

General_Temperament.txt

[Question]

I would like a dog that can do well off-leash, travels well, and plays well with other dogs/children.

[Answer]

Munsters are truly people-loving dogs. All versatile breeds were initially bred to be companions and guardians, so most do well with people. The Munsters are exceptional people-lovers and I've never heard of one biting a person, although any dog will bite under the right conditions. Many of them are big-time face-lickers. Adult males are generally more cuddly than the adult females. Males are especially good with young children. Everyone who meets my dogs are impressed with how sweet, well-behaved and unassuming they are. You get a couple of minutes of happy greeting and then they'll go lie down somewhere and wait for something to happen.

As for traveling, my girls are a dream come true in the car/truck. They will all just lie down and sleep until we get there - without any formal training. They don't need to be crated. They've been trained to stay in the back of the suburban, which is important with this breed as it maintains your superiority in the pack. They are great in hotel rooms. They just snuggle and sleep and only bark when pizza delivery knocks on the door. My girls all love to travel. They love to go to new places and investigate. They'll ride for 3 hours to spend a half hour running free in a marsh and be perfectly happy to do it again the next day.

My dogs are wonderful in the house. They are generally calm and quiet. They will bark if someone comes to the house or a car they don't know comes up the drive, but they never bark for no reason. They just lie around and wait for 5:00 to come so they can go for their daily run. That's when you see them go bonkers. If you hold a leash or put on your boots, they'll also go bonkers. Get out a shotgun and they practically explode. This ability to turn on/off is one of their best traits.

Keep in mind, these dogs are hunting dogs first and foremost and are housepets second. They need daily physical and mental stimulation or they can be very naughty and hyper. You should plan on at least 20 minutes of off-lead exercise at least 4 day per week. More is better. They do not run away, so it's easy to off-lead exercise them. Just go for a walk on your favorite wooded path in the park.

If you do a good job following the training instructions (which I'll provide) and give them enough off-lead exercise, you'll have a dog that walks perfectly on a lead, doesn't jump on people, rides nicely in the car, and is wonderful in the house. If you do a poor job, you'll have a big problem on your hands. So you must be able to make a time commitment with this dog, particularly for the first year.