

Pointers In The Home

By Patricia Lillesand

Pointers are the undisputed Cadillac of bird dogs, reigning supreme in the field. They sometimes, however, get a bad rap when it comes to living in the home. While not for everyone, Pointers make wonderful companions and additions to a family. Some people believe that because they are an active hunting breed, they will be too hyper in the house. People who own Pointers find them a joy to live with and love having them in the home. And Pointers love being in the home! They love their creature comforts, and will make themselves right at home on a sofa or bed if given the chance. They love affection and are very devoted to their owners.

Pointers are athletes that enjoy lots of exercise. They thrive when provided a home that includes a fenced yard in which to run, but can adapt to homes that have small or no yards if given daily exercise such as jogging with their owners or playing at dog parks.

Most Pointers love children and are very good with them. Small children can be knocked over by a playful Pointer, or be accidentally hit in the head by a wildly wagging tail. Caution should be used in these situations. That tail can also clear coffee tables! Older children are their best companions, as both Pointer and child provide each other with endless hours of play. Pointers are protective of their homes and will bark at strangers. They are not usually aggressive, but will give warning.

As with most other breeds of dogs, Pointers shed. Their coat hairs are short and stiff and can get in the weave of some knits. Keeping a Pointer brushed minimizes the amount of shedding. They require little other grooming, just keep their nails trim and ears and teeth clean. They are definitely a “wash and wear” breed!

Instinctively, Pointers love to hunt. When they are outside, they will hunt around the yard – that includes the shrubs, bushes, flowerbeds or anywhere they think prey might be hiding. Gardens and Pointer

exercise areas are best kept separate to keep plants from being trampled. They need to be supervised when in the yard to keep from developing bad habits like digging. Dogs like to be kept busy, and the Pointer is no exception. It is when they are bored that they can get into mischief.

The average life expectancy of a Pointer is 12 years of age, but many live to be 16 years or more. They can provide their owner with many years of love and companionship if they are given the proper care. ■



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