

# Should YOU Own A German Wirehaired Pointer?

by Bernee Brawn

Will this breed fit into your lives? Let's see. The first thing I want people to know about this breed is that it is a high energy breed. They need exercise, the more the better. If you think a 30 minute walk, once a day is adequate exercise, don't get a German Wirehaired Pointer. Adequate exercise for a GWP will include a good, hard hour run at least once or twice a week. Daily exercise will keep both you and the dog happier. This is a thinking breed, they need a job, something to keep their brains engaged in the right direction. If you don't give them something to keep them occupied, they will find something to do, and you probably won't appreciate their choices very much.

If you don't like the outdoors, don't get a German Wirehaired Pointer. This is an honest to goodness hunting dog! Their instincts will tell them to hunt. They may hunt your cat, the birds at your feeder or the squirrels in your back yard. They love to pull moles out of the lawn, frogs out of the pond and snakes out of the garden, and if they can catch these critters, they may bring them to you as a gift or they may dispatch them. If you are faint of heart in these matters, this will not be the breed for you. Hunting is their heritage, it's in their blood, it is what they have been bred to do.

If you want a "sometimes dog", a dog that will go lie down and nap or entertain themselves in the yard



without you, don't get a German Wirehaired Pointer. This is a breed that needs to be with their people. They are not happy being left out of whatever you are doing. If you don't like a dog that follows you everywhere, needs to be in the bathroom with you or must sit next to your chair, you will not be happy with this breed.

Teaching a GWP to be alone, in their crate or in a kennel is a must when they are young. But don't expect to keep them this way for extended periods of time, not if you want a well-adjusted dog. The GWP is a breed that is extremely loyal to

its family. They were originally developed to protect hearth and home, and these instincts are still there. They are naturally protective of what they deem is theirs and this will include your house, your car, your yard and your children.

If you are an immaculate housekeeper with white rugs and dirt annoys you, don't get a German Wirehaired Pointer. That beard that makes people fall in love with them as puppies can carry an



amazing amount of dirt, food and water. I have never met a German Wirehair that didn't have to clean its beard after eating, and their favorite place to do that is on the carpeting or the couch. A good GWP coat will

shed most dirt and debris, but it will collect some outdoor stuff and this will be brought into your home, and deposited wherever they lie down.

If you are a truly kind hearted soul who hates to see dogs disciplined, and can't bear to correct puppies, don't get a German Wirehaired Pointer.

GWP's are a very smart breed, but this also gets them into trouble.

Most of them can be stubborn, and most of them would rather do things their own way rather than your way.

As youngsters they must learn that "NO" means NO! You must be more determined than they are and you

must have eyes in the back of your head to watch them all of the time. They have to learn that your shoes belong to you, not them! They also should know that whatever you give them to play with is actually yours and you are only lending it to them. They must learn to respect you, your family and your home.

If you don't have a good strong high fence, you probably should not own a German Wirehaired Pointer. Remember, this is a working dog, a hunting

dog, and they may wander if not kept in check. Their noses and natural curiosity can lead them away from home if given the chance. GWP's are a very athletic breed, and they can jump a 6' fence from a stand still if they choose. They will find a hole in a fence if there is one, they can dig and they can climb. If they decide they are getting out, they will. Normally, they don't want to run away and will end up at your front door, but out they will be.

If you are not a hunter, should you own a GWP? Lots of people who don't hunt own this breed and have had very long, happy, successful relationships with them. However, these owners have found ways to keep their dogs exercised both physically and mentally. In addition to hunting and structured field events, Wires enjoy Agility, Obedience, Fly Ball, hiking, jogging.... anything that is a team effort!

German Wirehaired Pointers are extremely loyal to their families, are very intelligent and learn quickly,



have a wonderful sense of humor, make excellent companions in the house or in the field and are a relatively healthy breed. A very "people oriented" breed for "dog oriented" people!

For more information on GWP's visit the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America website.

[www.GWPCA.com](http://www.GWPCA.com)

