



<http://www.pembrokewelshcorgis.ca>

BACKGROUND

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi dates back to the tenth century and has, throughout the years been a loyal working companion of the farmers in Wales. Used primarily to herd cattle and sheep, the Corgi was also relied on to guard the homestead, and for rodent control.

TEMPERAMENT

Corgis love and need to be with their people – wherever they are, and whatever they are doing. Loving and loyal to their people, they can (typical of most herding breeds) be protective and territorial. They are generally good with children, if the children are good with them. Mutual respect and supervision is important.



THE BIG DOG IN A SMALL BODY

Corgis are NOT small dogs – they are true dwarfs, meaning that they are medium-sized dogs with short legs, and they think they are big dogs! While they love to cuddle and most consider an empty lap to be an invitation, they are also active dogs, and love to participate in many activities. Never underestimate the strength, speed or agility of a Corgi!!



Most Pembrokes are avid swimmers, and they compensate for the lack of a tail by using their hind legs as a rudder. For this reason, they need a strong body to propel themselves using only their front legs and will often reach adulthood before developing a love for water.

They also love the snow, and do remarkably well bounding through it (although deep drifts require some tamping down)

The current-day Corgi remains true to its heritage and the herding instinct remains quite strong. Corgis will herd anything that they feel should be moved, including the cat across the street! Since traffic is not a consideration for them in this endeavour, a fenced yard is recommended. If this is not possible, the Corgi should be walked on leash, and should never be left unsupervised in an unfenced area. Corgis need exercise.a minimum fifteen-minute walk at least three times each day, with play time in between, will generally produce a satisfied companion who is easy to live with.

LONGEVITY

Corgis generally live to between 12 and 15 years, and, while they may slow down in their later years, they tend to stay alert and active, continuing to enjoy their exercise and attention.

HEALTH and FEEDING

Overall, Corgis tend to be a healthy breed, and perhaps the most serious health risk for them is obesity. They are voracious eaters and notorious scavengers, and their weight must be monitored regularly to ensure that they maintain a healthy body weight. Corgis in good condition can weigh anywhere from 18 to 30 pounds, and the best way to monitor their weight is by feeling their ribcage. If you can't feel the dog's ribs, it's too fat! Testing is available for the three genetic health problems to which Corgis are predisposed, and breeders will generally test their breeding animals for hip dysplasia, eye abnormalities and vonWillebrand's disease.



GROOMING

Corgis shed, and there's no way to get around it! This is a double-coated breed which usually "changes coat" twice a year. At that time, the whole undercoat comes



out, and a new undercoat comes in. A thorough grooming once a week with brush, comb and nail clippers is recommended.

Bathing is not often required, as the Corgi coat tends to resist dirt, however, being low to the ground brings its share of mud and ice (depending on the season) which may need to be rinsed out from time to time. No clipping is required on the standard coat, however the fluffy coat sometimes benefits from trimming the hair under the tummy and in other strategic areas to prevent accumulation of dirt, ice etc.

TRAINING



Corgis are quite easy to train and they enjoy the challenge of learning new

things. Some formal training, be it puppy classes for basic obedience or more long term pursuits such as agility, herding, fly-ball etc. are recommended.

Corgis have a wonderful sense of humour, which they will use on you if they become bored. Since most (if not all!) Corgis are very food motivated, they learn very quickly with positive reinforcement, but do not respond well to excessive drilling or physical punishment.



BREEDERS

The question is often asked...."Why buy from a breeder and not from a pet store? Dedicated and reputable breeders take great pains (and go to great expense) to produce healthy, happy and well-socialized purebred puppies from parents with the same traits. Pet stores purchase puppies either directly (or through brokers) from puppy mills and/or people who breed only for the money and without regard to the health or temperament of the puppies, or to the well-being and comfort of the parents. The breeder is a lifelong resource for help, advice and information. With generally many years' experience in the breed and knowledge of the dog's parents, there are few situations where a breeder cannot assist in resolving an issue with a Corgi they have sold. This cannot be said for a pet store. While demand in this breed most often exceeds supply, waiting for a puppy from a breeder is certainly a better choice for a long-term companion.

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