

MCSTORMS CANINE COMPANIONS

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Name:

Phone Number (Home):

Phone Number (Cell):

Best time to reach you:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip

Email Address:

Describe your current pets, species, breeds and ages:

Do you have a fenced yard- approx. size?

Where will your dog spend the majority of his/her time during the day and what hours, if any, will he be left alone?

Where will your dog spend the majority of his night time?

Have you raised a puppy before? If so, what breed?

If you raised a puppy before, what were your biggest challenges and how did you deal with them?

What kind of **characteristics** are you looking for in your new puppy and what types of activities do you plan to do with your puppy/dog?

Let us know if you want to participate in any of these: Conformation showing, Agility, Herding, Frisbee, Flyball, Obedience or Breeding:
What is your experience in the above activities?

What would your preference be, male or female?

What is your color preference (black tri/blue merle)?

Note: Puppies are placed on suitability for their job (their family situation) first. If we don't have a suitable puppy of your color or sex preference, we'll let you know what we do have that we think might fit you.

If the puppy is going to stay at home without an adult, describe how you will keep the puppy (and your belongings) safe:

If you have not owned a herding dog in the past, why do you want a Miniature Aussie and what site/books have you read?

Briefly tell us your plan for training your puppy in basic obedience and socialization?

(From the ASCA website regarding full-sized Aussies) My edits are colored.

The Australian Shepherd was developed to be a moderate sized, intelligent, all-purpose stock dog of great character and endurance. Many Aussies today still do the work they were bred for, and even those that have never seen sheep or cattle usually have a strong herding instinct. This means that Aussies need fenced yards and leashes (training can work too- the smaller version seems to really like to herd bigger dogs), as the temptation to herd dogs, children, and traffic can simply overwhelm them.

Being bred to work hard all day means that most Aussies are not content to be couch potatoes, although Aussies have individual characters and some are more sedate and quiet-natured than others. (We call the working urge “drive”. We who raise primarily for pets are trying to breed temperaments more suited to homes- our own dogs definitely have downtime and hang on the couch with us at night.) For the most part, however, these are high energy dogs who need a purpose in their lives-a job as it were. Owners must be committed to give these dogs the time and attention they require through play and training, for as with any dog, undirected energy can turn towards destructive behaviors such as digging and chewing. (Left alone a lot, they have the energy and the smarts to commit some interesting doggy crimes, especially in their first year.)

The great intelligence of these dogs, necessary to out-think and control livestock, can be detrimental when left untrained and unused. Aussies are quite capable of out-thinking their owners. Obedience training is highly recommended as a means of teaching owners how to channel the typical Aussie's innate desire to please into appropriate behaviors. Aussies learn very quickly, so be certain you are willing to keep your Aussie occupied with walks, play, and training to benefit both mind and body

Although many Aussies are friendly with everyone, the Australian Shepherd as a breed tends to be somewhat reserved and cautious around strangers. With Aussies of this nature, owners should encourage the dog to meet people but not force encounters. (Give them a little bit of time while you talk with strangers and they usually will come meet them when they're ready- once acquainted, they will be hard to keep out of their pockets. We learned the hard way with our first Mini Aussie that you need to keep socializing them through all of their youth- new people new experiences, a steady diet. You'll think they're bullet proof with strangers, then isolate them in the country for a couple of months and they're cautious again. We have a list of situations to expose them to throughout their development.) Aussies are often quite protective of their family and property, a desirable trait in some situations but not acceptable in others.... As with all dogs, poorly socialized Aussies may become aggressive or fearful without proper training.

We recommend the following books: All About Aussies by Hartnagle; How To Raise A Puppy You Can Live With by Rutherford & Neil and Clicker Training books by Karen Pryor. Also, check out the websites from the two national clubs for Miniature Australian Shepherds: MASCA at www.mascaonline.net and NAMASCUSA at www.namascusa.com

