

Temperament Trait Guide

In these charts are “real life” examples of how different temperament traits will be displayed as a puppy grows up. This can help with visualizing how your puppy will fit into your lives and give you more information to consider when training your pup. There is no perfect puppy. Perfect math. Perfect companion. Or fairytale ending. This is not a Disney movie. Every single puppy will be a challenge. Every puppy will encounter setbacks we cannot foresee. Therefore it is crucial to know your puppy's temperament to be proactive in their training and adjustment into your home.

<p>Assertive VS. Submissive</p>	<p>Assertive: Your child is holding a piece of pizza. An assertive dog will walk up to the child and take it. Period.</p> <p>Submissive: Your child is holding a piece of pizza. A submissive pup will walk slowly toward the child. Look left, look right. Smell the ground. Move a little closer. Check again to see if an adult is watching and slowly, ever so slowly try to take the pizza. Sometimes they will and sometimes the child will say NO in time and the dog will respect those boundaries.</p>
<p>Lacks Confidence/ Nerve Strength</p>	<p>You cannot coddle (pet or baby talk) which enforces fear. Socialization will take longer. Let's say you want to be able to take your pup to the park to walk around or take one of your children to the playground. You need to work the pup up to that outing; it cannot magically happen when the puppy is old enough to be in public.</p> <p><u>Day 1:</u> Just sit at a bench in the park until the pup settles. Then leave. No meeting new people. No pressure.</p> <p><u>Day 2:</u> Move closer to the playground. Sit and wait it out. Fear will dissolve (they cannot stay in that state of mind for long) and then leave. No meeting new people. No pressure.</p> <p><u>Day 3:</u> Sit right next to the playground. Politely tell those wanting to pet your pup that he or she is in training and cannot visit. Wait until the pup is settled and calm. Then leave. No pressure.</p> <p>Respect your pup and his/her need to take things slowly. Do not force. Do not enable. Build confidence through respect, understanding, consistency, and dedication.</p>
<p>Exuberant/High Energy Pups</p>	<p>It is important for these puppies to work on self-control and focus. Do not “reward the crazy,” for example, if you take the pup to the park and he or she gets excited to meet new people do not allow anyone to pet until the puppy is calm. In fact, go often and do not allow anyone to pet him. He needs to know that excitement is not rewarded. When you get his food bowl out, if he barks and gets excited just stand there with his food bowl. As soon as he settles and sits, say “yes” (immediately) and put the food bowl down. Tiedown and crate time allows these pups time to relax, rest, and learn self-control. Daycare at a</p>

	<p>kennel is another great way to exhaust your dog while giving him plenty of fun play time with other pups. These activities are very important training tools for exuberant pups. Make the commitment to ensure this pup gets more mental stimulation and physical activity. That might mean getting up earlier to walk longer, doing extra training sessions, challenging your pup with games and puzzles etc. It means not spending all day at work and then going to a movie or out to dinner, without taking your pup's needs into account.</p>
<p>High Prey Drive</p>	<p>This pup gets aroused easily by sight, sound, and/or smell of smaller animals. They may stay in "play drive" territory but could move into "hunt drive" and that can be difficult to manage. These pups tend to lose self-control when a rabbit is seen or maybe when kids run by or even just with toys (shaking to kill). You will need a system in place for training this energy appropriately (playing fetch, long hikes, etc.) Keeping this pup with you at all times keeps him/her from developing bad habits because you can correct the act in the moment. Investing your time in your pup for the first few months will create a well mannered life long companion.</p>
<p>Low Human or One Human Focus</p>	<p>This pup loves other dogs, or toys more than anything, or they are attached to one person and not the other. In these cases you'll need to go the extra mile to build a bond with your pup. If they are bonded to your significant other, you should be the one that starts to feed them or give them treats whenever you get home from work. Do activities with the pup that strengthen the person-to-dog relationship that don't require toys or other dogs. Take them on walks, brush them, spend time just petting and scratching them. But also know that you can't force your pup to be all cuddly and loving. Accept the independent personality that he/she is.</p>