
“The Bearded Collie” 101

In an effort to preserve, protect and advance the interests of the Bearded Collie through responsible ownership and breeding, the Bearded Collie Club of America (BCCA) encourages anyone thinking of adding a Bearded Collie to your family to make sure this breed fits your lifestyle. As depicted in the movie “The Shaggy Dog,” this breed is quite active, outgoing, bouncy, and affectionate. Not all Bearded Collies are movie stars. Here are some basic facts you should know about Beardies before buying:

★ Bearded Collies, also known as Beardies, were bred for sheep herding. Collie is a Scottish word for “dogs that herd sheep”. Like most herding dogs, Beardies will chase kids, cars, other dogs, even planes flying overhead, as well as nip at ankles or eye-level bottoms—all in an effort to satisfy that herding instinct.

★ Beardies were bred to be independent thinkers. They require a patient, loving trainer.

★ Beardies are people-oriented dogs. They need to be with their family and must be socialized as youngsters to ensure a well-adjusted dog. If left alone for long periods, they are liable to become frustrated, depressed, and destructive.

★ Beardies are bouncers. If you live with toddlers, elderly or physically challenged people, remember Beardies are naturally

vigorous, bouncy dogs that like to jump up to look you in the eyes or kiss your nose. They must be trained from infancy not to jump up.

★ Beardies are barkers. Certain things will set off their “alarm” system. They bark when excited, while playing or bored.

★ Some Beardies are noise-sensitive. They will shy away from people or run away from the source of the noise.

★ Beardies require a lot of exercise. They are most content when they are able to run and play. A fenced space is mandatory for this breed.

★ Beardies shed. If groomed properly they shed minimally, BUT...

★ Beardies need weekly grooming. A Bearded Collie is a high maintenance dog. Matted coats lead to problems of all kinds. A Beardie needs grooming at least once a week which takes about 30 minutes to one hour for grooming.

★ Beardies, like other breeds, have health problems. These include allergies, hip dysplasia, hypothyroidism, Addison’s disease and some eye problems.

★ Find out more about Beardies before you buy. Those interested in learning

more about the breed should visit the Bearded Collie Club of America website, http://beardie.net/bcca/About_Beardies and read “What Is A Beardie?”.

★ Buy a Beardie from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop! Consider your decision carefully. Protect yourself. Be critical of what the breeder tells you and what you see. An ethical breeder will interview you and not agree to sell you a dog on the spot.

★ Use the BCCA services to find a reputable breeder. Contact the Corresponding Secretary <http://beardie.net/bcca/organization/officers> or an affiliate club (See Affiliate Club menu) near you for a referral to a reputable breeder. Many very nice Bearded Collies end up in our rescue program, another place to locate a Beardie. Visit <http://beardie.net/bcca/rescue>.

The sad truth is that many Bearded Collies are impulse purchases, and people who think they can live with one find out quickly how challenging it can be. Remember, adding a “Shaggy Dog” to the family is a 12-15 year commitment. Which are you—a movie fan or a companion for life?

For more information contact:

The Bearded Collie Club of America
www.bcca.us or your local Bearded Collie Club

TAKE THE “Am I Ready to Own A Bearded Collie?” QUIZ

Put a check (✓) by all that apply:

- I am able to keep a dog indoors.
- I am willing to spend at least one hour a day exercising a dog.
- I want a dog that is very dependent on me.
- I am willing to spend the time necessary to train the dog.
- I am willing to spend time playing with a dog.
- I am not a “neat freak” and do not mind having my house decorated with hair, leaves, sticks, wet and muddy floors.
- I am physically strong and active enough to control and train a lively dog of considerable strength and energy.
- I have had all my household members recently spend time indoors with a Bearded Collie to be certain no one has an allergic reaction to them.
- I am willing to put up with a dog who by nature is a barker.
- I am willing to put up with Beardie hugs, a natural jumping up, as a way of greeting.
- I am willing to have holes in the landscape, if my Beardie turns out to be a digger.
- I am willing to keep my Beardie properly groomed weekly and brushed daily to avoid matting and potential skin problems.
- I have a properly fenced yard high enough to prevent a Beardie jumping or climbing over.
- I am willing to be responsible for a dog who is easily bored, especially when left alone for long periods.
- I am willing to commit 12 to 15 years of my life to this dog.

Where Do You Rate on The Beardie Readiness Scale?

15 ✓ Wow! You will be a terrific owner with guidance

from an experienced Beardie owner or breeder.

14-13 ✓ Think twice and once more.

12 or fewer ✓ Definitely not the dog for you.

Not Every Bearded Collie Is a Movie Star

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ask Before You Buy!



A Bearded Collie Club of America
Public Education Initiative

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