

History of the Australian Shepherd



The Australian Shepherd was actually developed in America but there is much debate over their origins.

It is generally believed the dogs came to Australia from Spain, ontraveling to the United States in the late 1800's with flocks of Merino sheep and the Basque Shepherds who tended them. Another theory is they were Australian Sheepdogs derived from the Smithfield and some type of collie, possibly the German Coolie or it's ancestor. The name was coined in the United Sates because of the believed link between Australia and the herding of Australian Merino Sheep.

The Aussie has been elusive, at least in documentation of their origin. Now-a-days they are very popular as a family pet, an obedience and agility dog, a worker and more recently as a show dog.

Aussies & Children

Australian Shepherds are very intelligent and devoted to their family. They can be very good with children, but one should always exercise caution as with any animal and a child.



You will need to teach the child to respect the dog, and the dog to respect the child.

Dogs tend to see children as siblings rather than leaders, and the dog should never be allowed a higher position than the child. The parent, not the child, should be responsible for teaching the puppy and correcting the dog if it gets too rough.

Aussies & other Animals

Aussies, if properly socialised, can get along with any kind of animal.



However, as with any dog, an Aussie must be properly introduced to different animal species (including other dogs) in a favourable environment otherwise, problems with species compatibility may arise.

Breed Size & Characteristics



The Australian Shepherd is a medium sized dog with a coat of medium length. To the untrained eye the Aussie resembles a Border Collie,

but is slightly larger and has a wider range of coat colours.

Aussies come with a range of tail lengths due to a natural bobbing gene. Some dogs will have little or no tail while others will have a full length, feathered tail. The gait is smooth and free. 'Grinning' is a characteristic of some Australian Shepherds and should not be mistaken for snarling.

Aussies are known for their ability in obedience, agility, tracking, Frisbee catching and endurance. They are a special dog and deserve special owners.

The leaflet is brought to you by the Australian Shepherd Club of Victoria (ASCV) Inc., established in 1997. The ASCV is affiliated with the Victorian Canine Association Inc.

Choosing an Aussie



Owning any dog is a serious business, and when buying an Aussie puppy keep in mind that you should be planning to be caring for this dog for 10-15 years. Always purchase from a reputable breeder, NEVER from a pet shop. The Australian Shepherd Club of Victoria Inc., can advise you on breeders, and dogs and puppies that may be available from time to time. You should never be afraid to take a list of questions with you to ask each breeder but here are some questions that you may need to consider first.

Is an Aussie the right dog for me?

Do I want a male or female?

What colour do I want?

Do I want a dog as a pet or to show?

Do I want a dog or a puppy?

The Australian Shepherd club provides a no-obligation free advisory service for all inquiries about Aussies. Contact us, we'll be happy to help.



The Australian Shepherd Club of Victoria Inc.

How to contact us

Correspondence:

The Secretary:
PO Box 208, Nar Nar Goon VIC 3812
✉ secretary@australianshepherd.org.au

General Enquiries:

Club President
✉ president@australianshepherd.org.au

Puppy Sales Enquiries:
✉ puppysales@australianshepherd.org.au

The Australian Shepherd Club of Victoria Inc., was established in 1997 and incorporated as a non-profit organisation by a group of Aussie breeders, owners and enthusiasts. This remains the membership base of the Club. The ASCV has a strict Code of Practice and Statement of Purposes for its members to maintain the breeding of the Australian Shepherd to the highest standard. The Club welcomes inquiries about Aussies, and is especially happy to assist those wishing to become Aussie Owners!

Introducing the Australian Shepherd



The Australian Shepherd is an intelligent, attractive medium sized dog with a bobtail and striking varied coat colouration. Each dog's coat and eye colour are highly varied and individual. Aussies are reserved with strangers but are a dependable, tireless worker, devoted to their owner. Highly intelligent, strong and agile, they also make a great family pet.

www.australianshepherd.org.au