



# Meet the Breed

## Pyrenean Mastiff

gentle -- noble -- protective



### Origin of the Pyrenean Mastiff

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The Pyrenean Mastiff derives from the region of Aragon, Spain. They were traditionally used as livestock and property guardians. Due to the inherent nomadic nature of the breed's occupation, little is known prior to that time. Dogs traveled often with their charges and farmers as they moved about the region looking for better pastures. There is evidence of large dogs of a Mastiff type in the areas that were known to have been part of migration patterns. Since we know the traditional practices of the shepherds, we can deduce that Pyrenean Mastiffs have been in that region for 3 to 4 millennia, defending their charges from wolves and bears. Unfortunately, when there was a decline in large predators by the 1940's, there was also a decreased need for the Pyrenean Mastiff. This left very few lines available and resulted in higher levels of inbreeding. After the Spanish Civil War, the struggling economy also worsened the situation and made it difficult for people to maintain such large dogs. Some continued to use the Pyrenean Mastiff as property/estate guardians, while very few had them as companions.

Rafael Malo Alcrudo, along with a group of breeders, began the difficult work of recovering the Pyrenean Mastiff. After searching the region to find examples of the breed, 100 possible dogs were found. These were then narrowed down to the top 30 dogs to represent the foundation of the modern Pyrenean Mastiff. In 1977, the Club del Mastin del Pirineo (CMPE) was founded and dedicated to the Pyrenean Mastiff within Spain. The breed began to gain popularity and spread throughout Europe, especially in Finland. Eventually, the Pyrenean Mastiff arrived in the USA in 1996 and began to gain traction in the late 2010's. Today, the Pyrenean Mastiff is known for its even-tempered demeanor and ability to be a livestock guardian, property guardian and family companion.





# Appearance

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The Pyrenean Mastiff dog conveys the distinct impression of power and strength combined with a very large size, moderate proportions, and strong substance. The Pyrenean Mastiff stands well up on the pasterns, with strong, tight, cat feet, giving a proud appearance. The coat consists of a white base coat with piebald markings that include patching over the eyes and ears at minimum.

Patches will be agouti, varying shades of sable with or without black tipping, badger, varying shades of gold, brown, black, with or without brindle. The coat should have a coarse texture that is not woolly and is medium to long, where ideal length at midline is between 2.5 inches and 3.5 inches.

The Pyrenean Mastiff possesses a perceptive intelligence and a gentle, while regal, expression that exudes a strong presence. Exhibiting a harmonious movement that is emphatically strong and muscular. Despite their size, the Pyrenean Mastiff should not give the impression of being heavy or sluggish.



# Pyrenean Mastiff at Work

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Although good natured, Pyrenean Mastiffs are loyal protectors of their charges and property. They are analytical toward unknown humans or animals and bark to alert when they detect an intruder. They are aware of their superior strength, and when necessary, they will fight with great skill. But most often, working Pyrenean Mastiffs will be seen dozing in the shade, ears always attuned to their surroundings.





## Temperament

The Pyrenean Mastiff is calm, dignified, and very intelligent. They are easy-going, but independent thinkers. They are often aloof toward strangers, but friendly with humans that don't pose a threat. They are gentle and attentive with children. Although good natured, Pyrenean Mastiffs are loyal protectors of their charges and property.

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### What are they used for today?

The Pyrenean Mastiff is a well balanced dog and today we find them doing a variety of different jobs to include just being a family dog.

- Livestock Guardian
- Family Dog
- Family/Property Guardian
- Service Dogs (*Service & Therapy Dogs require extensive training, only a small percentage of dogs can do this job*)
- Therapy Dogs







# Owning a Pyrenean Mastiff

Affectionate with family ●●●●○

Good with children ●●●●○

Good with dogs ●●●●○

Shedding level ●●●●○

Grooming frequency ●●●○○

Energy Level ●●○○○

Barking Level ●●●●○

Trainability ●●○○○

Adaptability ●●●○○

Protective nature ●●●●●

Drooling level ●●●●●

## Breed Stats

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Height: 28 - 31 inches

Weight: 120 - 190 pounds

Average Age: 10-12 Years

Less than 100 puppies are born in North America a year

## Potential Health Issues

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- Hip Dysplasia
- Elbow Dysplasia
- Bloat
- Osteosarcoma
- Heart conditions
- Ectropian/Entropian Eyelids

PMAA Recommend breeders do x-rays for hip and elbow dysplasia and genetic testing for degenerative Myelopathy at this time for breeding dogs.



# *Would a Pyrenean Mastiff be for you?*

## *What is an ideal home?*

The most ideal home for a Pyrenean Mastiff is a homestead or heritage farm where the dog can have a job but also be involved with the family. The Pyrenean Mastiff enjoys their people and keeping watch over their home and charges. However, they can also be wonderful family/property guardians.



Pyrenean Mastiffs need firm boundaries. They are incredibly smart and will out think you if it gets them what they want. So correcting bad behavior appropriately and setting boundaries is essential. Firm boundaries is more than just mentally firm boundaries but also physically. If there is no physical fencing you will have a harder time containing a Pyrenean Mastiff to a designated area.

You must understand the Pyrenean Mastiff is still a livestock guardian breed. They will bark to alert, they are highly independent in their thought process and will test boundaries. However, if you develop an amazing bond with them they will respect you, be loyal and incredibly loving.



Pyrenean Mastiffs are very versatile as mentioned before. But they aren't eager to train unless you are prepared to work! They require high motivation to do training, and are not good with repetition. Training them is not like training a Golden Retriever or Lab. Training takes a ton of dedication and finding creative approaches to train!





## About PMAA

In May of 2022, the Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America (PMAA) was formally made known to AKC after establishing itself as a State Non-profit and a Federal Non-profit with Public Charity status. PMAA began accepting members at the end of July 2022. Effort was put into place to show the community that the club would be doing its absolute best to bring breed education to the United States. The club's focus is on being a club that would provide support and resources for those interested in the breed. PMAA offers an extensive web-based tool set to help aid in managing the club, its ability to support its members, and the community.



[www.pyreneanmastiffassociation.org](http://www.pyreneanmastiffassociation.org)



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