

## Breed Consultation RePort

Prepared for Janet & John

October 2023





### INTRODUCTION

Firstly, I wanted to thank you for using our Breed Selection Service. Getting a new dog is a big responsibility with lots of different challenges and costs (some of which are not immediately obvious) that need to be talked through in detail.

One of the main reasons that there are so many dogs in rescue centres is that these important conversations were done too quickly or sometimes, skipped entirely. This is how people end up with breeds that are not suited to their accommodation, lifestyle or experience.

The objective of this report is to point you in the direction of a few breeds that I think would be a great fit for you. The recommendation is based on our conversation about what you are looking for in a dog, your circumstances and some other preferences that you have.

The report suggests 3 breeds that nicely fit your criteria as well as a wildcard option that might get you thinking about things in a slightly different way.

The report is based on typical breed characteristics, but since we are dealing with living creatures, there is no guarantee that an animal will behave exactly in accordance with the breed description.

If you have any follow-up questions about this report, please drop me an email at <a href="mailto:marc@muchadoaboutdogs.com">marc@muchadoaboutdogs.com</a>









### YOUR CRITERIA

Previous dog experience: Some but relatively limited

Primary reasons for wanting a dog: Companionship. A reason to get outside a be

more active

Secondary reasons for wanting a dog: Household guardian

Living situation: New-build townhouse on new development. Small garden

Exercise expectations: Twice daily walks around the neighbourhood - roughly 1-

1.5hours total a day

Size preference: Nothing too big. Small to lower-medium size preferred

Children: Not currently

Other pets: Not currently

Will the dog be left alone?: Rarely

Puppy or Rescue/Rehome?: Puppy

Preferred breeds: Golden retriever, Cocker Spaniel, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel,

Corgu, Samoyed & Bernese Mountain Dog

Other criteria: Cute. Sociable. (More easily) Trainable

**Assumptions:** Average to low grooming requirements. Low to no high-risk health issues.









### Breed Number 1: Papillon

#### **OVERVIEW:**

A glamorous, delicate-looking dog, with ears that resemble a butterfly or a moth — hence the name — the Papillon is descended from toy Spaniels and has been portrayed in famous paintings dating back as far as the 16th century.

They're as elegant as they sound, but their popularity is not based solely on looks, but also on their intelligence, as the Papillon dog breed is known to be one of the smartest breeds in the world.

#### **PERSONALITY:**

An alert, friendly, energetic little dog, the Papillon dog is a rewarding, loving companion that enjoys taking part in family activities, as well as spending time on laps!

They are also very friendly with other pets if they are socialized from a young age, so they have no problem bonding and getting along with other dogs or cats. Another great quality in a Papillon is their intelligence, which makes it easier for them to learn basic commands and new tricks.

#### **POSITIVES:**

- Needs a small garden
- Generally friendly to other dogs
- Minimum drool
- 1-2 hours of exercise a day
- Basic training required
- Suitable for less experienced owners
- Generally healthy breed

#### **WATCH-OUTS:**

- Requires daily grooming
- Requires mental stimulation

#### **KEY FACTS:**

- Lifespan: 12-14 years
- Weight: 3-5Kg
- **Height:** 20-28cm
- Colours: White with patches of colour
  - or tricolour









### Breed Number 1: Papillon

#### **HISTORY & ORIGINS:**

Toy Spaniels that feature in many Renaissance paintings bear a strong similarity to the Papillon dog, and the breed is thought to have developed in France or Belgium. The Papillon dog was a favoured companion of royalty and the nobility on the Continent, and one is even said to have been carried by Marie Antoinette when she walked to the guillotine.

The breed's name, which translates as 'butterfly', comes from its large ears, which look like a butterfly with outstretched wings. If a dog has drop ears, it is called a Phalene, which translates as 'moth'.

#### **DEAL OWNER:**

For those who want an active, clever, trainable and sporty breed, but in a much smaller package, the Papillon is ideal. If you enjoy walks, training and a bit of grooming, can provide a secure garden of any size, and want a fun companion in a very economic, easy to house size, the Papillon is a lovely breed. Great for the child-free home, for the older but still very active owner, or families with sensible/older children, all a Papillon wants is to be with you.

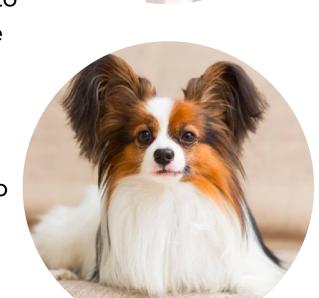
#### **SPACE & EXERCISE NEEDS:**

The Papillon dog breed is pretty compact and very adaptable, so given their small size, they'll be comfortable living in most environments. Apartment life will work out for them, but given their high energy, a backyard with plenty of space will be much appreciated as they enjoy running around and playing somewhere with plenty of space.

About half an hour of exercise a day will be needed for the Papillon dog, though they are capable of more if you can offer it.

#### **EASE OF TRAINING:**

Paps love being the centre of attention, and as they're also agile and quick learners, they'll be happy discovering new tricks that they can show off to an audience. Training should be done at an early age and should be abundant in positive reinforcement, which will lead to them learning faster and being more willing to obey.







### Breed Number 2: Labrador Retriever

#### **OVERVIEW:**

Bred to be a friendly companion and a working dog, the Labrador is an ideal pet for anyone looking for a loyal and intelligent four-legged friend. With time, the Labrador dog breed became one of the most popular across the world, winning the hearts of everyone, from families to royalty and celebrities.

#### **PERSONALITY:**

The Labrador Retriever is an active, friendly, loving dog who thrives on human companionship, wanting nothing more than to please their owners (except perhaps eat anything and everything, and jump in any water they can find!). They are ideal pets for households with children and they get on well with other household animals.

Labradors are a very happy breed, extremely affectionate, constantly wagging their tails and always on the go. They are easily trained, being eager to learn, and to please, and can turn their paw to just about anything. They are total foodies however, which helps with their training, but not their waistlines!



#### **POSITIVES:**

- Great breed for inexperience owners
- Generally friendly to other dogs
- Quiet dog
- Minimum grooming
- Quiet easy to train
- Great family dog
- Show-lines have less prey-drive

#### **WATCH-OUTS:**

- Requires 2+ hours of exercise daily
- Some health issues to be aware of
- Needs a large garden/outside area

#### **KEY FACTS:**

• Lifespan: 10-14 years

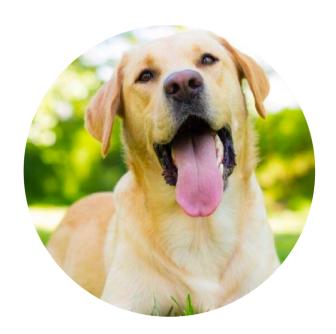
Weight: 25-36KgHeight: 55-57cm

• Colours: Black, yellow, chocolate/liver,

fox-red







### Breed Number 2: Labrador Retriever

#### **HISTORY & ORIGINS:**

The Labrador Retriever breed originated not in Labrador, but on the coast of Newfoundland, in the 17th century. They were trained to bring in the fishing-nets through the icy waters for the fishermen and, in the early 19th century, were brought to Poole Harbour in Great Britain.

They were so attractive and with such appealing personalities that the fishermen had umpteen offers from Englishmen to buy them. The breed with their working abilities was instantly successful as a gundog. The Earl of Malmesbury became fascinated by these dogs, known at that time as Saint John's Dogs, and he started breeding them, calling them Labrador Dogs. Today, Labradors are still used as working gundogs as well as being beloved family pets.

#### **IDEAL OWNER:**

Ideal Lab owners enjoy long walks, are mud-proof and water-proof, and have the time, patience and skill to teach this breed to be a polite member of society. Although universally thought of as the ultimate, easy-going family dog, without training and plenty of exercise, young Labradors can be distinctly thuggish and rude in their over-enthusiasm. Great for active families with children who can take part in training and exercise – and who can walk this active gundog a couple of hours every day in all weathers.

#### **SPACE & EXERCISE NEEDS:**

The Labrador is a large, active breed who is at heart a country dog, and so needs a good-sized living space. They will appreciate a large garden and need access to the great outdoors for long walks.

Labradors will adapt to the amount of time you can allocate for their exercise, as long as they are kept active. Ideally, a couple of hours a day being a good amount for a healthy adult.

As well as walks, a Labrador will revel in games and play with their owner, as they are highly social, and need to be involved in all family activities.

#### **EASE OF TRAINING:**

Labradors are generally a joy to train as they are both clever and biddable, and love working with their owners. However, they can easily get overly-boisterous, and even destructive, if not given plenty of exercise as an outlet









### Breed Number 3: Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

#### **OVERVIEW:**

A small spaniel with a short, but definite muzzle, large brown eyes and silky fur, the Cavalier King Charles is a wonderful companion dog. They love people and a good cuddle. So, if you are after an agile, friendly canine that can't wait to spend all day, every day, with their human family, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel dog breed might be the one for you.

#### **PERSONALITY:**

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is easy to train, easy to live with and is intelligent enough to excel in obedience, mini agility or any of the canine sports that his owners may wish to try their hand at. This is a breed who should also be happy to live with cats and any other pets. The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is however a gentle dog and may not be happy in a boisterous noisy family

#### **POSITIVES:**

- Needs a small garden
- Generally friendly to other dogs
- Quiet dog
- Less than 1 hour of exercise a day
- Basic training required
- Suitable for less experienced owners
- Generally healthy breed

#### **WATCH-OUTS:**

- Requires almost daily grooming
- Some potential health issues
- Some drool

#### **KEY FACTS:**

- Lifespan: 9-15 years
- Weight: 6-8Kg
- **Height:** 30-33cm
- Colours: Black & tan, ruby, red & white and tricolour









### Breed Number 3: Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

#### **HISTORY & ORIGINS:**

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel dogs are a fairly recent breed and are the latest of the English Toy Spaniels developed in the 1920s in an attempt to recreate the famous dogs of King Charles. The name Cavalier was added to distinguish them from the older King Charles Spaniel.

Up until the 19th century, the King Charles Spaniel had a pointed muzzle, but in the Victorian era it became fashionable to breed dogs with shorter faces. Before long, the King Charles became a flat-faced breed (as it still is today). In 1926 however, an American called Roswell Eldridge visited England and was upset not to be able to see the dogs he had admired in art. For five years running he offered prizes at Crufts for the best 'long faced King Charles Spaniel'. This started a movement which led to the formation of the Cavalier King Charles Club in 1928, although it took until 1945 for the two breeds to be separately recognised. As the years passed, this new breed became by far the most popular and became one of the UKs best loved breeds.



#### **IDEAL OWNER:**

This gentle breed will thrive with a gentle, calm owner who is at home most of the day, enjoys relaxing strolls around the local area once or twice a day, and can groom that glossy, mid-length coat several times per week. Charles will enjoy learning some basic obedience and some fun tricks, and will enjoy a home where there is room to run about and play. If kept fit (they are prone to putting on weight), they can enjoy some surprisingly long walks.

#### **SPACE & EXERCISE NEEDS:**

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is a dog who is happy in a small house but they do need access to outdoor space for daily exercise and will enjoy a garden to explore and relax in.

A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel will adapt to whatever amount of dog exercise you feel able to give but they do need some regular daily exercise or they will put on the pounds. About an hour's daily exercise is a good guide but on top of that, they also enjoy games and training in which they can excel.

#### **EASE OF TRAINING:**

The Cavalier is a joy to train as they are smart, love being with their owners and live to please. As well as training them all the basic exercises and manners, owners would do well to consider doing more - maybe mini agility or heelwork to music.







### Breed Wild Card: Greyhound

#### **OVERVIEW:**

Greyhounds are the racehorses of the canine world, incredibly fast, graceful and elegant. These dogs are muscular and strongly-built. Their sweet nature and friendly attitude make them ideal companions for dog lovers. Contrary to common perception they don't require excessive amounts of exercise. They are the world's fastest couch-potato!

#### **PERSONALITY:**

These dogs are calm and social when indoors and can even be rather lazy. They are sensitive dogs who can make ideal family pets if given the right owners! While they are gentle by nature, their natural hunting instinct is always present and owners must be willing to take on the necessary responsibilities that go with the breed. Greyhounds are affectionate with their families, though usually aloof with strangers. They normally get on well with other dogs in the household, but cat owners should exercise extreme caution.

# Praining, Behaviors.

#### **POSITIVES:**

- Suitable for inexperienced owners
- Less than an hour of walking a day
- Generally friendly to other dogs
- Minimum drool
- Weekly grooming
- Basic training required
- Generally healthy breed

#### **WATCH-OUTS:**

- May require training to live with young children
- Needs a large garden/outside area

#### **KEY FACTS:**

• Lifespan: 12-15 years

• **Weight:** 27-32Kg

• **Height:** 71-76cm

• Colours: Black, white, red, blue, fawn, fallow, brindle and white + colour

combinations







### Breed Wild Card: Greyhound

#### **HISTORY & ORIGINS:**

The Greyhound is an ancient breed having been depicted in ancient art more than 6000 years ago. They were used for coursing antelopes, wolves and deer, and became extremely popular, spreading through the Near East and Europe, eventually arriving in Britain.

There are many arguments about where the breed name comes from but many think that it was originally the Great Hound, as once in England, they became the dogs of nobility. About 1000 years ago a law was passed saying that only royalty were permitted to hunt with Greyhounds and 'common folk' were forbidden from owning them. When the great forests of the nobility started to decline, the Greyhound found other work. They were used in coursing hares. Later, track racing took over, which proved them to be the fastest dogs on earth: only the cheetah can beat them for speed in the animal world! While Greyhound racing continues today, the Greyhound has won many fans with their gentle, affectionate, relaxed personalities.



#### **IDEAL OWNER:**

You'll need a strong sense of humour and bucketloads of patience - young sighthounds can be very wild and silly, and take some time to settle down, mature and grow up. Greyhounds are sprinters rather than stamina runners so access to secure areas big enough for them to really stretch out is vital, as is a large secure garden. Be aware that an adult rescue greyhound from a racing track is not at all the same prospect as a puppy from a good breeder – they're both nice dogs, but a very different challenge.

#### **SPACE & EXERCISE NEEDS:**

For such a large dog, a Greyhound doesn't need much space as long as they have a comfy sofa. They do need access to a secure space to run however.

Although Greyhounds are the most athletic of all domestic dogs, they do not need copious amounts of exercise. Two 20-minute runs a day will usually suffice.

#### **EASE OF TRAINING:**

While a Greyhound can learn to walk on the lead and even sit and lie down on cue (on a soft surface), dog training is very low on a list of Greyhound skills. While owners should most certainly train a recall, this isn't something to be relied upon and most will have to stay on the lead except in totally enclosed areas where they can run. Most Greyhounds will chase small animals and cats so caution is highly recommended







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