

A Border Terrier Is Not For Everyone

A Border is not for people who want a dog some of the time. Borders who don't feel part of their family are not happy. Stuck out in a kennel all day, they bark, and their bark is meant to be heard from ten feet underground. Left in the yard, even if fenced, Borders can find a way to get out. They are determined diggers, can climb, and, once out, far too many get hit by a car. If you want a yard dog, don't get a Border Terrier.

Borders were bred to hunt and the older they get, the braver they become about going off, especially if there are two of them. A Border was bred to think for himself, which can be both his most endearing and most frustrating quality. Told to stay, he will oblige for what he considers enough time, then slip off about his own business. If you want a dog that is unfailingly obedient, don't get a Border Terrier.

Borders are active dogs who love and need regular exercise in fairly large quantities. They do not necessarily come into the house and lie down quietly. Being terriers, they are bouncy, bark when someone comes to the door, and run to greet them. Border greetings are quite effusive. Keeping their feet on the floor is a constant struggle.. If you don't like dogs jumping on you, don't get a Border Terrier.

Borders have very strong jaws and teeth. They were bred to kill fox and other varmints. Chewing is something that all puppies do, but Borders may carry it just a bit farther and some never really outgrow it. There is hardly a toy that is Border proof. Rugs, especially scatter rugs, and chair legs are prime targets. If you don't want to crate your dog when you go out and to have your house littered with suitable chew toys, don't get a Border Terrier.

In general, Borders get along with other dogs and the family cat, especially if the cat was there first. However, they will chase, and may kill, stray cats that come into the yard if they can catch them. They are not safe with small furry pets such as gerbils or guinea pigs. If you or your children raise fancy mice or rabbits, have other rodents for

pets, or have birds who are allowed out of their cages, a Border is the wrong dog for you.

Borders are not safe off lead except in securely fenced areas. The best trained Border will bolt after a cat or squirrel despite your commands. And the older they get, the more ready they seem to do this. More Borders are killed by cars than die of disease or old age. If you enjoy walking with your dog running freely by your side, choose another breed.

In sum, Borders are vital without being hyper, affectionate, responsive to approval, sentries rather than guards, non-territorial, athletic, cooperative, hardy, gentle self-starters. They need to be closely supervised always, interacted with regularly, and do not thrive where they are not part of a family's life. They can do well in big cities, in small towns, or in the country. They adapt well to life's circumstances, think there are no people like their people, and love you unconditionally. The hope of those who know and care deeply about Border traits is that their unique qualities will be loved and preserved by those who hold them dear.



Border Terrier Canada invites you to “Meet the Breed”



The Border Terrier takes his name from the Border counties of England and Scotland. For Centuries, terriers fitting the description of the Border were in use by shepherds, farmers, and huntsmen who wanted a game terrier with sufficient leg to follow a horse in the rugged hill country but small enough to be able to go to ground after marauding hill foxes. Courageous enough to kill his quarry in the den or bolt him from his lair, yet able to fit in comfortably at home when work was done.

A double coat - hard, wiry outer jacket over a dense undercoat - and thick, loose pelt, ensure the Border is well protected from the inclement weather of his homeland and the punishing jaws of his quarry. The physical and mental qualities that should be "part and parcel" of the Border are the results of generations of breeding and enable the Border to do his job with the least amount of injury to himself and with the greatest amount of efficiency possible.

With his characteristic, endearing Otter head, implacable determination, boundless courage and overall good temper, the Border Terrier is a neat unspoiled breed that is equally at home in the field or the home.

If you are considering adding a Border Terrier to your family, we strongly recommend that you read the Border Terrier Club of America's handy little booklet - *The Border Terrier in Brief* available on their web site at:

<http://www.btcoa.org/research/btinbrief.htm>.

The following information is an extraction from The Border Terrier in Brief adapted for our use and reprinted with permission from Border Terrier Club of America inc.

Living With A Border Terrier

Border temperament sets the breed apart from many other terriers. Because Borders were expected to run peacefully with foxhounds (similar to the Harrier), they were bred for a less dog-aggressive temperament than terriers who hunted primarily on their own. In the field the Border Terrier is hard as nails, game as they come and driving in attack, at home, he is good-tempered affectionate, obedient [within reason], and easily trained [for a terrier].



Next to food, the thing the Border needs and enjoys most is time with you. Since plenty of exercise is a necessity for Borders, both of these needs can be met with a daily walk, be it twenty minutes around the block, or an hour's stroll in the park. A Border will respond with joyous abandon whenever you pick up the leash.

It should be noted that Borders should always be walked on a lead unless released in a completely safe, fenced area. To make a daily walk and life in general enjoyable for both Border and owner, a basic obedience or puppy socialization class is helpful. Equipped with basic obedience skills, the world opens up for a Border!.

Borders are active dogs and as puppies they can really be VERY active. The proper use of a crate will improve quality of life for both of you. A wire crate will serve a lifetime as his bedroom, travel box, and a secure place when you have company who might leave a door open, or when he needs peace and quiet.

The key to most Border's hearts is food. They tend to get pudgy rather quickly so treats need to be tiny and low

calorie. Since “come” is not a favorite word, resorting to the reinforcement of a treat can get the job done without stress on anyone's part.

A Border gets along well with children provided the children respect and know how to behave around the dog. However, if you have a baby or very young children, you may want to postpone getting any dog. Adding a BT to a household is like adding a two year old in a dog suit. Without proper attention, the active Border Puppy can get into just about as much danger or mischief. Never get a dog with the idea of teaching a child responsibility. Both children and puppies need an adult caregiver and parents need to accept this before getting the dog. Borders will take several years to mature into the steady, devoted family friend you thought you were getting.



A Healthy Border Terrier

A good diet, plenty of exercise, regular grooming, and routine veterinary care should keep a Border in good health. Genetic problems occasionally found in Borders are hip dysplasia, heart defects, progressive retinal atrophy and juvenile cataracts. These are not widespread in the breed thanks to careful screening and selective breeding. Seizures, and allergies are a concern but the incidence is limited compared to other breeds. Borders can have problems with anesthesia so caution is required. Borders

are also very stoic. If they are suddenly withdrawn and quiet, they must be checked carefully since they may not show pain or discomfort when they are not feeling well..

Grooming

Borders are not a high maintenance breed but they do need more grooming than some books on choosing a dog indicate. The bare necessities are clipping nails, checking and cleaning teeth and ears, and keeping the anal and genital areas clean. Generally, Borders do not require frequent bathing. Toweling off when wet and dirty followed by slicker brushing when dry usually suffices. Although the Border does not lose quantities of hair seasonally like many breeds, there is a certain amount of shedding however; it will not shed out completely without help. Most Borders are hand stripped twice a year. This involves pulling out the dead outer hair by hand, or with the help of a stripping tool, leaving the dog in his underwear, his soft undercoat. The new coat grows back in 8-10 weeks. Some Borders are kept in good coat all the time through a process known as rolling or you may prefer the natural look, doing nothing to the coat except brushing it. The length, texture, and thickness of the dog's coat will determine the appearance. Clipping is not a recommended method of grooming since it does not remove the dead hair but merely shortens it. A Border who has been clipped will lose the texture and color of his natural protective coat. Whatever you decide, your breeder should be able to guide you.

