

# Mastiff



**Average Height:** 70-77 cm  
**Average Weight:** 80-86 kgs  
**Average Life Span:** 8-10 years

## ORIGIN

The Mastiff, also known as the old English Mastiff, boasts an ancient heritage. The dogs were found in Britain at the time that the Romans invaded the island; they may have been brought there by Phoenician traders as early as the 6th century BC. The Romans used the dogs as gladiators, pitting them against bulls, bears, and other dogs; they also employed the dogs as guardians for sheep and bodyguards for people. Although the dog's talents include guarding, many of today's mastiffs consider their mission in life to be loving companions to their human packs.

## CHARACTERISTICS

The mastiff is truly a giant among dogs, being massive, powerful, and muscular. The head is heavy and square with a short muzzle and drooping jowls and a black mask around the eyes and nose. The small ears are dark in color and flop downward. The mastiff's straight, coarse coat is moderately short. Coat colors include fawn, apricot, and brindle. They are a dignified yet good-natured animal.

## IDEAL COMPANIONS

The Mastiff is loving and affectionate toward his family, and his calm demeanor makes him a good companion for older children. However, the breed is not recommended for toddlers because of its great size. The mastiff's guard dog roots are likely to manifest themselves when visitors come to the home. The dog tends to be suspicious of strangers and protective of his family and perceived territory. Even so, the mastiff barks infrequently.

## CARE REQUIREMENTS

The mastiff can be a noble, loving family pet, but his zealous guardianship requires moderation through socialization and obedience training. It is crucial to expose a mastiff to as many new people, places, and situations as possible, particularly during puppyhood.

Couch potatoes may find a kindred spirit in the mastiff, but both the dog and his people will be fitter and happier if they get regular exercise. Grooming is quick and easy. The short coat requires little more than a weekly brushing and a quick wipe with a towel.

## EXTRA NEEDS

The mastiff is a well-known drooler and tends to snore loudly.