

Top 10 Reasons Why a German Shepherd Dog May Not be the Dog for You

By [Shiphra Shepherds](#) on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 9:28pm

1. **German Shepherds require a serious commitment.** Many of the dogs that are surrendered to rescue organizations have no training. It is important that the new family puts time and effort into training their new puppy.
2. **German Shepherds usually have a high energy level.** The very energy that allows these dogs to be police, search, guide and herding dogs is often the reason these dogs are surrendered. If you're looking for a couch potato you may want to consider a different breed.
3. **German Shepherds are highly intelligent.** If they are not given a job to do they will often come up with their own, such as excavating your sprinklers, taking down your fence, chasing livestock, etc.
4. Like any dog, **the German Shepherd is a social animal and needs to be part of a family.** The loyalty that endears this breed to many requires that it not be banished to the backyard.
5. **German Shepherds are large dogs.** The number one reason given by people surrendering German Shepherds is moving. Usually apartment managers do not welcome these dogs. If you don't know where you will be a few years down the line it is not the right time to adopt.
6. **German Shepherd Dogs shed non-stop.** If you don't like cleaning up dog hair consider a different breed. Bathing can be challenging due to the dog's water-resistant outer coat.
7. **German Shepherd Dogs can be vocal,** often whining and barking to communicate. If left alone for prolonged periods of time they may become problem barkers.
8. **A German Shepherd must respect its owner.** This is not accomplished by heavy-handedness; it is only achieved when its owner treats the dog with respect and provides adequate leadership.
9. **These dogs originated as herding dogs.** It is a heritage they carry still. Keep this in mind if you or your neighbors have livestock.
10. **German Shepherd Dogs are one of the guard dog breeds.** They can become overprotective towards possessions or property, even towards family members. **If you know you are too soft to establish effective leadership or you know you like to spoil your dog or not crate train, consider a different breed.**