

Breed Profile - Cane Corso

History:



Cane Corsos originated in Italy with the Cane Corso Italiano, a direct ancestor of the Canis Pugnax, a dog historically used for hunting large, wild game and as an auxiliary fighter in battles. These dogs have been used as protectors of personal property, cattle and as a guardian for the family. They faced extinction as a breed in the mid 1900s, but were brought back by a group of enthusiasts and have been steadily gaining worldwide popularity since the 1980s.

Characteristics:

The Cane Corso is a very large and muscular dog, with a more chiseled appearance than most mastiffs. They are a relatively quiet breed that is reserved around strangers while very affectionate and loving around the family. Due to their high level of bonding with their family, they tend to suffer from separation anxiety issues and do not fare well in situations where they are left alone for more than a few hours at a time. Cane Corsos are oblivious to pain, and many owners report that they will walk right through electric fence systems. A true Cane Corso is not an aggressive animal and should act indifferent when approached, unless a real threat is imminent; any breeder that claims their Cane Corsos are aggressive is not accurately representing the breed and buyers should be wary of purchasing these animals.

Temperament:

Cane Corsos are highly intelligent animals that are eager to please their owners, which makes them relatively easy to train. These dogs are an excellent judge of character and represent the best breed for a watch and protection dog. Corsos will not wander from their property and prefer to remain in the home with their family. While they will not go out looking for fights, they will not back down in any situation where they feel they are being threatened, and this includes situations involving strangers with whom they do not feel comfortable. Because of this strong will and weariness of strangers it is important that these dogs are properly socialized with many different dogs and people beginning at a young age, as well as receive strong correction from a dominant owner. When raised correctly, Cane Corsos will be loyal and submissive family companions.



Care/Exercise:

This is a relatively athletic breed that needs some form of moderate exercise each day. They are great jogging partners, as well as walking buddies - they need to be taken for a run or long, brisk walk once per day for optimal health. The only grooming needed for these dogs is an occasional brushing to remove dead hair and skin cells, bathe as little as possible to prevent skin irritation.

Health Issues:

Typical bone and joint problems associated with giant breed dogs.

Average Height: Male - 24 to 27 inches / Female - 22 to 25 inches

Average Weight: Male - 95 to 110 pounds / Female - 85 to 100 pounds

Colors: Black, fawn and brindle.

Category: Mastiff