

Characteristics of Males and Females

In some ways, choosing between a male and a female dog is a matter of personal preference. However, there are some characteristics which are common in females and other characteristics which are more common in male dogs. It is important to evaluate these characteristics to determine which sex would fit in best with your home situation. Additionally, choosing between a male or a female dog is important if you already have another female or male at home. This article will list a few characteristics of females and a few characteristics of male dogs, these are simply generalizations.

The following characteristics often apply to females:

Independent - females tend to want to be in control of the entire situation. They may come to their owner when they are seeking affection but will often move away when they have had enough.

Stubborn - In many packs, a female is typically the Alpha. Female dogs crave more control of situations and are quick to respond to perceived challenges with fierceness.

Territorial - Female dogs mark in the same way male dogs do. A spayed female may continue to mark for her entire lifetime regardless of when she is spayed while most males will cease marking behaviors shortly after they are neutered and the testosterone levels subside.

Reserved - females are generally less affectionate and friendly than male dogs. This characteristic is noticeable in puppies and becomes more pronounced with age.

Changes in Mood or Behavior - It is also important to note that if you do not spay your bitch, she will come into heat at approximately one year of age and approximately every six months thereafter. During this time, there will be some bleeding as well as a change in mood or behavior.

The following characteristics often apply to male dogs:

Affectionate - Male dogs are typically more affectionate than females. They tend to crave attention from their owners more than females and as a result, display more affectionate behaviors.

Exuberant - A male dog is also more likely to be fun-loving and outgoing throughout his lifetime than a bitch. While a bitch tends to become more reserved as she ages, a male dog maintains a more puppy-like exuberance throughout his lifetime.

Food-Motivated - Males are often very motivated by food. Food motivation can make training extremely easy as treats can be used to lure and reward a dog to display desired behaviors.

Attentive - While females tend to be more independent, males tend to be more focused on their human companions. They want to always be close to the human and are very eager to please.

Aggressive Behaviors - It is also important to note that intact males may display aggressive behaviors toward other males or exhibit marking behaviors. Additionally, intact males should be kept away from females in heat unless a breeding is planned.