CHARTING A COMPLEX WORLD.

TECHATLAS | Dog Map

A DIVISION OF RACAPITAL

Summary

No other extreme of animal displays so much diversity. Today there are over 400 breeds of dog to choose from, in every shape and size, not to mention cross breeds. But despite so much variation, all domestic dogs are part of the same family, Canis familaris, proven by DNA analysis to be descendants of Canis lupus, the wolf.

The wolf's adaptability to different environments, and its ability to co-operate socially, led to success in the wild. For the same reasons it was also well prepared for adapting to a domestic life. In fact it is the domesticated wolf that has proved most successful. Today there are more than 400 million dogs around the world, compared with only about 40,000 wolves left in the wild.

It's been a very long time since your Cocker Spaniel's forebears roamed the plains in packs hunting for food. It's obvious, our dogs retain many of the behavioral characteristics of the young wolf - playfulness, an urge to explore, and willingness to be submissive to those who take the role of leader. But the wolf is very its social organization from living alone to living in pairs or in large packs. Its excellent communication abilities, and its need to develop stable social relationships also have also been passed on to the dog.

Behaviorally the dog is a bit like a wolf that has never grown up, a permanent 11-year-old in human terms, with a strong desire for attention, food, running, guarding, herding or the like.

Dogs have had a special bond with humans for 12,000 years. We befriended each other when wolves were foraging for food, and hunting together for food, and our own ancestors quickly discovered that 'dogs' could help them track and hunt animals.

The wolves that were most tolerant of humans and became part of the resident population, humans recognized that young wolves could be socialized and put to useful purposes. We began by selecting them for their friendliness and for their useful physical and behavioral characteristics.

We bred our 'wolf' specifically to enhance useful behaviors. The wolf remains the best general all-rounder, but some breeds have been selected to make them now far better at certain things than their ancestor. The Bloodhound can track a scent better, a German Shepherd guards better, a Greyhound is faster. Terriers are better at digging out their prey, and a Charles Spaniel fits much better on your lap than a Timber Wolf ever can!

By 7,000 BC breeding was widespread. The first recognized 'breed' probably was the Saluki, a hound specifically developed for its speed in hunting. As time went on, humans bred more specialist skills, such as Bloodhounds and Scenthounds. Shapes and sizes evolved to suit hunting, such as the need for speed and acute hearing and sight. So much breeding went on that by the time of the Roman Empire most of today's general breed types were already identifiable.

Map Classifications

Energy Levels

For this classification, energy is defined as the amount of time and the intensity of exercise they need. High energy describes their disposition, for example, a toy breed such as a Yorkie or Chihuahua are high energy dogs in that they bounce off the walls and need to be constantly busy. But conversely, a Greyhound is very low energy and laid back, however requires more exercise than most.

- **Low Energy:** Barely know they are in the house
- **Medium Energy:** They have spurts of energy but can get riled up, but are mostly calm
- **High Energy:** Overly excitable, bouncy

Exercise Needs

The exercise needs delineation is quite straightforward. It is the time we determine the amount of time you will need to spend exercising your dog, either bringing them along for a run, walk or throwing the ball for an hour. Exercise is important, but an important part of a dog's day. If you have a dog with energy to burn, be sure to exhaust it before you leave it alone in the house from tiring other spaces to entertain themselves and burn energy. Remember that any dog CAN do well in an apartment, it just depends on how much time you have to give it the exercise. If a Border Collie does not receive enough physical exertion, they will most likely channel that unused energy into destroying your house, or anything in it's vicinity.

- **Low Exercise Needs:** 10-15 minute walk twice a day; just enough time to take care of business
- **Moderate Exercise Needs:** Plan on spending about 30 minutes, two times per day walking the dog, or shorter periods of time with more intensity
- **High Exercise Needs:** These dogs need to be physically exhausted at least 45 minutes to an hour of vigorous exercise 1-2 times per day.

Adaptability to Apartments

Anyone who has lived in an apartment knows how difficult it can be to find a place that allows dogs, with weight and limits and some even prohibit certain breeds. When you do find a place that allows dogs, make sure you choose a dog that will abiee these living conditions. Not only will a poorly suited dog not do well be happy as long as their needs are being fulfilled. As mentioned above, with enough exercise, any dog can do well in an apartment setting. Physically exhausting the dog will make him calm and relaxed in the house and will avoid destruction. The separation in this map again is a matter of energy and time. Many small dogs are much happier in a field or a farm with no fences as that is how they were bred and what their instincts are. Others don't care where they are and are happy as long as they can go out for a walk on the sidewalk where it's time to go. The main decision in this category is whether the owner wants to be able to be able to walk, free, and chasing something all the time, or if it was bred to be relaxed and a lap dog.

Trainability

Like people, every dog has it's own personality. Some are stubborn and will ignore you; others will hang on your every word and do whatever it takes to please you. The trainability category on this map is based on the innate behavioral characteristics of each breed. Each dog is unique and may be different from what is described here, but in general each breed has something that is necessary for proper interaction with other dogs, people, and pets. Not everyone is a dog person, and so making sure your dog behaves around people who are afraid of dogs or getting a dog to play dead and relaxed is fun, this category is more based on the basics of the dogs ability to listen and obey commands. Training your dog is not just teaching it command and how pup, which will also lead to a calmer disposition. Much like people, if their needs are not satisfied they won't will other will find ways to release it, like figuring out how to escape a fence or open doors. Puppy classes and basic obedient training can help with all dogs. Negative reinforcement, or physically disciplining on most breeds, so positive training is always encouraged.

- **Easy to Train:** These dogs are born to please, training is a breeze and is perhaps the best bet for first time owners.
- **Moderate to Train:** These dogs may have a bit more stubbornness and it may take a stricter hand to enforce training, there breeds may pose a challenge for first time owners, but with the right attitude with some training classes to help.
- **Difficult to Train:** Probably the most stubborn and independent dogs, they need a definite alpha presence from the owner, and a firm hand. Training classes and are probably best suited for experienced dog owners.

Family Orientation

Again, these traits are generalities and may differ from dog to dog of the same breed. Some "family-friendly" dogs may have had a traumatic experience with a child, and may be afraid or even agressive towards kids. And some dogs that may not be recommended for a family may have been raised and allow the child to become part of the pack. If you do have a young family, do as much research as possible on a specific breed of interest, and the dog you choose should be a member of your family. A lot of the toy breeds seem like they would be perfect fits for children, but in actuality, their size and weight are detrimental to being around children. Toy dogs are fragile, and can easily break a bone with just hugging or squeezing. Also, some herding breeds like to nip at the heels of your children as their instincts kick in.

- **Great with Children:** Can coexist with any age child
- **Not Ideal with Children:** Better suited for families with older children or adults only

Shedding

This would be the most important category for the neat freaks and the allergic. Something to keep in mind, all dogs shed. Another way to keep in mind is that dogs are hair, not fur, like the fur, they have allergies to the skin or dander. All dogs have dander, it is dander that causes allergies in people with allergies more or less. While some may be so little it is uncollectable, shedding still occurs. Dogs can have fur or hair. A dog with fur will shed it's coat in the fall to prepare for the colder spring time, the dog will shed it's winter coat to make room for the summer coat. Dogs with hair do not shed in the same have double coats, in which case the undercoat will come out in large clumps at a time. A dog with hair will not shed it's coat. Just like a human, a dog with hair will continue to grow, rather than fall out. See the grooming section to learn more about how much/little grooming is needed. For those who don't want to deal with excessive shedding, look for 'hair not fur' and 'hypoallergenic' shedders who tend to be the dogs bred for cooler climates.

- **Low Shedding:** Hypoallergenic and most of the dogs with hair instead of fur
- **Average Shedding:** These are the dogs that will shed their coat twice an year. Short-haired dogs can also shed a lot and twice a year, but the hair might be less noticeable.
- **High to Very High Shedding:** Be prepared to vacuum frequently, these dogs shed all year, some with short hair, some with fur, mostly dogs bred for cooler climates and dogs with double coats to keep them warm. When the seasons change they need to get rid of their winter coat.

Grooming

As mentioned above, dogs with hair or dogs who do not shed as much, will tend to have more grooming needs than dogs with fur that shed. Regardless of hair or fur, all dogs do need to spend a lot of time on their coats. Short haired dogs shave dogs have specific hair cuts that are standard to the breed and part of the breed's look and feel, such as the poodle a show dog, most dogs who do not shed need to be groomed or have their hair clipped a few times per year. Some dogs with fur also require a lot of grooming, brushing, bathing, or protecting the skin of the hairless breeds. Time and money need to be spent on this dog, so take into consideration how much time will need to be spent maintaining a healthy coat when making your decision.

- **Low Maintenance Grooming:** Mostly comprised of the low shedding animals or animals with short fur that requires little maintenance
- **Moderate Maintenance Grooming:** Here frequent brushing and/or bathing required. Some of these dogs may need to go to the groomers but less frequently.
- **High Maintenance Grooming:** Plan on spending a significant amount of time taking care of the appearance of your dog. Whether it's brushing for hours a day, bathing, or taking to groomer every 2-3 months, there is a time commitment that should not be ignored.

Barking

Along with size, the sounds of your potential dog should be considered when choosing a breed. Especially if you live in an apartment or have close neighbors. All dogs bark, except the Basenji. The map just categorizes their based on how often they bark, and the tone of their bark, some yap, .. it can be unbearable to some, so be sure to research how your breed tends to react. Most dogs will bark when threatened or sense danger, which can be a good thing if a dog is your only security systems you can own.

- **Low Barking Tendency:** These dogs are quiet and don't need to bark to have their presence known. Generally equipped with calmer dogs.
- **Average Barking Tendency:** These dogs will bark at the occasional stranger during play, when the door bell rings, if an intruder has entered the house, but do not bark without a reason.
- **High Barking Tendency:** These dogs bark at the slightest provocation or noise. Some dogs insist on barking all the time. If you live on a farm, it probably won't bother you as much as if you lived in a studio apartment with neighbors all around.

Drooling

While generally not a problem with the owner, drooling and slobbering definitely be a deal breaker for some dog owners. The larger the breed, the more likely it will slobber. Especially dogs with enormous cheeks and jowls. Drooling dogs are not the best dogs if you like to keep a clean house and clean clothes. A simple shake of the head could send saliva clear across the room.

- **Low Drooling:** Not noticeable, some categories don't even have a break for it
- **Moderate Drooling:** There will be some slobber, but not constant
- **High Drooling:** These dogs may look like they always have drool hanging out of their mouth, be prepared for some sloppy kisses and licks.

Dependence

This is where you decide if you want a dog that will follow you and stay by your side or if you want a dog that is comfortable doing their own thing, but may have a high wanderlust tendency. Some dogs are bred to work with their owner. Some dogs are also bred to be sight/smell hounds or vermin catchers, and they will go off on their own for days. These dogs may take off if they see a squirrel or rabbit, or for the hounds, if they catch a scent that intrigues them. This category of the map is also related to how well a dog can be left alone, if you have a dependent dog that will not wander off can you put you at ease if you live in the city or populated suburban area with many cars. A dog that will wander off may be a good choice if you cause added stress to a dog owner's life. There aren't many less hopeless feelings than worrying about an away off leash dog without tracking.

- **Codependent:** Less wandering. These dogs tend to be less distracted by their surroundings, are happy to play fetch for hours and don't feel the urge to run off.
- **Independent:** More wandering. They are usually tend to be chasing, catching, or retrieving something, so their instinct is to explore.

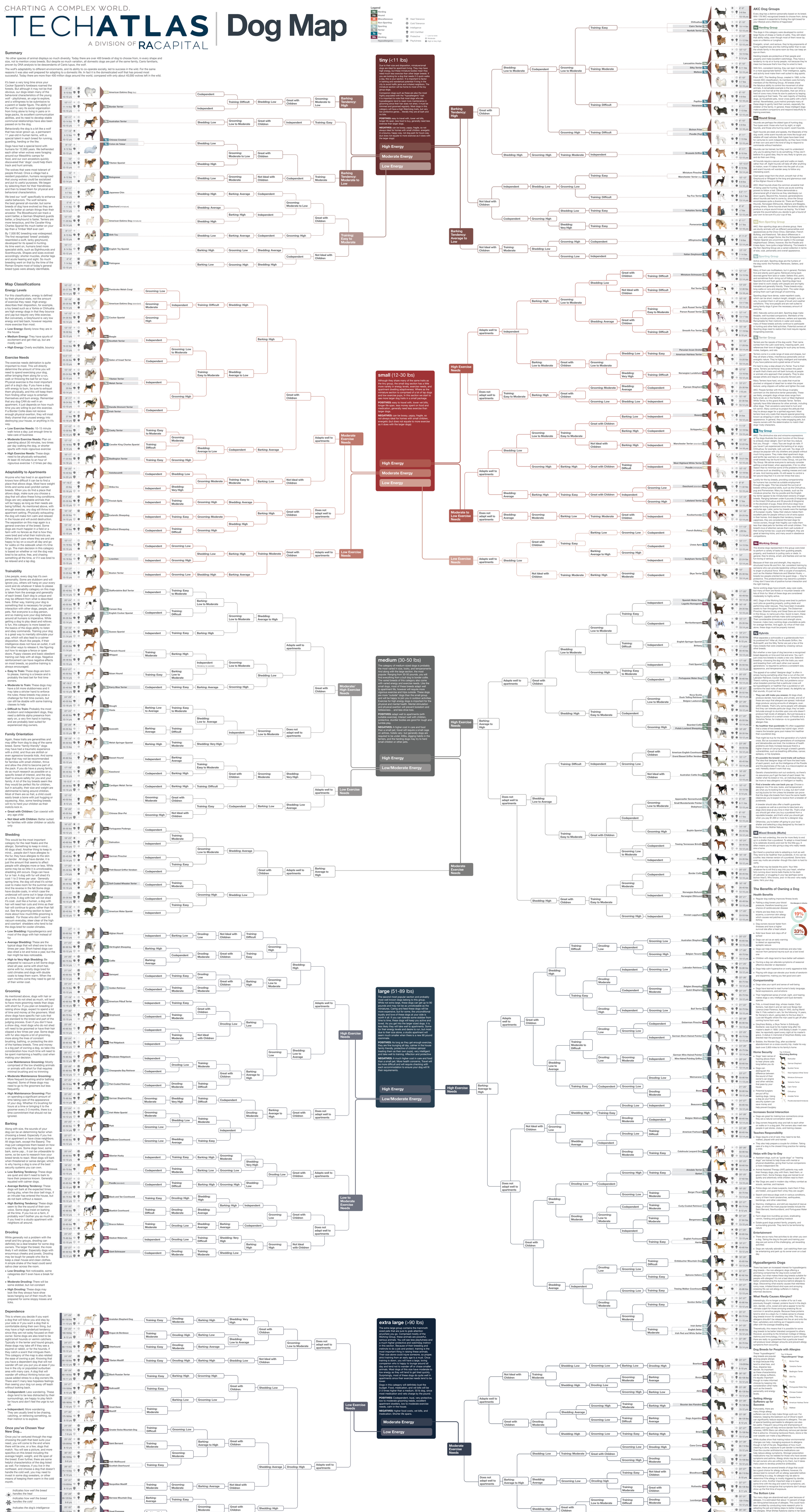
Once you've Chosen Your New Dog...

Once you've ventured through the map choosing the path that best suits your needs and lifestyle, the fun begins. There will be one, or a few, dogs that match. You will see a picture, and more specifics on this breed including the average height, weight, and the span of their lifetime. Keep in mind that there are helpful characteristics of the dog listed as well. For instance, if you live in the northeast, and choose a dog that doesn't handle the cold well, you may need to invest in a doggie sweater for those means of keeping them warm in the cold month.

- *Indicates how well the breed handles the heat*
- *Indicates how well the breed handles the cold*
- *Indicates the dog's intelligence*
- *Indicates whether or not the dog is hypoallergenic*
- *Indicates the protective instinct of the dog*
- *Indicates the playfulness of the dog*

Legend

Herding	
Hound	
Miscellaneous	Heat Tolerance
Non-Sporting	Cold Tolerance
Sporting	Intelligence
Terrier	Protective
Toy	Playfulness
Working	Low to Low Maintenance
Hypoallergenic	High to Very High


tiny (<11 lbs)
Barking Tendency: High
Barking Tendency: Moderate to Low
Barking Tendency: Average to Low
Training: Easy to Moderate
small (12-30 lbs)
High Exercise Needs
Moderate Exercise Needs
Moderate to Low Exercise Needs
Low Exercise Needs
medium (30-50 lbs)
Moderate/ High Exercise Needs
Low Exercise Needs
Moderate Exercise Needs
large (51-88 lbs)
High Exercise Needs
Low Exercise Needs
Moderate Exercise Needs
extra large (>90 lbs)
Low Exercise Needs
Moderate Exercise Needs
High Energy
Moderate Energy
Low Energy
Low/Moderate Energy
Shedding: Low
Codependent
Grooming: Low to Moderate
Training: Easy
Grooming: Moderate
Independent
Grooming: High
Training: Difficult
Great with Children
Not Ideal with Children
Training: Moderate
Grooming: Low
Training: Easy to Moderate
Shedding: High
Training: Difficult
Shedding: Very High
Grooming: Moderate to Low
Shedding: Average
Grooming: Moderate
Training: Difficult
Grooming: Low
Training: Easy
Training: Moderate
Training: Difficult
Training: Easy
Training: Difficult
Training: Easy
Training: Difficult
Training: Easy