

The Beagle: Sturdy and Attractive

The Beagle is a sturdy and attractive dog with a full blast of energy. Originally bred to track fox, this breed has a great sense of smell and like other scent hounds, will likely to ignore you and everything else when hot on a scent trail. For this reason, extra care must be taken to make sure that he does not wander off. He is a happy dog that loves children and gets along well with other pets. The breed standard describes this dog as "A merry hound whose essential function is to hunt, primarily hare, by following a scent - bold with great activity, stamina, and determination - alert, intelligent, and of even temperament - a sturdy and compactly-built hound, conveying the impression of quality without coarseness."

Although this breed is affectionate and intelligent, he requires patients and persistent training from the first day of training because of its stubborn nature in which he is easily distracted. It is very rare to find scent hounds, including the Beagle, in the obedience ring because their nose often overrules their brain. Also similar to other scent hounds, the Beagle was bred to bark, bay, and howl to alert the hunter to his location during the hunt. He may run away and is not likely to come when called so you may need a secure fence that he cannot get under or over. Always keep him on leash whenever you take him out, otherwise he may take off the second he picks up a scent.

Size

Beagles are among the smaller scent hounds which com in 2 varieties, the first stands about 13in at the shoulder and the other is more than 13 but not exceeding 15in. He weighs between 18-30lb.

History and origin

This breed is one of the smallest of the hounds. He is an ancient breed that has been a great companion to sportsmen for hundreds of years. The Beagle was first mentioned by name in writings published in 1475. They were used to hunt in packs for hare and were first imported into the United States for this purpose. They have hunted many different quarries in different climates including jackal, wild pig, and deer. In the United States and Canada, they are used as gun-dogs to seek out and retrieve game and to hunt by scent in competitive Field Trials.

Feeding

Because this breed is likely to put on weight, 1-2 meals per day are sufficient for an adult Beagle with no tidbits. Recommended amount of feeding is 1-1 ½ cans (13.3oz size) of meat diet with added biscuits in equal amount or 3 cupfuls of a complete dry food.

Exercise

Daily exercise such as walks and occasional runs is required for this breed.

Grooming

Their shedding coat is tough, weatherproof, and requires very low maintenance grooming.

About the Author

Source: <http://101dogbreeds.com>