

So you want to own a Bracco?

A light hearted but realistic look at the breed!

Why?!.....They are large, smelly, and slobbery and not the easiest of the gundog breeds to train. You must visit the breed as an adult in their home and speak to as many different people as possible - there are lots of different opinions on the breed!

Dogs are very different than bitches to live with - they can be a dominant breed particularly with other males.

Bracco personalities are variable .The four living with us are all different in their personality traits and training/exercise needs. I have some Bracchi which you would swear had been raised on rocket fuel, in fact the expression 'wired to the moon' comes to mind! They can also be heard regularly communicating with other life forms up there!

I also have some which are so docile; they barely make it off the sofa! And the dulcet tones of snoring are common place.

Some Bracchi are extremely vocal and love the sound of their own voice regularly baying to the moon and stars as well as barking to anyone who will listen. Some like nothing more than to sit out side and watch the world go by.

By the way, contrary to popular belief, they do cast hair! The white hair in particular is noticeable.....

Bracchi also have very large feet and they regularly use them. They specialise in digging and enjoy nothing more than bringing half the

garden into the house - beware the house and garden proud! I seriously doubt this breed would be for you.

If your lifestyle means you have limited time at home, unless your dog can travel with you, don't consider a Bracco. Although they do tolerate being left for spells, they thrive on human company. Bracchi enjoy children and although they can be boisterous generally they will play most games - especially hide and seek, oh and football of course!

Because Bracchi love to carry things be warned your shoes, slippers and cushions will never look, feel or smell the same again.....!

Feeding

Many people have strong opinions on diet. Regardless of your dietary preference, the Bracco requires a quality diet. Cheap, low-medium quality foods will not do. A premium quality diet is essential, be guided by your chosen breeder and vet. Bracchi are expensive dogs - expensive to buy and feed - veterinary insurance is also essential.

Health

Be aware of entropion, ectropion, glaucoma, elbow dysplasia, hip dysplasia, splenic torsion, gastric torsion/bloat, skin complaints, kidney failure and ultimately selective deafness! All of these ailments/conditions are possible within this breed, indeed the latter is a breed trait!

No-one can guarantee the future health of any puppy in any breed. Kennel Club Accredited Breeders will always ensure the necessary health checks and some additional ones are completed to a satisfactory standard. All KC accredited breeder puppies will also have a full and comprehensive puppy pack, food, insurance and contract - which is legally binding. The nature of the contract will

vary from breeder to breeder but essentially it is to maintain the quality of life and welfare of the breed.

Research

Bracchi are still fairly new to the UK but there are several experienced and knowledgeable breed enthusiasts out there - talk to as many as you can. Finally, having seen the breed at home, asked lots of questions of the breeder it may be worth trying the following experiment.....

Throw water on your kitchen/utility room floor, pierce pins holes in your slippers, shoes and cushions, dig several large holes in your garden and ultimately mix up some sticky solution of sugar and water then randomly splash some around your house but definitely on your TV screen!

Do you still want to own a Bracco?

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Gunsyn Gundogs

Weimaraners and Bracchi Italiani.