

A Dog's Life

A celebration of our best friend



Hannah Dale



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Attentive • Sweet-tempered • Gentle

This little dog has a royal heritage and no self-respecting court lady in Tudor or Stuart times would be seen without one. The direct ancestors of the ‘Cav’ were particularly loved by their namesake, King Charles II. He was rarely spotted without several of these handsome little dogs at his heels. The Cav has four recognised colours – the equally regal sounding Blenheim (chestnut and white), tricolour, black and tan, and ruby. There is no wonder that the Cav has become such a popular family pet. Friendly and fun-loving, equally happy with a romp around the garden and a snuggle by the fire, it makes a wonderful all-round companion.





Labrador

Bouncy • Eager to please • Loyal

The Labrador is the world's most popular dog; truly Man's Best Friend. With its gentle nature, playful personality and bright intelligence, it is no wonder that the Labrador is so loved. Perfect as a family pet, these adaptable, clever dogs are also prized as therapy dogs, detection dogs and sporting companions. Originally hailing from Newfoundland in Canada, their ancestors belonged to fishermen who had a deep reliance on their four-legged friends. Known as the 'St John's Water Dog', they were responsible for retrieving nets, ropes and even fish. Spotting their considerable talents, two English aristocrats brought a pair of dogs to England and bred them as shooting companions and soon realised that they had something pretty special... and the rest of the world wholeheartedly agrees.





Cockapoo

Excitable • Wilful • Affectionate

Cockapoos are hybrid dogs, created by breeding a Cocker Spaniel with a Poodle. They love their owners unconditionally and will want to play with them from dawn until dusk. They are intelligent and fun-loving, but don't shed quite as much hair as a Cocker Spaniel. The Cockapoo is not recognised as a distinct breed but irrespective of this is a hugely popular pet combining the loving and outgoing personality of a Cocker with the intelligence and hypoallergenic coat of a Poodle. However, being a hybrid, its character traits and appearance can be hugely variable, with some being more Poodle or Cocker-like than others.





Weimaraner

Wilful • Wise • Aristocratic

The Weimaraner is a beautiful and athletic dog. Its haunting, ghostly appearance is instantly recognisable with its velvety grey coat and amber eyes. The Weimaraner was originally bred in Germany as a dog for hunting large game such as deer, boar and bears and is an excellent all-round hunter and pointer. It was bred exclusively for the aristocracy and, as a highly-prized dog, it was kept inside with the families rather than outside in kennels. This has resulted in a dog with a strong need to be with humans – it is deeply unhappy without its companions. A lively and friendly dog, the Weimaraner has rightly earned a place in the hearts of dog lovers and makes a wonderful pet for those who can provide assertive leadership and lots of exercise.





Border Collie

Clever • Strong-minded • Trustworthy

The beautiful Border Collie, with its distinctive markings is the brightest of all dog breeds, being highly intelligent, energetic and athletic. Famous for excelling in doggy sports and sheepdog trials, the Border Collie is the high achiever of the dog world. Originally bred for herding sheep in the hilly borders of Scotland, obedience and intelligence were the most prized characteristics. It is thought that all Border Collies alive today can be traced back to a dog named 'Old Hemp', born in Northumberland in 1893. Though black and white Collies are the most common, they can come in a wide variety of colours including tricolour, red, brindle or blue. Although they make wonderful companions, they need a lot of exercise and mental stimulation to remain healthy and happy.





Boxer

Fun • Fearless • Animated

The handsome Boxer is unforgettable with his distinctive face, sleek body and clown-like personality. Originally hailing from Germany, the Boxer was first bred for bull-baiting and was later put to use as a butcher's dog, where its strength and agility made it ideal for herding and controlling cattle in slaughterhouses. Despite its powerful looks,

Boxers are gentle dogs – bright, energetic, playful and good with children. They are well known for being patient and protective. The Boxer name is a bit of a mystery – some thought that it arose from the dog's habit of standing on its hind legs and 'boxing', but the truth is unknown.





French Bulldog

Mischievous • Entertaining • Expressive

The Frenchie is enjoying something of a resurgence of popularity, especially in towns and cities where this sweet little dog is well adapted to apartment life. Contrary to what its name would suggest, the Frenchie was first bred in England to be a companion, or toy version of the Bulldog. It was a particular hit with the lace makers of Nottingham, and when they emigrated to France to seek better opportunities, they took their little dogs with them, and that is where they adopted their French name. The Frenchie lavishes love on its human friends, and demands to receive it in return. Funny, mischievous and gentle, with its comical bat ears and big, expressive eyes, there is no wonder that this breed is enjoying a renaissance.





Beagle

Greedy • Independent • Wanderer

The Beagle is a scent hound with one of the best senses of smell of all breeds. Beagle-like dogs have been around for thousands of years – there is evidence of dogs with a similar size and appearance in the fifth century BC, and they have been depicted in literature since Elizabethan times. Of course, the most famous and endearing beagle of them all is Snoopy. Elizabeth I was said to be a particularly devoted Beagle owner. She was fond of a smaller version known as a ‘pocket Beagle’ and used to let them run along the table at meal times, to the delight (or horror) of her guests. Today, the energetic Beagle is a much-loved family favourite, with its beautiful face and friendly personality.

