

The **HOKKAIDO**

The Hokkaido is a brave, devoted, and intelligent breed. They originated from the hunting dogs accompanying migrants from Honshu (the main island of Japan) to Hokkaido (the northernmost island of Japan) in the mid 1100s.

The dogs were bred to hunt large game such as deer, elk, and bear. Their broad chest, strong build, thick coat, large paws, and small ears helped them survive the severely cold Hokkaido climate. In 1937, the breed was designated as a "living monument" of Japan.

The Hokkaido's medium size combined with their exceptional agility, strength, and stamina allows for the perfect active companion for experienced dog owners. They crave human affection, and love nothing more than to be with their owner. The Hokkaido's adoration and dedication towards their people is something unmatched by any other breed. Hokkaido will sometimes howl like a wolf while waiting for their owners to return home, as well as "roo" in delight when their owner gives them affection. Though you will rarely hear one bark, they are a very vocal breed and can make a wide variety of unique sounds.



The HANA Project

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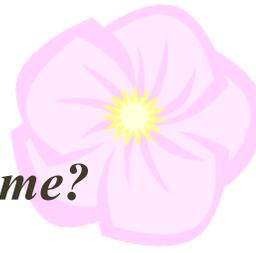


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Is the **HOKKAIDO** the right breed for me?



How active are they?

Hokkaido are generally a very active breed. When looking for your next dog, it's best to be honest with yourself about your current lifestyle and activity level. The Hokkaido is not a breed suited for spending long periods of time indoors with minimal activity and low mental stimulation. They are best suited for an active family who enjoys spending their time outdoors hiking, biking, jogging, and/or camping.

Are they friendly?

Hokkaido are a very-family oriented breed. Some of them can be quite social. However, it is important to take into consideration their naturally aloof and protective nature. While they are not an aggressive breed, they certainly won't be an extremely outgoing type of dog towards strangers.

Do they like dogs?

When socialized properly from an early age, Hokkaido can do very well in a multi-dog household. However, they tend to be a more "pushy" or "bossy" breed, which other dogs may have a problem with.

How trainable are they?

With early socialization and training, the Hokkaido is a very loyal and dedicated companion who wants to please his human family. They are highly intelligent thinkers and problem solvers, and they do well with an experienced trainer who understands the breed's natural independence and strong willed personality.

If you are looking for a dog who readily follows your every command without any hesitation or question, then the Hokkaido is not going to be the dog for you. However, if you are looking for a dog who is smart, witty, generally seeking to please, yet still has the intelligence to think over his options carefully and make calculated decisions for himself; then the Hokkaido just may be the right dog for you.

Are they a healthy breed?

Well-bred Hokkaido are generally very healthy, living 12-15 years. However, like all breeds they are prone to hereditary diseases such as collie eye anomaly, canine hip dysplasia, luxating patella, idiopathic seizures, separation anxiety, psychogenic polydipsia, and pica.

How big do they get?

The average size for a Hokkaido is 18-20 inches at the shoulder and 40-60lbs. This is about the same size as an Australian Shepherd, Border Collie, or American Pit Bull Terrier. Many of the European-bred dogs are slightly larger in size, while some of the American-bred dogs are smaller (only slightly larger than a Shiba Inu).

Do they require lots of grooming?

The Hokkaido is fairly self-managed breed. The natural oils on their skin and coat helps to keep them clean and dry despite unfavorable weather conditions. No trimming or shaving of their fur is required or recommended, just regular brushing. Like all spitz breeds, the Hokkaido are heavy shedders during the fall and spring.

What is the cost?

Hokkaido typically range from \$1800-3500 depending on the quality, bloodlines, and the kennel from which you obtain your dog.

Do they make good house dogs?

Overall, Hokkaido make excellent house dogs given the right family and situation. They have little to no doggy odor despite infrequent bathing, and apart from the twice-yearly coat blowing, the Hokkaido does not shed much.

They are generally an easy breed to house train. They are not a clumsy breed, and they tend to be sure-footed around furniture.

Hokkaido are a very vocal and "needy" breed though. Whenever you arrive home, your Hokkaido will most likely burst into song, demanding your attention.

