

Are they good with children?

Be careful. Teach the child and the pup. Don't let the one pull at the dog or tease it or haul it about and don't let the other knock the child over or play too roughly. Both can hurt each other unintentionally. But once the dog has learned what to do it will adopt the child and look after it. In families, children and dogs can become inseparable.

Are they good guard dogs?

If that's what you want, get another breed. **A protective Weimaraner is dangerous** and does not stop to command.

Are they noisy?

Broadly, yes. especially if bored or left alone, or telling you there's something about that shouldn't be – but this can be anything from the dustman to an unfamiliar sound.

Should I get a dog or a bitch?

Depends on which you prefer and what your circumstances are. A dog is larger, heavier, and spends the first 2 years of its life trying to be dominant.. He can also object to the relationship between man and woman and impose his will on the female human if you let him. A bitch learns more quickly and can be extremely difficult. She also has 2 seasons a year so expect both mood swings and mess. She will also experience mood swings for up to 9 weeks after her season. Also be aware that if you get a bitch, you must justify your choice to the breeder. If you can't a good breeder won't let you have one.

Does a bitch need to have a litter? Absolutely NOT.

Are they easy to train?

They learn very quickly and they enjoy all types of work. But because of their brains, temperament, and disposition, they need a lot of time and patience and knowledge. And if you want to do gundog work then be aware that it will take up to 2 years to produce the dog to the right standard, but once you've got there, you will probably have one of the best dogs in the field.

THE WEIMARANER



THE WORKING GUNDOG



Weimaraners come with a health warning. This is one of the most difficult gundog breeds you can get, and most people fail with them as a result. They're not well understood, and they have certain characteristics which make them particularly unsuited to the British desire to reduce everything down to a series of little tests.

To explain: the Weimaraner comes pre-programmed with a directive to put food on the table and get rid of vermin. It is utterly determined and 100% fixated on game. It has an exceptional nose. It is also massively intelligent [or should be, we have tended to try to breed this out in this country], gets bored very easily, and will pay absolutely no heed to you whatsoever until you have proved yourself worthy of its work. It does not respond well to the way we produce gundogs in the UK, basically a set of "do this" instructions, because it needs to put those instructions in the context of its work. It is certainly an affectionate breed, but it uses your need for its affection to get its own way.

That's the downside. The upside is this – get it right, and the Weimaraner will leave most gundog breeds standing when it comes to game finding, game treatment and production, resilience, speed, energy, and hunting. It will hunt across a moor all day without flagging, adopting a pace similar to the Desert Arab's triple, and it has an uncanny ability to find game, partly because it's brainy and learns exponentially, partly because it adopts its methods and pace to suit scenting conditions, and partly because it has to find.

Like all HPRs its retrieving instincts take a back seat to its hunting, but once this skill has been developed, it makes a class picking-up dog with a good soft mouth and a strong desire to put game in the bag. It's fine in the beating line, although it can be competitive and because the line is usually working with the wind behind, the dog will want to go forward to bring the ground back, not always what the keeper needs. It's splendid to shoot over, and if for example, you're after wild pheasant on a grouse moor, once it knows you don't want to take grouse, it will only produce pheasant. It's excellent at deer work [do teach it to be steady to deer because deer are in its built-in list of quarry species] and hawking. The one thing it's not that good at is wild fowling, and this only because it is too thin coated for the conditions.

So if it's that good, why hasn't every shoot got one? And why does the breed only have 2 field trial Champions? Go back to the health warning. This breed takes at least 2-3 years to produce, and the path from 6 week old puppy to field trial standard adult is at best, rocky.

Then there's the fact that we don't have the knowledge base in the UK to help people bring their dogs on properly. Plus like all HPRs the Weimaraner needs to run ground and to be worked on game to develop and this puts particular demands on people [time, facilities, dedication and knowledge], Plus the Weimaraner is not that well known as a working gundog in the UK, ironic when you consider it was first brought into this country for just that purpose. And frankly, it's distinctive and showy and until gamekeepers have seen its exceptional work, they tend not to trust something that looks

so different from everything else.

Two other comments - if you want to work a Weimaraner, throw away your pre-set way of doing things, and your authoritarian attitude. Most of all throw away your social calendar – you won't have time for that.

PS! worst thing? Weimaraners chase - seriously. If you don't sort this you will probably lose your dog ...

MOST SUITED TO ...

peg dog	<i>not really</i>
picking-up dog	<i>yes</i>
counting	<i>superb</i>
beating dog	<i>yes but be careful with the training</i>
rough shooting	<i>very much so</i>
deer hunting	<i>yes</i>
falconry	<i>yes, although there are better HPRs for this</i>
wild fowling	<i>long hairs are much better - shorts get far too cold</i>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

from the booklet published by the Weimaraner Association
[www. weimaraner-association.org.uk](http://www.weimaraner-association.org.uk)

How big will the dog grow?

Dogs – between 24 -27 inches at the shoulder [61 -69cms]. Bitches: 22 – 25 inches [56 - 64cms]. On average they should weigh between 24 – 30 kgs.

How long do they live?

The average is 8 – 10 years but many reach 14 or 15 with the right care.

How much exercise do they need?

A working Weimaraner can work a full 9 hour day, so unless this is your thing, be aware that you can rarely tire a fully grown adult. The minimum is a good steady run for an hour a day, but this will only build the muscles unless the dog is using its brain at the same time – that is, hunting. Free running exercise on interesting ground [that is, has scent of game on it] is the best.

Are they good with other pets?

Opinions vary .. generally, if handled with care and the introductions made slowly and managed properly, you will get a good result. They tend to be fine with other dogs IF introduced slowly and properly but you may have a problem with cats, rabbits and birds.