



# The Collie

The Collie, which gained early notoriety as the breed of millionaires, royalty, and as a family dog, was originally used extensively as a herding dog that hailed from the highlands of Scotland and Northern England. The true popularity of the breed came about during the 1860's when England's Queen Victoria visited the Scottish Highlands and fell in love with the breed. The Collie's character has been further romanticized and portrayed as the ideal family companion by such authors as Albert Payson

Terhune; Lad of Sunnybank, Eric Knight; Lassie Come Home, and in the 1950s TV series, Lassie.

While a faithful working dog, today the Collie's primary focus is people. A Collie is equally happy to run in the woods with its family, walk on a leash in town, or herd a gaggle of geese on the farm. They adapt well to suburban yards or large rural spaces. Whether acquired as puppies or older dogs, Collies bond easily with their families.

## Collie Care

Gentle and engaging, a Collie will steal your heart and fill your home with delight. As a loyal companion, a friend for the children, or a worker on the farm, the Collie brings to its family a love that is unconditional and generous. With this love and loyalty comes a lifelong responsibility on the part of the owners to their Collie's care and well-being.

The Collie is generally clean and odor-free. Routine care of a Collie includes brushing, nail trimming, bathing, teeth and ear cleaning, and annual wellness checkups. A common misconception is that the Collie needs daily brushing or frequent bathing. Collie's harsh coat is not prone to excessive matting. The long coated Rough Collie in full coat should be brushed at least once every week. A dog that is out of coat or in summer coat requires less grooming. The short coated Smooth Collie will require less brushing and maintenance, but both varieties do shed. Spayed females and neutered males shed once a year. Intact females shed according to their heat cycle.

Permanent microchip implant identification and registration is highly recommended. Should your dog become lost, this will assist with reuniting you with your beloved dog. Feeding your Collie a quality food

appropriate to its weight, age, and activity level will help your dog maintain proper weight leading it to live a longer, happier, healthier life.

## Health Care

One of the best resources for any Collie owner for the health and well-being of their Collie is the \*Collie Health Foundation. The Collie is over all a healthy, sturdy breed with a life expectancy average of 12-15 years. Collies and other white-footed herding breeds can be sensitive to certain drugs, among which is Ivermectin. This is the active ingredient found in some heartworm preventatives and also the over-the-counter human drug, Imodium. Use of these medications could result in serious illness or even death in sensitive Collies. Whenever your Veterinarian prescribes a medication or surgical procedure, confirm with him/her that the proposed drugs are safe for your Collie. For more information about "MDRI " drug sensitivity in Collies, visit the website of the Collie Health Foundation. [www.colliehealth.org/test-your-collie/mdri/](http://www.colliehealth.org/test-your-collie/mdri/)

Core immunizations recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association include distemper, parvo, and adenovirus type 2 and parainfluenza. Puppy vaccinations should commence at about eight weeks of age and be repeated every 3 to 4 weeks until the puppy is 15 to 16 weeks of age. Rabies vaccine should be given in accordance with your local and state ordinances. Your veterinarian will recommend periodic boosters for adults and perhaps additional vaccinations specific to local disease issues.

Every Collie puppy or adult should have had their eyes tested by a certified canine ophthalmologist.

## Training

Collies are sensitive and responsive dogs bred for decades to work cooperatively with people. Trained with a gentle, loving hand, they learn quickly and happily.

A basic interactive socialization course is recommended by the Collie Club of America. This training is best when it teaches you how to teach your dog. The time you spend in training, especially during the first year of your pet's life, will reward you with a well-behaved companion. What you invest in your Collie in time, love, and training is what you will receive in return.



The American Kennel Club, as well as other organizations, sanction a variety of competitive dog events. Many Collie owners enjoy training their Collie for obedience, herding, rally, tracking, agility, among others.

## Breeding

The breeding of Collies carries a great personal and ethical responsibility. Well informed breeders strive to preserve the virtues and characteristics valued most in Collies. The ethical breeder has a large investment in ensuring breed integrity.

Over the years, a written breed Standard for the Collie has been developed and approved by the Collie Club of America. It describes how the ideal Collie should move, look, and behave.  
[images.akc.org/pdf/breeds/standards/Collie.pdf](http://images.akc.org/pdf/breeds/standards/Collie.pdf)

## Spay/Neuter

Much controversy exists on the pros and cons of spaying, neutering, and timing of such. Speak with your breeder and veterinarian to formulate an informed decision for your Collie and lifestyle.

## Additional Collie Information

The best resource you have for your Collie is your Collie's breeder, the Collie Club of America, and the Collie Health Foundation.

Collie Club of America, the national Collie club, has been in existence for 150 years. It is dedicated to the health, well-being, protection, and promotion of the breed. Most states have a representative, or District Director, and mentor(s) who are excellent contacts for further information on Collies or club membership. For a complete listing, see:

[www.Collieclubofamerica.org](http://www.Collieclubofamerica.org)

As a member, you will receive a bi-monthly Bulletin and an annual Yearbook.

Following are additional resources about your Collie.

## Internet

Collie Club of America [www.Collieclubofamerica.org](http://www.Collieclubofamerica.org)

Collie As a Family Dog [familydog.myportfolio.com](http://familydog.myportfolio.com)

Collie Health Foundation [www.Colliehealth.org](http://www.Colliehealth.org)

Collies Online [www.Colliesonline.com/contents.php](http://www.Colliesonline.com/contents.php)

Collie Rescue Foundation [www.collierescue.org](http://www.collierescue.org)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/colliebreededucation/](http://www.facebook.com/colliebreededucation/)

### Instagram pages

[www.instagram.com/collieclubofamerica/?hl=en](http://www.instagram.com/collieclubofamerica/?hl=en)

### YouTube Collie Breed Education

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC-7Wf-oijT3KL8T\\_xin8BVw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-7Wf-oijT3KL8T_xin8BVw)

## Books about Collies

*The Magnificent Collie*, Amazon *Collie*

*Concept*, Alpine Publications

*The New Collie*, Howell Book House, Inc.

*Evolution of the Collie*, Trudy Mangels

For A Bibliography of Collie Books, see [www.chelsea-collies.com/books.html](http://www.chelsea-collies.com/books.html)

## Magazines

*Collie Club of America Bulletin*  
(with membership)

Collie Expressions

[www.collieexpressions.com](http://www.collieexpressions.com)

AKC Gazette

[www.akc.org/products-services/magazines/akc-gazette/](http://www.akc.org/products-services/magazines/akc-gazette/)

