

BULL MOUNTAINS BELGIAN MALINOIS

PUPPY QUESTIONNAIRE

A new dog means added responsibilities. If you have decided to purchase a dog, remember that owning a dog can be either the beginning of years of happiness, or the beginning of an overwhelming responsibility for which you are not prepared. When you bring a Belgian Malinois into your family you make a commitment to raise, train, and care for your dog throughout his lifetime. This can often mean a responsibility that spans the next 10-15 years. Remember the cute cuddly puppy matures into a big powerful dog. The following questions will help you in deciding if the breed characteristics of the Belgian Malinois make him the right breed for you.

Can You Afford a Dog?

The purchase cost of a puppy is \$2500.00. The cost of shipping and handling is also the responsibility of the buyer. We do not ship puppies via air cargo. You will need to drive or fly with your puppy as carry on. It is necessary to plan the costs of shipping in your initial investment.

A new dog is a lifetime commitment and the cost of his care is a necessary consideration. Have you considered the costs involved in caring for a dog? Will your budget allow for the cost of quality food and veterinary care including annual veterinary visits for preventative vaccinations and physical exams?

Will you be a responsible dog owner by providing vaccinations and spaying or neutering your pet?

Will it be difficult to spend the money to train this dog?

Are you aware of some of the health problems, which appear in the Malinois today? Are you willing to have the puppy OFA'd after the age of 24 months, whether or not you plan to breed?

Is the Belgian Malinois the right dog for you?

Why are you interested in a Belgian Malinois?

Have you done any research on this breed? How many Belgian Malinois have you met?

What are you looking for in a dog?

What is your "ideal" goal for the puppy, i.e., SchH/Ring titled AKC CH, CD, international competitor, police dog, family pet, therapy dog, etc.?

What is your "realistic" goal for the puppy?

What working drive do you feel would mesh with your personality, i.e., hard, sharp, moderate, low? And why?

What type of personality do you want in your Malinois?

Are you planning to train your dog in Sport (French Ring, Schutzhund, MondioRing, NAPD, KNVP, etc)?

Are you planning to train your dog for Search and Rescue or Service Dog Work (Therapy, Guide Dog, Hearing Dog, etc)?

Are you planning to train your dog towards Obedience, Tracking, Herding or Agility Competition?

Are you planning to compete in Conformation Showing with your dog?

Are you a member of any breed clubs - regional, national, or international? If yes, what clubs?

What sort of conformation (structure) are you looking for? Why?

If you had to choose between two puppies, one with perfect conformation, but low-moderate drive, and one with so-so conformation (but not pet quality) and high drive, which one would you choose? Why?

Are you interested in a puppy of a particular sex (M or F), or would you base your decision on drive & conformation?

Is this puppy intended for breeding? If so, why? If not, do you intend to spay/neuter?

What Will the Dog's Living Situation be?

Will this dog be a family member and live in the house?

Do you have a fenced in yard?

Do you have enough space to house the dog properly?

Do you now have other dogs? How many?

Do you have any other pets i.e. cats, birds, guinea pigs?

How will you keep the dog under control? Barking and free-roaming dogs are a nuisance to neighbors, endanger the dog, and dog laws prohibit it.

Do you own or rent your home? If you rent, will your landlord be willing to sign a statement allowing you to keep a Belgian Malinois in the house? Will your home owner's policy cover owning a Belgian Malinois?

Socialization and Training.

The Malinois is an active, intelligent large dog that requires early exposure to different people and dogs so that he will be accepting later in life. The Malinois requires training to channel his energy into useful activities. A puppy socialization or puppy kindergarten class is recommended for Malinois puppies. Formal obedience training in a group obedience class will help your Malinois become a welcome member of the human community.

Do you have time to socialize and train your Malinois?

How will you teach him the rules of the house? Chewing, barking, digging, house soiling, etc, are normal dog behaviors. Dogs usually continue these behaviors until effectively trained. Can your family accept this and be patient, kind and consistent during the teaching process?

What are your plans for socializing and training your puppy?

Are you planning to attend a puppy kindergarten class with your puppy for early socializing? Are you willing to take this puppy to training classes? When do you plan to begin obedience training?

Have you ever crate-trained a puppy? What are your feelings on crate training?

Please list any prior dog training experience, breeds owned, and what happened to these dogs.

Will a Belgian Malinois Fit Into Your Lifestyle?

Do you have enough time and energy for daily activities? Will it be difficult to spend the time to train and exercise? Will the dog blend into your routine or will it become an annoyance or burden?

Who will be the one to walk, feed, clean up after, train, play with and groom the dog, get him licensed and provide medical care? Be realistic, it is a job for adults or responsible older children. If you have children, can you teach them to be respectful of the new puppy?

The Malinois' high activity level and keen intelligence are characteristics that can get him into trouble if boredom sets in. While many people must leave their Malinois alone for eight hours while they go to their jobs, the successful owner limits activities that would keep him away from his dog after work. The Malinois like to be included in all your activities so if you like jogging, hiking, running, biking, obedience training, nature, and the out of doors then the Malinois may be a good choice for your lifestyle. However, if you often work extended hours, and are already over committed to family and friends then perhaps this is not a good time to be considering a dog at all.

How many hours a day will your Malinois be left alone?

Do you work Full Time? Are there family members at home full time?

Do you have any children? If so, what are their ages, and have they been exposed to dogs in the past? Were there ever any problems with your children and dogs?

Are there other adults in the household and are they in agreement with the purchase of this puppy?

If you were to go out of town what arrangements would you make?

Do you already have a vet?

Please list two references:

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Email:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Additional Comments:

If you still are interested in a puppy please return completed questionnaire to:

Bull Mountains Belgian Malinois

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Name:

Address:

Contact info: