

IS AN AFFEN THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOU?

What is an Affenpinscher? The Affen is dog of small stature with a BIG attitude. They are charming, extremely intelligent, loving and devoted to their people, cute beyond words and very, very "busy" for the most part. Once you own (or should we say, are owned by) an Affen, other breeds seem tame by comparison.

Those who have been fortunate enough to be owned by an Affenpinscher will tell you they are a fascinating breed. Those who love them are lifetime, devoted fans. They are mischievous, conniving, playful and just a fun dog to have around. The best Affen owner is an educated one. Learn all you can before you decide this is the dog for you.

The breed is generally quiet, but can become vehemently excited when threatened or attacked, and is fearless toward any aggressor. They are game, alert, and inquisitive with great loyalty and affection toward its master and friends.

The Affenpinscher has a terrier-like personality. They tend to get along with other dogs and pets especially when they are raised with them. They are busy, bold, inquisitive and stubborn, but they also love to monkey around, being playful and mischievous.

A lively sharp-witted, little dog that is courageous and confident. A fearless defender, the Affenpinscher will quickly become an authoritarian, if owners do not give the proper rules, boundaries, limitations and constantly be this dogs pack leader.

It is very affectionate and amusing. This friendly little dog enjoys being with its family. It needs consistent, firm training. Make sure there is some variety in the training so the dog does not become bored. They learn commands very quickly.

Some may be difficult to housebreak.

They are not recommended for very young children, simply because most people who own the breed treat them like a "<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/articles/smalltoydogs.htm>" small dog, lacking the proper "<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/topdogrules.htm>" pack leadership, causing negative behaviors to come out in the dog. Children

should be taught how to properly handle a dog.

Owners need to consistently be the dog's pack leader to avoid the ["http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/articles/guardingfurnitureddog.htm"](http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/articles/guardingfurnitureddog.htm) tenancy to guard their food and toys. They like to hike and go camping.

Without leadership, it may unwisely challenge large dogs and other large animals. They tend to bark and even climb. This little dog does best with a family who likes entertainment and has a very good sense of humor. Any dog who displays growling, snapping or biting, has a lacking in pack leadership. These issues can be corrected as soon as the humans take control back from the dog.

They have some personality traits that may or may not please you to live with. They do not particularly like small children. They can, and will bite if provoked. The coat requires frequent brushing and periodic grooming. They can be notoriously difficult to housebreak.

For some unknown reason, this breed of dog has a fixation for eating whatever is low enough for the dog to see, and small enough to fit into its mouth; bugs, food wrappers, plants, pebbles, etc. You must be constantly vigilant. I know of one young dog in particular that has had his stomach "pumped" at the Vets, three times, usually from getting into his Mistress's purse.

Obedience training is not impossible with an Affenpinscher, it only seems that way. Maturity is a big factor when it comes to obedience training. Younger Affens do not accept the will of owners readily, until they become mature (emotionally and physically). They are smart, often too smart, to be readily trainable. Often it is a contest of wills, to teach an Affenpinscher new behavior.

This is a small dog with a shaggy, wiry-type coat. The hair on the face is longer than the rest of the body giving it a distinct look. It is a smaller version of a working terrier and is not a delicate dog. It has a square-body, with a moderately broad, deep chest. The head is round with a pronounced stop, which is the transition area from the backskull to the muzzle. The lower jaw is undershot, and broad enough for the lower teeth

to be straight and even, protruding below the dog's short nose. The prominent, round eyes are black. The neck is short and arched and the limbs are straight and well boned. The tail is carried high and docked to two-thirds its length. The hairy ears are customarily docked, pointed and erect, however some countries have banned docking of animal's tails and ears. The coat is usually black or dark gray, but can also come in lighter gray, silver, red, or black and tan. The undercoat is slightly curly.

There are some breed specific medical issues you should investigate. Toy dogs are prone to several injuries because of their small size and a combination of genetic circumstances. Bone fractures occur often. The front legs seem to be the site of highest incidence, although not exclusively. Oligodontia (too few or too small teeth) is on the list. These dogs are sensitive to temperature extremes, especially very warm temperatures. Patellar luxation, or sliding in and out of place with the knee assembly can cause degrees of damage from dog to dog. The worst cases of luxation require surgery.