

IS A WEIMARANER THE DOG FOR ME?

Please ask yourself the following questions in order to determine if you should bring a Weimaraner into your life:



DO I HAVE TIME FOR A DOG? If you work long hours and weekends, do not get a dog. They need companionship as much as you do. A Weimaraner is intelligent and active and if left alone too much will get bored, will get into mischief and become destructive. You may come home to a hole in your wall or the screen door chewed to pieces, or a note from the neighbor about your barking dog!

WILL THE SIZE, PERSONALITY AND HIGH ENERGY OF A WEIMARANER FIT INTO MY FAMILY LIFESTYLE? Weimaraners weigh from 50 to 70 pounds for a female and 60 to 90 pounds for a male. They are inquisitive, intelligent, pushy, demanding, stubborn, loving and comical. They were originally bred as hunting dogs and have lots of energy so must have daily exercise to run off some of that energy. If you are a and do not like to exercise, do not get a

Weimaraner. Neither of you will be happy and the dog would soon be a problem to live with. If you cannot say No and mean it or set boundaries of good behavior, do not get a Weimaraner. It would soon take over the running of your house and life.

CAN I AFFORD A DOG? The dog will need a quality dog food, training, a dog license, vet care and shots, dog toys, collar, dog bed, a dog crate and boarding when you go away.

AM I AND MY FAMILY WILLING TO TAKE CARE OF A DOG? Obedience training is a must for these strong, intelligent dogs; otherwise they will figure things out for themselves, not always to your liking. Training and socialization helps them learn how to be well behaved dogs. The dog will need exercise, nail trimming, bathing, yard cleanup, feeding & water and attention throughout his life. Weimaraners need to be part of your life, to do things with you, to just hang out with you. They are not meant to be kennel dogs. Do all family members want a Weimaraner? If not, you need to pick a dog that you all can agree on.

AM I WILLING TO COPE WITH A DOG? This means dog hair, muddy footprints, exuberant excitement, sharing your favorite couch, letting a dog in and out, holes dug in the yard, stepping on dog toys, stolen food, washing dog bedding, etc. Your Weimaraner can be protective of family, property and vehicles and will need supervision in these areas. If you want an intelligent, stimulating companion that will require daily sessions of togetherness and fun, the Weimaraner may be for you. But, if you want a dog that sits quietly and waits for you to notice it, you should look at another breed.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN? Small children can be knocked over by a strong, excited Weimaraner. Don't get a Weimaraner just for the kids. The dog needs to be part of the whole family activities. If you are expecting a baby, you will find you do not have time for the dog after the baby arrives. A young dog is much like adopting another child requiring much attention, affection, guidance, patience, and humor.

DO I HAVE ENOUGH ROOM FOR A LARGE DOG? If you live in an apartment or condo with very little yard space, do not get a Weimaraner. They require space to run off their energy. A walk on a leash in the park once a day may not be enough to spend a young dog's energy. Being sporting dogs, they need a fenced yard to keep them from roaming. If your dog is left outside while you are working, there needs to be shelter from the heat and cold

WILL MY ENERGY AND DEDICATION LAST AS LONG AS MY ADOPTED PET LIVES? Are you willing to give your dog constant and reliable care for 12 years? Your dog depends on you for everything. A dog should not be an impulse purchase or a possession that gets tossed out during a change in your life. Weimaraner pups are adorable, but do not buy one because you like the blue eyes (which change to amber at 3 months) or

because you like that sleek grey coat and aristocratic look, or because you have seen them on TV and in ads. These pups grow up quickly and are not the stoic dogs you see in books or on posters. Do not have unrealistic expectations. Weimaraners have their own individual characteristics different from other breeds. They are not like Labradors or Cocker Spaniels! Do your homework. Read all you can about the breed. Visit Weimaraner owners and meet their dogs. Go to dog shows and field events. Contact the Weimaraner Club of America at their website by going to: <http://www.weimclubamerica.org>.

Give a Weimaraner Rescue dog a home. If you buy a pup, deal with reputable breeders who sell AKC registered pups. (Yes, those AKC papers are important even though you spay or neuter your dog.) Once you have acquired a Weimaraner, you have added a whole new set of responsibilities to your life. You have also gained a new friend who will give you years of love, companionship and special memories.

