



Advice and Guidance on the Kerry Blue Terrier

The Kerry Blue Terriers temperament, behaviours and characteristics are well documented but we prefer to point them out to potential foster families who we hope will go on to have a happy life with their dog. The below description has been provided to give you a brief overview of the majority of dogs we see in the Rescue, so please read it carefully before completing the Interest Form.

The Kerry Blue Terrier is an affectionate and fun spirited dog which makes them a devoted and loyal family companion. The majority of dogs that we get through the Rescue get along well with children and love playing with them. The Kerry Blue is an active dog who needs a lot of exercise, typically a couple of hours a day. They are at their happiest when they are with their human pack.

Kerry Blue Terriers make fantastic watchdogs. They will warn their family of any potential "intruders" and can be prone to guarding the boundaries inside and out. Though they aren't known as nuisance barkers, when they do bark, they sound intimidating.

Many of the Kerry Blue Terriers that we see in the Rescue are aggressive towards other animals and especially other dogs. Extensive work is required with training so that they can learn to tolerate other dogs. We would never recommend leaving a Kerry Blue Terrier unsupervised around other dogs, even ones they know. They have a strong prey drive and as such do not do well around small animals. We do not recommend leaving them unattended with any other animal. They can be inclined to guard specific items, food and humans too.

Kerry Blue Terriers need room to run and we recommend gardens and areas that are securely fenced. The Kerry Blue needs to be thoroughly brushed and combed out at least once a week and their pads need to be checked regularly to ensure that the fur between the pads is not long, as this is very uncomfortable for the dog.

Many of the Kerry Blue Terriers that we see also suffer from separation anxiety. This can be worked on but it takes time and patience.

Kerry Blue Terriers is hyper allergenic and is very sweet looking **BUT** the majority are strong-willed and respond best to an equally strong owner who shows consistent leadership. Therefore, we don't recommend them for first-time or inexperienced dog owners.

Having read the previous page we hope that you have decided that a rehomed or rescued Kerry Blue Terrier is the dog for you. If you prefer not to go any further, please do let us know so that we can discount you from our decision-making process. If you wish to proceed, we've compiled the list below of things to consider. This list is certainly not exhaustive but give you an idea of things to think about with this breed.

- You have the patience and calmness needed to take on a rehomed dog.
- You are committed to the dog which could be for as long as 15 years.
- You can you afford to feed, insure, vaccinate, worm, flea and grooming your Kerry.
- You will complete any training needed for the dog which may include lifelong training.
- You are prepared for a dog with high energy levels and are ready to walk them daily, this could be depending on the dog up to 2 hours a day regardless of the weather outside.
- You are aware that your Kerry may be unpredictable at times and may not like other dogs or animals and are prepared to live your lives accordingly.
- You are happy that your dog may bark a lot at small noises and that they may take to digging holes in your garden or chewing furniture in your house.
- You have researched the breed extensively including their funny quirks and behaviours and are prepared to accept these no matters what.
- You acknowledge that they are terriers and just because they can look like fluffy teddy bears they are not; they are hunters and very clever; that you need "that touch" with your Kerry and will need to be more resilient than your dog and you will keep the upper hand.
- You understand that they will try and outsmart their owners.
- You realise that a Kerry's coat (whilst lovely) needs a lot of grooming and are committed to brushing them daily and having them cut every 6 to 8 weeks.
- You realise that a terrier is always a "special" dog, and for a lot of people the most wonderful friend for life but that Kerrys are not for everyone. They need people who understand that love and cuddles may not be the only thing they need.
- You have the sense of humour needed to own a Kerry Blue Terrier.
- Are you prepared that it may take up to 6 months for your Kerry to completely settle?
- You are prepared to accept the fact that owning and raising a Kerry can be the most challenging test of dog ownership. It is also very rewarding and once you have gained their trust they will flourish under your care, their love is unconditional and they will fiercely protect their families.

We are sure that it goes without saying but no dog will be rehomed if doing so would be illegal or create an un disclosed risk to humans or other animals. We will not rehome to families who wish to breed with the dog or use it as a guard dog.

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