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DOG FANCY

ALL DOGS

ALL THE TIME

DECEMBER 2011



Don't Let
Jumping
Up Get
You Down

**THIS
SUMMER:**
Beat the Heat
Off the Leash

Save a Mutt,
Choose
Adoption

Ask yourself
"What new
hobby can
Puppy and I
take up
together?"

THE WHIMSICAL
PEMBROKE
WELSH
CORGI

Going Toe to Toe with Ticks This Season

BE PREPARED!



**GREAT
PYRENESE**
& BORZOI



PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI

A whimsical companion who will always brighten your day

By Aly Rinehart



The best word I can find to describe the Pembroke Welsh Corgi is 'whimsical'. After three years of grinning, dancing, chortling fun with one of these adorable sausage-shaped canines, I can safely say that owning one will make your days happier.

Don't let the stubby legs fool you - these dogs are fast and agile. They were originally bred to be cattle herders, nipping the heels of the cows to get them to go in the right direction. As such, they are highly intelligent and eager to please.

However, I doubt my corgi, Delilah Rae would want anything to do with a cow even if we had one. This is ok though, because another of the Pembroke's great qualities is their adaptability. While their ancestors spent their days in the fields of Wales chasing cattle and sheep, today's corgis are just as happy curling up on the couch to read a good book with their owner. They could live contently on a huge farm or in the big city, as long as there are people.

These furry bundles of fun are extremely social and friendly.

While they are also very smart and alert, they are not the ideal guard dog. Corgis prefer to make friends with everyone they meet, not enemies.

Two trademarks of a Pembroke are their smile and their nub. A corgi's smile can win the heart of any human. Ask England's queen, who owns at least four at all times. Their almost nonexistent tail is what really sets them apart. It distinguishes them from their Cardigan cousins, the corgis who have larger ears and a long, bushy tail; and if you think they can't wag it, guess again. Sometimes their whole rump will sway with the effort of conveying so much happiness through so little tail.

In short, a corgi can be the perfect companion for almost any dog owner. Want to go for a run? Take your corgi. Want to watch football Monday night? Save some popcorn for your corgi. The kids want to play dress-up? So does your corgi. Surfing the big waves or surfing the web - corgi would love come too. One word of advice: invest in a lint brush. Otherwise you can make a new dog out of the fur one loses.

PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI

Region of origin: Wales.

Original use: Cattle drivers.

Group: Herding.

Average lifespan: 12-14 years.

Color: Red, sable, fawn, black and tan, with or without white markings.

Coat: Double, medium in length; short, thick undercoat with longer, coarser outer coat.

Grooming: Brush consistently; trim nails/bathe as needed

Height/weight: 10-12 inches; males, 30 pounds; females, 28 pounds.

Personality: Outgoing and friendly; hardworking; never vicious or shy.

Trainability: moderate to high

Activity level: moderate to high

Known health problems: hip dysplasia; progressive retinal atrophy.

Good with children? Yes, but may try to herd them.

Good with other pets? Yes, but watch for herding other dogs and cats, and introduce smaller cage-animals early to stimmy prey drive.

More info: DogChannel.com/pembrokewelshcorgi



SAVE A MUTT, CHOOSE ADOPTION

Are you looking to add a furry new member to the family? Before going on a hunt for the perfect purebred, consider adopting a mixed breed from your local shelter.

Today there are nearly seven million animals in shelters nationwide just waiting for a new home. While they may not resemble Lassie or Rin-Tin-Tin, they still have the potential to be someone's companion.

"Every pet I've owned was adopted, either from a shelter or found abandoned," says Aly Rinehart, lifelong animal lover and adoption advocate.

"Three of our five cats were adopted from local rescues, and my dog was dumped near our home in the country," Rinehart continues. "She's the best dog ever. And my cat's pretty great; he used to live under our barn."

Animals are also left in rural areas when the owner no longer wants or can care for them. It is always important to make sure these animals are not lost and being looked for. If they were truly abandoned, they can make great pets too once they've received proper veterinary attention.

Because pets do get lost, it's also very important to make sure your pet has a collar with tags, and a microchip with your information implanted beneath their skin.

"When we took Lilah to the vet to be checked, she didn't have a collar or a chip," Rinehart remembers. "Now she has both."

Some animals can wander far and may end up in a place where flyers and phone calls won't bring



them safely home. Sometimes a chip or a tag is all that keeps them from the shelters.

It is just as important to do your research when adopting a mutt as it is when adopting a pedigree. When looking for a purebred dog, you must make sure that the breeder has taken good care of the parents, that they have been breeding and raising dogs for some time, and that the breed you are looking at is suitable for your home and lifestyle. The same goes for shelter dogs.

It is especially hard to gauge the needs and abilities of mixed breeds. If you don't know what breeds make up the dog's genetics, it can be difficult to determine what living with this dog will be like. There are a few guidelines you can use though. For example, if the dog has terrier in its genes, it will probably be a voracious digger. Dogs with mastiff blood will grow to large sizes. When looking at puppies, check their paws; the larger the paws, the bigger the dog will get as it grows. Any vari-

ation on a poodle - labradoodle, schnoodle, cockapoo - will likely shed less and help with allergies.

If you're really looking to save a furry life, adopt a black dog. Statistics show that most dogs adopted from shelters are the colorful ones. Pure colors, especially black, are often overlooked.

"Don't forget about the pitties," Rinehart adds. "Although they've earned a bad rep on television, a properly raised and handled pit bull can become a fantastic family dog."

Dogs of the pit bull variety, or resembling a pit bull, are also usually left behind when adoption day comes along. People are wary of their aggressive nature. Many of the dogs euthanized in today's shelters are pit bulls or pit bull mixes.

Unfortunately, due to overpopulation, there just aren't enough shelters in America to house all the lost and abandoned pets. Of all the dogs brought in to the country's shelters, more than half are euthanized each year. This is another reason adoption is so important. Adopting these dogs (and cats) means they get to continue life; most get to start over completely.

If welcoming home a new family member just isn't an option right now, you can still do your part. Remember to tag and chip your pets so that if they do get lost, they get back home; spay and neuter your pets to help with overpopulation; and donate or volunteer at a shelter near you.

- Aly Rinehart