

# **FACTS AT A GLANCE**

## **Where does the Anatolian Shepherd Dog originate?**

**The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is native to the rural districts of Turkey and Asia Minor where it is the shepherd's companion and protector of livestock.**

## **Is the Anatolian Shepherd Dog recognized by the American Kennel Club?**

**Yes. The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is the 144th breed recognized by the American Kennel Club. The Anatolian is in the Working Group. The Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc. is the AKC recognized Parent Club.**

## **How many Anatolian Shepherd Dogs are in the United States?**

**Over 5,000 Anatolian Shepherds have been registered in the United States since 1970, the year the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc. was founded. Anatolian Shepherd Dogs are registered by the American Kennel Club and/or the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc.**

## **How big does the Anatolian Shepherd Dog get?**

**At full maturity (age 3 years) the adult male should weigh 110-150 pounds and stand at least 29 inches at the shoulder. Females should weigh 80-120 pounds and stand at least 27 inches at the shoulder.**

## **What are the colors and coat length of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog?**

**The classic coloring of this breed is fawn with black mask. Other colors may include pinto, white, or brindle. Short and rough coats can be found within the same litter.**

## **What is the lifespan of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog?**

**The average lifespan of the Anatolian Shepherd is between 11-13 years in a normal, safe environment. Working guardians have a high mortality rate.**

## **What is the temperament of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog?**

**The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a fiercely loyal guard dog that demonstrates a possessive attitude towards family, property and livestock. He is suspicious of strangers, reserved when in public and may expect a "formal introduction"**

before tolerating any familiarities. The Anatolian requires an owner who can be a strong, positive leader who consistently requires civilized behavior. This means **SOCIALIZATION!**

### **What training is recommended for Anatolian Shepherd Dogs?**

It is necessary to **SOCIALIZE** the Anatolian Shepherd Dog from puppyhood. Obedience training is an absolute necessity. Schutzhund training is not encouraged nor recommended for this breed.

### **How much does the Anatolian Shepherd Dog eat?**

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a conservative eater, thriving on low protein foods, particularly lamb & rice diets.

### **Is the Anatolian Shepherd Dog good with children?**

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is affectionate with family and likes well-behaved children. He does not recognize the child as his master and may be protective of his child. Careful supervision of children around the dog is recommended due to the dog's large size and temperament.

### **What type of housing/fencing is needed for this breed?**

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog should be kept in a fenced area not only for his protection but so that he does not become a liability. A large yard with a 5 or 6 foot fence and a locked gate is ideal. The breed can endure extremes of temperature and terrain. A shelter from inclement weather (which he may or may not choose to use) and a shady area when it is warm should be provided.

### **How Is the Anatolian Shepherd Dog with other animals and family pets?**

The most successful relationship with other animals is the situation when the Anatolian Shepherd Dog, as a puppy, is introduced under careful supervision to other animals. Puppies usually adapt well to other family pets (or livestock) and often take them into their protective sphere.

### **Does the Anatolian Shepherd Dog bark excessively?**

Some Anatolian Shepherd Dogs will bark more than others. In general the adult Anatolian is usually quiet, only sounding the alarm when necessary. Puppies will test their owners and may bark at any noise or intruder.

**Does the Anatolian Shepherd Dog have any breed related health problems?**

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog has not been prone to any particular disease. Hip dysplasia, while present in most large breeds, is not yet a serious problem. Responsible breeder's will radiograph all breeding stock. Entropion (inverted eyelids) is present in some lines, but like HD, it will not be widespread if breeders only breed from healthy stock. There is not a high incidence of bloat in the breed. Because of the drop ear, ear infections are fairly common. The Anatolian Shepherd Dog may be sensitive to anesthesia, especially if the dog is wearing a heavy-duty flea collar.

**What grooming is required for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog?**

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog requires standard care for coat, eyes, ears pads and nails. He tends to have little "doggy" odor. He does not drool. The coat requires little care except during seasonal shedding (molting) twice a year, at which time a thorough brushing is required.

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