 12 - 14 years Standard: 13 - 16 years Giant: 10 - 12 years	Miniature: 5 - 8.2kg Standard: 14 - 20kg Giant: 34 - 43kg	Miniature: 30 - 36cm Standard: 47 - 50cm Giant: 65 - 70cm	Lively Alert Intelligent Trainable	A Schnauzer is a dog breed that originated in Germany between the 14th and 16th centuries. The name “Schnauzer” comes from the German word for “snout,” which colloquially refers to a “moustache” or “whiskered snout,” highlighting the breed’s distinctively bearded muzzle. Originally known as the Wire-Haired Pinscher, the breed officially adopted the name Schnauzer in 1879. The Schnauzer is known for its lively and alert temperament, making it an excellent family companion. They are intelligent and highly trainable, often displaying a strong desire to please their owners. Schnauzers are also known for their spirited nature, showcasing a playful and affectionate personality. While they can be protective, making them effective watchdogs, they are generally friendly and sociable with both children and other pets. Their versatility allows them to adapt to various environments, and they thrive on regular mental and physical stimulation, ensuring they remain happy and well-behaved.
Scottish Deerhound		8 - 11 years	Males: 39 - 50kg Females: 34 - 43kg	Males: Minimum 76cm Females: Minimum 71cm	Dignified Friendly Docile Gentle	The Scottish Deerhound, often referred to as the Deerhound, is a large sighthound breed that was originally developed for coursing red deer. While it resembles the Greyhound in appearance, the Deerhound is larger, has a sturdier bone structure, and features a distinctive rough coat. The Scottish Deerhound is known for its gentle and friendly temperament. This breed is typically affectionate and loyal, making it a wonderful companion for families and individuals alike. Scottish Deerhounds are calm and dignified, often displaying a reserved nature with strangers but warm and loving with their own family members. They are known for their intelligence and can be independent, which may sometimes lead to a stubborn streak. Despite their size and strength, they are generally good-natured and enjoy being around people, thriving in an environment where they receive plenty of exercise and attention.
Scottish Terrier		12 - 15 years	Males: 8.5 - 10kg Females: 8 - 9.5kg	Males: 25 - 28cm Females: 25 - 28cm	Feisty Self-assured Alert Quick Independent Playful	The Scottish Terrier, affectionately known as the Scottie, is a distinct breed of dog that traces its origins back to Scotland. Initially categorised among the highland breeds of terriers collectively referred to as Skye Terriers, the Scottish Terrier is one of five terrier breeds from the region, alongside the modern Skye, Cairn, Dandie Dinmont, and West Highland White terriers. Known for their independence and rugged nature, Scotties feature a wiry outer coat complemented by a soft, dense undercoat. The breed earned the nickname “the diehard” from the first Earl of Dumbarton, who attributed it to their bravery; in fact, this nickname also inspired the name of his regiment, The Royal Scots, Dumbarton’s Diehard. Originally, Scottish Terriers were bred to hunt vermin on farms. Scottish Terriers, commonly known as Scotties, are characterised by their territorial nature, alertness, quick movements, and spirited demeanour, often more so than other terrier breeds. This independent and self-assured breed is playful and intelligent, earning the nickname “Diehard” due to its tenacity and rugged spirit. The term was first coined in the 18th century by George, the first Earl of Dumbarton, who owned a renowned pack of Scottish Terriers known for their bravery, which inspired the name of his regiment, The Royal Scots, “Dumbarton’s Diehards.” While Scotties are known for their affectionate nature, they can also be quite stubborn. They may appear aloof, yet they tend to form strong attachments to one or two family members, demonstrating deep loyalty. Scotties can be groomed to remove their breed-specific skirt, and they often exhibit traits of a good watchdog. They typically bark only when necessary and are usually reserved around strangers, although individual behaviours may vary. Known for their fearlessness, Scottish Terriers may display aggression toward other dogs unless socialised from a young age. Bred to hunt and fight Eurasian badgers, Scotties have a natural inclination to dig and chase small mammals like squirrels, rats, and mice. Therefore, it’s not advisable to keep them with small domesticated animals such as cats, rabbits, or ferrets. Additionally, they may not be suitable for households with small children or those inexperienced with dogs.
Shar Pei		9 - 11 years	16 - 29kg	Males: 46 - 51cm females: 46 - 51cm	Suspicious Affectionate Reserved Devoted Independent loving	The Shar Pei (Chinese: 沙皮; Cantonese Yale: shā pèih; pinyin: shā pí) is a dog breed that originated in southern China. Historically, these dogs were used as property guardians but faced near extinction in the 20th century. In the West, the Shar Pei is recognised for its prominent wrinkles, while a more traditional, less wrinkled version is preserved in Hong Kong. The Shar Pei is known for its distinctive wrinkled skin and unique appearance, but its temperament is equally noteworthy. This breed is often described as loyal, independent, and calm. While Shar Peis can be reserved with strangers, they are deeply devoted to their families and tend to form strong bonds with their owners. They have a protective instinct, making them good guard dogs, yet they are also gentle and affectionate with their loved ones. Early socialisation and consistent training are important for Shar Peis to help them develop a well-rounded personality, as their independent nature can sometimes lead to stubbornness. Overall, the Shar Pei is a loving and reliable companion with a distinctive character.
Shetland Sheepdog		12 - 13 years	Males: 6.4 - 12 kg Females: 6.4 - 12kg	Males: 33 - 41cm Females: 33 - 41cm	Intelligent Lively Alert Responsive Loyal	The Shetland Sheepdog, commonly known as the Sheltie, is a herding dog breed that hails from the Shetland Islands of Scotland. It was officially recognised by The Kennel Club in 1909. Originally named the Shetland Collie, the breed faced naming disputes with Rough Collie breeders, leading to its current designation. This small, intelligent dog is known for being vocal, eager to please, and dependable. Similar to the Shetland pony, cattle, and sheep, the Shetland Sheepdog is a robust yet compact breed designed to thrive in the harsh conditions of its native islands. While it continues to excel in herding tasks, the Sheltie is also commonly kept as a working dog and cherished family pet today. Dr. Stanley Coren, a renowned expert on canine intelligence, ranks the Shetland Sheepdog as one of the smartest dog breeds, placing it 6th out of 138 breeds studied. His research indicates that an average Shetland Sheepdog can learn a new command in fewer than five repetitions and will reliably follow a command the first time it is given 95% of the time or more.
Shiba Inu		12 - 15 years	Males: 10kg Females: 8kg	Males: 35 - 43cm Females: 33 - 41cm	Charming Keen Alert Faithful Fearless Confident	The Shiba Inu (柴犬, Shiba Inu) is a small-to-medium breed of hunting dog that originates from Japan. As the smallest of the six original Japanese dog breeds, its name translates to “brushwood dog,” reflecting its historical role in flushing game. Characterised by its small size, alertness, and agility, the Shiba Inu is well-suited to mountainous terrains and hiking trails. Originally bred for hunting, this breed possesses a keen sense of awareness and an energetic nature. While it shares a resemblance with other Japanese breeds such as the Akita Inu and Hokkaido, the Shiba Inu is distinct in its bloodline, temperament, and size, making it a unique breed in its own right. The Shiba Inu is characterised as an alert, affectionate, and independent breed. Known for its high intelligence, the Shiba Inu can also display a stubborn and strong-willed nature. This breed embodies what is described as “spirited boldness” (悍威, kan’i), “good nature” (良性, ryōsei), and “artlessness” (素朴, soboku), terms that have been subject to much interpretation and discussion. Experts have classified the Shiba Inu as having high aggression, high reactivity, and medium trainability. This behaviour may be attributed to the breed’s closer genetic relationship with wolves compared to other domesticated dogs. Due to their intelligence, Shiba Inus require plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. Without sufficient physical activity, they may develop anxiety, leading to undesirable behaviours, including the notorious “shiba scream.” A survey conducted in Japan found that Shiba Inus are more likely to exhibit destructive behaviour, refuse to walk on a leash, engage in mounting behaviour, and chase their tails. Interestingly, they were also found to be less likely to bark at noises inside the house, indicating a unique temperament among breeds.
Shih Tzu		10 - 16 years	4 - 7.5kg	Males: 20 - 28cm Females: 20 - 28cm	Playful Clever Affectionate Outgoing	The Shih Tzu (pronounced “sheed zoo”) is a toy dog breed recognised in the USA and classified as a Utility breed by the British Kennel Club. Originating from Tibet, the Shih Tzu has a complex lineage, frequently interbred with Tibetan Spaniels in its early history. This interbreeding explains the occasional appearance of Spaniel traits in litters from the 1930s to the 1970s. Following the Chinese Revolution, the breed faced significant challenges, leading to a very limited gene pool for the modern Shih Tzu. In the 1950s, the British Kennel Club permitted a one-time introduction of Pekinese blood to help diversify the gene pool. It is important to note that American and British Shih Tzus exhibit distinct differences, and a modern miniature version known as the “Karashishi” has been introduced, though it is reported to be less healthy than traditional Shih Tzus. Shih Tzus are adaptable dogs that can thrive in various environments, from urban flats to large country gardens. While they possess a highly independent nature, which can make them less obedient than breeds like Spaniels, Retrievers, and Collies, they are generally quiet, companionable, and low-maintenance, especially when their coats are clipped short. Their friendly demeanour makes them suitable companions for a range of households.

Siberian Husky		12 - 15 years	Males: 20 - 27kg Females: 16 - 23kg	Males: 53 - 60cm (21 - 23.5in) Females: 51 - 56cm (20 - 22in)	Outgoing Intelligent Alert Friendly Stubborn	The Siberian Husky is a medium-sized sled dog belonging to the Spitz genetic family, known for its thick double coat, erect triangular ears, and distinctive markings. Originating in Northeast Asia, they were bred by the Chukchi and other Siberian peoples for sled pulling and companionship. This active and resilient breed was introduced to Nome, Alaska, during the gold rush for use in mining and expeditions. Today, Siberian Huskies are often kept as pets but are still commonly used as sled dogs by competitive and recreational mushers. Siberian Huskies typically howl instead of barking and are known for their escape artist tendencies, often digging, chewing, or jumping over fences. Classified by the ASPCA as good with children, they have high energy levels and specific exercise needs, which, if unmet, can lead to destructive behaviour. A minimum 6-foot fence is recommended, as they can jump even higher. Huskies thrive on companionship from people and other dogs, feeling a strong need to be part of a pack. Their character is friendly and gentle, but a study linked the breed to impulsivity and high activity levels. Canine psychologist Stanley Coren ranked Huskies 77th in intelligence among breeds, but this ranking focused mainly on trainability in specific contexts.
Skye Terrier		12 - 15 years	Males: 16 - 18kg Females: 12 - 14kg	Males: 24 - 25cm Females: 20 - 25cm	Intelligent Good-tempered Friendly Loyal Fearless	The Skye Terrier is a Scottish breed known for its long, low stature and robust build. It is considered “one of the most endangered native dog breeds in the United Kingdom,” as noted by the Kennel Club. The Skye Terrier is known for its unique temperament, characterised by loyalty, courage, and independence. These dogs are devoted to their families and often form strong bonds with their owners. While they can be reserved around strangers, they are affectionate and playful with those they trust. Skye Terriers possess a curious nature and enjoy exploring their surroundings. Despite their small size, they have a bold spirit and a strong-willed personality, which can sometimes lead to stubbornness. Early socialisation and consistent training are essential to ensure they develop into well-rounded companions.
Spanish Mastiff		10 - 12 years	Males: 90 - 100kg Females: 52 - 77kg	Males: 72 - 88cm Females: 77 - 88cm	Self-assured Affectionate Intelligent Noble Determined	***GUERNSEY CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS BREED*** The Spanish Mastiff, also known as Mastín Español, is a breed of dog that originates from Spain. Initially bred as a guard dog, its primary role is to serve as a livestock guardian, protecting flocks and herds from wolves and other predators. This noble giant exudes an air of aloofness, dignity, and calm intelligence. Devoted to its family, it can graciously accept strangers if properly socialised, though it may remain cautious around them. However, it can display aggression toward other dogs. The Spanish Mastiff may not be the best choice for urban living due to its large size and booming bark, which can create challenges in a city environment. Nonetheless, it serves as a fantastic protector of its home and loved ones. To ensure the Spanish Mastiff becomes a stable and dependable companion, early socialisation and training are essential. Exposing the puppy to a variety of unfamiliar yet non-threatening dogs under supervision will help reduce any aggressive tendencies. This breed is highly alert and motivated by food but can become bored easily, so training should be consistent, firm, and gentle. Once the trainer earns the dog’s respect as a leader, the Spanish Mastiff will prove to be an exceptionally loyal pet.
Spanish Water Dog		10 - 14 years	Males: 18 - 22kg Females: 14 - 18kg	Males: 42 - 52cm Females: 38 - 48cm	Intelligent Affectionate Diligent Loyal Athletic Trainable	The Spanish Water Dog (perro de agua español) is a versatile breed utilised in Spain for various tasks, primarily serving as a sheepdog and guardian. Additionally, it is occasionally employed as a gundog, showcasing its exceptional skills in retrieving from water. The Spanish Water Dog (SWD) is known for its diligence, loyalty, affection, and intelligence. With strong natural herding and guarding instincts, they often take on the role of “self-appointed” guardians of their homes. SWDs thrive on both work and play, and their athleticism, coupled with their hardworking nature, allows them to excel in various tasks. While they can be cautious around strangers, early and ongoing socialisation with a diverse range of people and animals is crucial for developing a well-adjusted and sociable dog. Proper socialisation during puppyhood is especially beneficial for cohabiting with small children.
St Bernard		8 - 10 years	Males: 64 - 82kg Females: 54 - 64kg	Males: 70 - 90cm Females: 65 - 80cm	Lively Friendly Gentle Calm Watchful	The St. Bernard is a very large working dog breed originating from the Western Alps in Italy and Switzerland. Bred for rescue work by the hospice at the Great St. Bernard Pass, these dogs gained fame for their rescue efforts in the Alps and are well-known for their gentle temperament and impressive size. The breed’s history dates back to the acquisition of its first dogs between 1660 and 1670 by the hospice founded by the Alpine monk Saint Bernard of Menthon. The St. Bernard is a quintessential gentle giant, known for its calm, patient, and sweet demeanour, especially with children. This breed is characterised by its loyalty and affection, making it a friendly companion when properly socialised. While not inherently protective, a St. Bernard may bark at strangers, and its large size can serve as a deterrent to potential intruders. Originally bred as a working companion, St. Bernards thrive on pleasing their owners and remain amiable yet diligent workers. They retain their natural scenting abilities and, depending on the trainer’s skill and the dog’s aptitude, can excel in tracking events or even participate in search and rescue operations.
Staffordshire Bull Terrier		12 - 14 years	Males: 13 - 17kg Females: 11 - 15kg	Males: 36 - 41cm Females: 33 - 38cm	Intelligent Reliable Loyal Bold Affectionate Fearless Courageous	The Staffordshire Bull Terrier, often referred to as the Staffy or Stafford, is a purebred dog of small to medium size that belongs to the terrier group. This breed originated in the northern regions of Birmingham and the Black Country of Staffordshire, from which it gets its name. Staffordshire Bull Terriers trace their lineage back to 19th-century bull terriers, which were created by crossing bulldogs with various terrier breeds to form a type known as bull and terriers. While they share ancestry with the modern Bull Terrier, the two breeds have evolved along separate paths and have distinct appearances. Today’s Staffords bear a closer resemblance to the older type of bull terrier and were officially recognised as a purebred breed by The Kennel Club of Great Britain in 1935. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is known for its affectionate and loyal temperament. These dogs are often described as friendly and outgoing, forming strong bonds with their families. Despite their muscular build and history as fighting dogs, Staffies are typically gentle and good-natured, especially with children. They possess a playful spirit and enjoy being active, making them excellent companions for families who lead an energetic lifestyle. While they can be somewhat stubborn, proper training and socialisation from a young age can help them become well-mannered and obedient pets. Overall, Staffordshire Bull Terriers are known for their loving disposition and unwavering loyalty to their owners.
Thai Ridgeback		12 - 13 years	Males: 23 - 34kg Females: 16 - 25kg	Males: 56 - 61cm Females: 51 - 56cm	Loyal Protective Independent Loving Familial	The Thai Ridgeback (Thai: ไทยหลังอาน, RTGS: Thai Lang-An) is a dog breed native to Thailand. It is one of only three breeds known for having a distinctive ridge of hair along its back that grows in the opposite direction to the rest of its coat. The other two breeds with this unique feature are the Rhodesian Ridgeback and the Phu Quoc Ridgeback. Thai Ridgebacks are known for their intelligence and have a medium to high energy level, typically spending much of the day lounging with bursts of activity. When well-bred and properly socialised, they can be loyal and loving family pets. These dogs possess a natural protective instinct towards their home and family, but without adequate socialisation, they may exhibit aggression or shyness. They thrive under consistent owners who have a solid understanding of dog behaviour. Due to their historical isolation and limited human interaction, Thai Ridgebacks maintain an independent mindset and retain many of their original instincts and drives, particularly their prey drive. For this reason, they are not recommended for novice dog owners. Additionally, they possess excellent jumping abilities and may attempt to roam if not properly contained.
Tibetan Mastiff		12 - 15 years	Males: 41 - 68kg Females: 34 - 54kg	Males: 66 - 76cm Females: 61 - 71cm	Protective Stubborn Aloof Intelligent Tenacious Strong willed	The Tibetan Mastiff is a large breed of dog originating from Tibet. This breed features a double coat that ranges from medium to long in length, depending on the climate, and comes in a diverse array of colours. These include solid black, black and tan, various shades of red (ranging from pale gold to deep red), bluish-grey (a diluted black), and often has white markings on the neck, chest, and legs. As a flock guardian dog in Tibet and the West, the Tibetan Mastiff employs typical livestock guardian tactics, such as barking and scent-marking perimeters, to deter predators and avoid confrontations. In a more domesticated setting, they can thrive in a spacious, fenced yard alongside a canine companion, but they are not suitable for apartment living. Western-bred Tibetan Mastiffs tend to be more easy-going, though they often remain aloof with strangers. Over centuries of selective breeding for their roles as protectors of both livestock and family, these dogs have developed into vigilant nocturnal sentries, barking at unfamiliar sounds throughout the night. It is not advisable to leave a Tibetan Mastiff outdoors overnight near neighbours, as they typically sleep during the day and become more active and alert at night. Like all flock guardian breeds, Tibetan Mastiffs are intelligent but can be stubborn, making obedience training essential, albeit only moderately effective for some individuals. Because of their strong-willed nature and powerful build, socialisation training is also crucial, especially if they are not intended solely for guarding livestock. While they can be excellent family dogs, it is vital for owners to understand canine psychology and dedicate significant time and effort to training. Inconsistency in training can lead to unpredictable behaviour. The protectiveness of Tibetan Mastiffs requires careful management from their owners to prevent mishaps stemming from their guardian instincts. This breed is not recommended for novice dog owners.

Tibetan Spaniel		12 - 15 years	4.1 - 6.8kg	25cm	Assertive Playful Happy Aloof Independent	The Tibetan Spaniel is a small, assertive dog breed that hails from Tibet. Despite its name, it is not a true spaniel in the traditional sense, as its breeding purpose differs from that of typical spaniels. Unlike spaniels, which are often bred as gun dogs, the Tibetan Spaniel is primarily a companion dog. The “spaniel” name may have been assigned due to its resemblance to lapdog versions of hunting spaniels, such as the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Tibetan Spaniels are a social breed that thrives on regular interaction with their human companions. They don’t cope well with being left alone for extended periods. Originally bred by Tibetan monks as companion dogs, they are highly emotional and sensitive to their owners’ needs. Early socialisation with different people and environments is crucial for Tibetan Spaniels. They are naturally protective of their family and, even when socialised, tend to be reserved around strangers. When feeling startled or uneasy, they often express their discomfort with loud alarm barking. While deeply loyal to their family, Tibetan Spaniels are known for their independence and stubbornness, often preferring to explore rather than respond to calls. This assertive, independent, and alert nature aligns with the breed standards set by both the AKC and FCI.
Tibetan Terrier		12 - 15 years	8 - 14kg	35 - 41cm	Amiable Sensitive Energetic Affectionate Reserved Gentle	The Tibetan Terrier is a medium-sized dog breed that originated in Tibet. Despite its name, it is not part of the terrier group. European travellers gave it the name “terrier” due to its resemblance to familiar terrier breeds. In Tibetan, the breed is called “Tsang Apso,” which roughly translates to “shaggy or bearded (‘apso’) dog from the province of Tsang.” Some old travel accounts also refer to the breed as “Dokhi Apso” or “outdoor Apso,” highlighting its role as a shaggy, bearded working dog that lived outdoors. The temperament of the Tibetan Terrier is one of the breed’s most appealing traits. They are friendly and affectionate family dogs, sensitive to their owners, and gentle with older children when properly introduced. As a breed with watchdog origins, Tibetan Terriers tend to be reserved around strangers but should never be aggressive or overly shy. Known for their deep bark, they can be prone to excessive barking. While they can adapt to apartment living, Tibetan Terriers are energetic and require regular exercise. Their energy levels range from moderate to high, and they are generally happy, lively, intelligent, and agile. This makes them well-suited for dog sports like agility. They are determined and clever, but this can sometimes lead to stubbornness. Tibetan Terriers are typically charming and loyal, though some may be possessive of their resources, which can make living with other pets challenging.
Vizsla		12 - 15 years	Males: 20 - 29kg Females: 18 - 25kg	Males: 56 - 64cm Females: 53 - 61cm	Affectionate Loyal Energetic Gentle Quiet	The Vizsla (Hungarian: [ˈviʒlɒ]), also known as the Hungarian Vizsla, Magyar Vizsla, or Hungarian Pointer, is a dog breed from Hungary. It belongs to the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) group 7 (Pointing Dogs), the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) group 1 (Sporting Group), and the American Kennel Club (Sporting Group). The Vizsla, known for its medium size, is a versatile hunting dog and a loyal companion. Traditionally used for hunting fowl and upland game, the breed excels at pointing, tracking, and retrieving, even in water. In addition to their hunting skills, Hungarian Vizslas are affectionate, gentle, and lively, with a strong protective instinct. They are renowned for being fearless and sensitive, making them excellent household companions and family dogs. Vizslas are natural hunters with a strong aptitude for training. Not only are they excellent pointers, but they are also superb retrievers, both on land and in water, utilising their instinctive skills. However, due to their sensitive nature, Vizslas require gentle training methods. Harsh commands or physical corrections can negatively impact them. These dogs thrive on attention, exercise, and interaction, and being intelligent, they need plenty of mental stimulation, especially when young. If left alone for extended periods, they can become bored and destructive. With proper socialisation and training, Vizslas are gentle and great with children. They are known for their strong attachment to their owners and often prefer to sleep under the covers in their owner’s bed.
Weimaraner		11 - 14 years	Males: 32 - 37kg Females: 25 - 32kg	Males: 62 - 67cm Females: 59 - 63cm	Steady Powerful Intelligent Aloof Stubborn Alert Energetic	The Weimaraner is a medium to large-sized German hunting dog breed, with a history dating back to at least the 19th century. Originating from the area around the city of Weimar, located in what was then Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach (now part of Thuringia), the breed was officially recognised in 1891. Known for its versatility as an all-purpose gun dog, the Weimaraner is admired for its speed, stamina, keen sense of smell, sharp eyesight, courage, and intelligence. In Germany, however, it is generally not considered suitable as a companion dog. Weimaraners are known for their energetic, intelligent, and affectionate temperament. They are highly active dogs that thrive on physical activity and mental stimulation, making them excellent companions for active individuals or families. Weimaraners are also very loyal and bond closely with their owners, often seeking to be involved in every aspect of family life. However, their high energy and intelligence can sometimes lead to restlessness or destructive behaviour if not properly exercised and mentally engaged. With the right training and environment, they are obedient, eager to please, and make great family pets.
Welsh Terrier		12 - 15 years	9.1 - 10kg	35 - 39cm	Alert Friendly Spirited	The Welsh Terrier (Welsh: Daeargi Cymreig) hails from Wales and was originally bred for hunting foxes, rodents, and badgers. However, over the last century, it has primarily been bred for dog shows, although it has retained its strong terrier personality. It is sometimes claimed to be the oldest surviving dog breed in the UK. Initially, the Welsh Terrier was mainly a working dog and was a latecomer to the British show scene, only being officially recognised as a breed in the 19th century. Today, it is on the UK Kennel Club’s list of vulnerable breeds, with only around 300 puppies registered annually, compared to the tens of thousands seen with more popular breeds. The Welsh Terrier has the typical temperament of a terrier. In the right hands, it is a happy, lively dog, rarely shy or timid, though it can sometimes show a bit of attitude. Generally, Welsh Terriers are friendly with both people and other dogs, but they won’t back down when they perceive a challenge. They are loyal companions and can adapt to life in the city or the countryside. Originally bred to hunt independently, Welsh Terriers are assertive and stoic, traits that can make obedience training a long-term commitment. Regular reinforcement is necessary, as they are ranked 101st in Stanley Coren’s *The Intelligence of Dogs*, indicating average working and obedience intelligence. However, this doesn’t mean Welsh Terriers don’t understand commands—they simply tend to make their own decisions, requiring consistent training. They are quick thinkers and can be creative when left to their own devices. Like many terriers, they may bark excessively and enjoy digging. These dogs are full of energy and need regular exercise beyond a simple run around the yard. Without sufficient stimulation, they can become bored and may explore or engage in destructive behaviour. Welsh Terriers thrive on challenges, such as chasing toys or swimming. Welsh Terriers also get along well with children, as they love to play and will often follow children around. However, their enthusiasm can sometimes result in them tugging on pant legs or accidentally knocking over young kids. Early exposure to young children can help them learn to play more gently. As with all breeds, early socialisation is key for Welsh Terriers, exposing them to a variety of dogs, people, and experiences to help them grow into well-rounded adults.
Whippet		12 - 15 years	11 - 19kg	Males: 47 - 51cm Females: 44 - 47cm	Affectionate Lively Intelligent Friendly Gentle Quiet	The whippet is a medium-sized British dog of the sighthound type, closely related to both the larger greyhound and the smaller Italian greyhound. Apart from size differences, the whippet shares a striking resemblance with these breeds and is sometimes referred to as a “miniature greyhound” or colloquially as “the poor man’s racehorse.” Whippets are kept as companion animals and are popular in competitive dog shows, as well as amateur racing. They also excel in various dog sports, including lure coursing, agility, and flyball. Known for their exceptional speed, whippets have the highest running speed among breeds in their weight class and may possess the quickest acceleration from a standstill. Their temperament is gentle, affectionate, and calm, making them relaxed at home, while they display high energy and excitement when outdoors. The breed’s name, “whippet,” originates from a now-obsolete seventeenth-century term meaning “to move briskly.” Whippets are known for their quiet and reserved nature, yet they also display a playful side and require regular exercise. Generally gentle, they are content to spend much of the day resting. The AKC describes them as “quiet and dignified in their owner’s living room,” highlighting their suitability as excellent house dogs. In Lancashire and Yorkshire, they’ve been affectionately referred to as a “poor man’s racehorse.” Whippets form strong bonds with their owners and can experience separation anxiety when left alone, much like many other breeds. While they don’t bark frequently, they may do so in the presence of intruders, making them decent watchdogs for small to medium-sized dogs. However, due to their gentle and often shy demeanour, Whippets are unlikely to attack or guard against anyone.
White Swiss Shepherd		10 - 14 years	Males: 30 - 40kg Females: 25 - 35kg	Males: 60 - 66cm Females: 55 - 61cm	Lively Intelligent Alert Friendly Affectionate Sociable	The White Swiss Shepherd Dog, known as Berger Blanc Suisse in French, Weisser Schweizer Schäferhund in German, and Pastore Svizzero Bianco in Italian, is a breed of shepherd dog from Switzerland. This breed originated from North American White Shepherds that were imported to Switzerland, while the White Shepherd itself traces its lineage back to purebred German Shepherds with white coats. he White Swiss Shepherd Dog is known for its gentle and friendly temperament. These dogs are intelligent, loyal, and eager to please, making them excellent family companions. They are highly social and thrive on human interaction, often forming strong bonds with their families. Their playful nature and patience make them great with children, while their protective instincts ensure they are vigilant guardians. With proper training and socialisation, White Swiss Shepherds exhibit a calm demeanor and adaptability, making them suitable for various environments, from active households to quieter settings.
Yorkshire Terrier		13 - 16 years	Up to 3.2kg		Lively Bold Affectionate Confident Curious Active Playful Courageous	The Yorkshire Terrier, commonly known as the Yorkie, is a British toy dog breed of terrier type. It is one of the smallest terrier breeds and indeed among the smallest of all dog breeds, typically weighing no more than 3.2 kg (7 lbs). The breed originated in the 19th century in the English county of Yorkshire, from which it takes its name. Its coat is distinctively tan on the head and dark steel-grey on the body, and no other colours are accepted by The Kennel Club or the Fédération Cynologique Internationale. Known for being playful and energetic, the Yorkie is primarily kept as a companion dog. It has played a role in developing other breeds, such as the Silky Terrier, and in creating popular cross-breeds like the Yorkipoo. The ideal Yorkshire Terrier character, or “personality,” is described by The Kennel Club as possessing a “carriage very upright, conveying an important air.” This suggests that Yorkies carry themselves with confidence and pride, displaying a dignified and self-assured demeanour despite their small size. Their posture reflects their lively and bold nature, which is typical of terrier breeds.