

Dog Breed Size Information Sheet

Understanding Dog Sizes:

Dog breeds are commonly grouped into size categories based on their average adult weight and height. Knowing the size of a dog helps owners choose a breed that suits their home, lifestyle, activity level, and experience.

When choosing the right breed before choosing a dog, consider:

- Your lifestyle and activity level
- Size of your home and yard
- Time available for training and exercise
- Grooming needs
- Financial commitment
- Experience with dogs
- Children or other pets in the home

Every dog benefits from:

- Calm and consistent leadership
- Positive training and boundaries
- Daily exercise and mental stimulation
- Early socialisation
- Routine, structure, and patience
- A healthy relationship is built through trust, guidance, and understanding.
- Dogs thrive when owners provide calm direction, clear expectations, and a safe environment.

Xtra Small Dog Breeds Typical Size:

Weight: Under 5 kg

Height: Under 25 cm

Personality Traits:

- Often affectionate and people-oriented
- Can be confident despite their tiny size
- May bond strongly with one person
- Sensitive to rough handling and cold weather
- Best For Apartments and small homes
- Owners wanting a companion dog
- People able to provide close supervision

Things to Consider:

- Fragile bones and delicate bodies
- Can become overly dependent if not trained properly
- Need gentle socialisation and calm leadership
- Small dogs still require boundaries, routine, and exercise

Common Xtra Small Breeds:

- Chihuahua Pomeranian
- Toy Poodle Maltese
- Yorkshire Terrier
- Papillon
- Russian Toy
- Affenpinscher

Small Dog Breeds Typical Size:

Weight: 5–10 kg

Height: 25–40 cm

Personality Traits:

- Energetic and alert
- Often adaptable and social
- Many were bred for companionship or hunting small game
- Best For Families and singles
- Smaller homes with daily exercise
- Owners wanting a manageable-sized dog

Things to Consider:

- Some small breeds can become vocal or reactive without guidance
- Mental stimulation is important
- Consistent training helps build calm behaviour

Common Small Breeds:

- Cavalier King Charles
- Spaniel
- French Bulldog
- Miniature Schnauzer
- Jack Russell
- Terrier
- Shih Tzu
- Boston Terrier
- Pug
- Dachshund

Medium Dog Breeds Typical Size:

Weight: 10–25 kg

Height: 40–60 cm

Personality Traits:

- Usually versatile and active
- Many medium breeds are intelligent working dogs
- Often balance energy with trainability

- Best For Active families
- Homes with yards or access to regular outdoor exercise
- Owners willing to provide training and structure

Things to Consider:

- Require regular exercise and mental enrichment
- Can become destructive when bored
- Thrive with calm leadership, consistency, and routine

Common Medium Breeds:

- Border Collie
- Australian Cattle Dog
- Staffordshire
- Bull Terrier
- Beagle
- English Springer Spaniel
- Australian Shepherd
- Whippet
- Cocker Spaniel

Large Dog Breeds Typical Size:

Weight: 25–45 kg

Height: 60–75 cm

Personality Traits:

- Often loyal and protective
- Can be calm indoors when exercised properly
- Many large breeds are powerful working dogs
- Best For Experienced owners
- Homes with space and secure fencing
- Families committed to ongoing training

Things to Consider:

- Need proper obedience training early
- Strong dogs require calm, confident handling
- Higher food and veterinary costs Joint health and exercise balance are important

Common Large Breeds:

- Labrador
- Retriever
- Golden Retriever
- German Shepherd
- Boxer
- Dobermann

- Rottweiler
- Weimaraner
- Belgian
- Malinois

X-Large Dog Breeds Typical Size:

Weight: 45 kg+

Height: 75 cm+

Personality Traits:

- Often gentle giants when well-trained
- Calm and loyal but extremely strong
- Some breeds are natural guardians
- Best For Owners experienced with giant breeds
- Larger homes and properties
- Families prepared for the physical and financial commitment

Things to Consider:

- Require space, training, and careful socialisation
- Puppy growth must be managed carefully to protect joints
- Shorter average lifespan in some giant breeds
- Calm leadership and structure are essential due to their size and strength

Common X-Large Breeds:

- Great Dane
- Saint Bernard
- Newfoundland
- Mastiff
- Irish Wolfhound
- Leonberger
- Cane Corso
- Great Pyrenees