



THE GUARDIAN



Akbash * Anatolian Shepherd - Bernese Mountain Dog (also Herding Dog) * Boerboel * Bullmastiff * Cane Corso * Dogue de Bordeaux * English Mastiff * Fila Brasileiro * Great Dane * Great Pyrenees * Greater Swiss Mountain Dog * Kangal * Leonberger * Komodor * Neopolitan Mastiff * Newfoundland (also Gun Dog) * Rottweiler (also Herding Dog) & Sarplaninac * Spanish Mastiff * St. Bernard * Tibetan Mastiff

What we bred them for ...

Guardians date back to at least 1100 BC in ancient China with some suggesting that they existed as far back as the Stone Age. These large, brave dogs were used to protect herds from predators and property from thieves. They were later used by the Romans and others on the battlefield. Guardians were also used for some of the earliest blood sport entertainment

You'll fall in love with your guardian because he is:

COOL

Level-headed and mellow, reserved and chivalrous, he has a low-maintenance demeanor.

TOLERANT

He is gracious and gentle, and is patient with other human and animal social members.

PROTECTIVE

He will surely make you feel safer home alone or walking down the street.

You might find a guardian hard to live with because he is:

OPINIONATED

Discerning and independent of mind, a guardian may be resistant to your instructions.

SUSPICIOUS

He can be unwelcoming to those he perceives as threats to the home and loved ones.

BIG

His size and strength may feel a bit impractical to manage at times.

Interests, Hobbies and Education

Most guardians are not keen on playing silly games like fetch and have little desire for unnecessary drama and things they see as a waste of energy. Guardians are generally most active at dawn and dusk, happy to rest during the day. He is made to be "large and in charge", so his education needs to be directed toward this. Manners such as not jumping on people and leash skills are a must. An "open door" policy can be problematic as he will be ready to protect his property if unknown visitors enter without warning. Use consistent routines and structure to show him that "you've got this" and he need not step up to the plate to handle the situation.





You might find yourself seeking professional help for:

- Aggression toward unfamiliar people or animals, especially near the home or your property
- Wandering off
- Not coming when called
- Protectiveness of owners or other pets
- Territorial barking
- Difficulty in training, resistance to following directions
- Male-to-male dog conflicts



Guardian Relationship Survival Key:

Help him **LEARN**, through your consistent planning and action, that everything is cool and under control at all times both inside and outside your home.

Though he can thrive in any number of **ENVIRONMENTS**, remember that you must always manage him in order to stay one step ahead and prevent aggression toward "intruders".

As you enjoy the pleasantries of living with a more laid-back dog, never forget his **GENETIC** propensity for action when it comes to protecting his home and family.

His is a dog made to do a whole lot of nothing until the moment he decides to do a whole lot of something. Keep it simple and well controlled, and you can enjoy a laid-back, loving guy (**SELF**).

To learn more, pick up a copy of *Meet Your Dog* by Kim Brophey. This really is THE game-changing guide to Understanding your dog's behavior



Ways to enrich your guardian's life:

Lots of outdoor time

- provide plenty of opportunities for independent time outdoors, opportunities and a space to watch the world go by, hiking or long nature walks

Opportunities to sniff

- sniff walks, nosework, freework, snuffle mats, scatter feeding, tracking

Socialization

Early puppy socialization with people and other dogs is crucial



LEARNING - your dog's experiences and education

ENVIRONMENT - the many aspects of your dog's external world



Learning Environment Genetics Self

GENETICS - the DNA that designed your dog inside and out

SELF - the unique interior world of your dog - health, age, sex, personality ...