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Weekly Contributor: Pet Spotlight

A Beginner's Guide to Large Breeds

This week, we dive into the world of large dog breeds, equally extraordinary as the charming smaller canines we admired last week. Let's emphasize once more the importance of choosing adoption over shopping. Additionally, mixed breeds often experience fewer health and behavioral issues, leading to longer and happier lives. Among the spotlighted breeds today are the beloved Labrador Retriever, the majestic Bernese Mountain Dog, and the graceful Greyhound.



Labrador Retriever/Mix

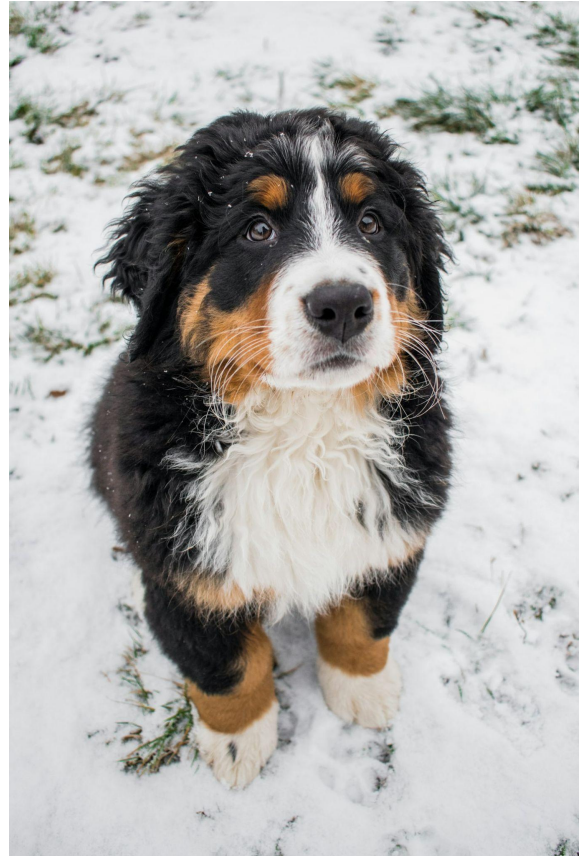
The renowned Labrador Retriever traces its roots back to the United Kingdom and Newfoundland. Exhibiting a friendly disposition, this breed typically weighs between 55-80 pounds and has an average lifespan of 10-12 years. Distinguished by its coat, Labradors come in three popular colors: yellow, black, and chocolate. These dogs excel as both sporting and hunting companions while equally relishing in relaxed moments around the house.

Renowned for their ease of training, don't be disheartened if you find yourself with an energetic puppy – their exuberance is just part of the package. It's important to note that as this breed ages, it commonly faces

health challenges such as cancer, obesity, and joint issues, among others. Ensuring that this breed receives joint supplements, along with monitored diets, and regular vet visits will make sure this loving companion stays at your side longer!

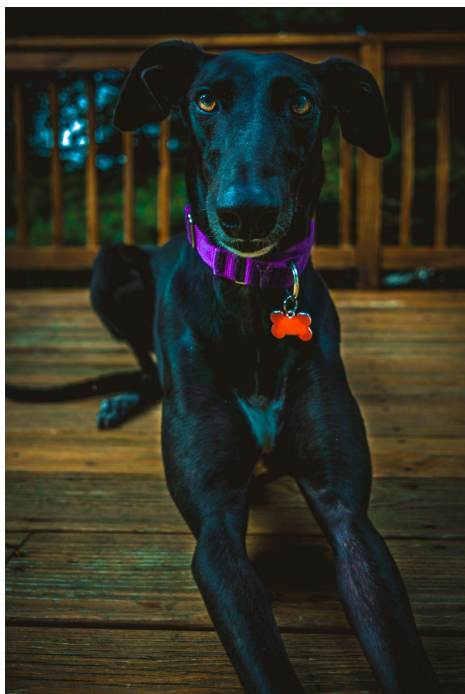
Bernese Mountain Dog/Mix

Originating from Switzerland and the Swiss Alps, the Bernese Mountain Dog stands out as one of the most approachable giants to encounter. With a lifespan spanning 10-12 years and a weight range of 66-120 pounds, these gentle giants combine both strength and charm. Renowned for their amiable nature, this breed holds a delightful demeanor that makes them a joy to be around. Not only are they physically impressive, but their intelligence and cooperative demeanor also make them remarkably easy to train. The Bernese Mountain Dog is not just a canine companion; it's a lovable and fluffy sweetheart that adds warmth and joy to any home. As this breed ages, it often faces challenges such as cancer, as well as issues with hip and elbow dysplasia due to their large size. Similarly to the Labrador Retriever, ensuring adequate supplements, monitoring of the diet, and seeing your vet regularly is greatly important in making sure your Mountain dog is healthy and happy.



Greyhound/Mix

Emerging in Egypt as adept hunting companions, the Greyhound is a breathtaking breed, renowned for its innate sweetness and sensitivity. Weighing in the range of 60-70 pounds and having a lifespan of approximately 10-14 years, this breed has both grace and endurance. Despite their elegance, it's disheartening to note that Greyhounds are frequently subjected to mistreatment in the context of racing. Some of these instances include the disposal of 'unwanted' dogs, their confinement to cramped crates, and the occurrence of often fatal injuries during racing events. As this breed



ages, it becomes susceptible to a range of health issues including, but not limited to, cancer, periodontal disease, and eye problems. This delicate and sensitive breed would do well receiving dentals every few years and it will otherwise thrive in your home.

For effective behavioral outcomes, it is advised to consistently and gently handle the mouth, paws, ears, and tail of dogs across various breeds and age groups. Engaging in this practice guarantees that your dog develops basic obedience skills, lessens the risk of aggression, and a sense of trust between you and your canine companion. Understanding the unique needs, energy levels, and temperaments of different breeds contributes to fostering a harmonious and fulfilling relationship between you and your canine companion. Additionally, conducting thorough research on dog breeds is essential to identifying the most suitable match for both your lifestyle and the specific environment you inhabit.

