

What the Breeds Need...



Weimaraner

(VY-ma-rah-ner, or Y-ma-rah-ner, but popularly called Weim, Weimy, or Weimer.)

When writing about Weims and their needs, I thought it might be helpful to begin with a few words about what Weim owners need. If you are looking to be owned by a Weim, you need love, patience, persistence, humor, and a reasonably active lifestyle. You should also be willing to share your personal space. You might need more than one sofa and quite possibly a bigger bed!

Physical Attributes and History

Weims are lean, muscular sporting dogs, known and desired for their athleticism, hunting instincts, intelligence, and extreme devotion to their people. They have a short, smooth, easy to maintain coat that can range from mouse grey, to silver grey, to a dark, blue grey. In the US, their tails are typically docked when they are two days old, but in Europe you will see natural tails. Adult males weigh between 70 and 80 lbs. Females are slightly smaller. Weims are a strong, high-energy breed, at home in the field, on hiking trails, at the dog park, or in their own back yard.



Weimaraners as a breed date back to the early 19th century. Originally bred to hunt big game, they were highly valued by the nobility. Weims were imported to the United States in 1929 and were recognized by the AKC in 1943. Through the years, they have been prized as great all-around hunting and gun dogs, with an excellent nose, and endurance and stamina to spare. Although they love the field, Weims are also proficient and adept at tracking, guarding, service and therapy roles, search and rescue, and agility. They are versatile athletes, they are wicked smart, and they are wonderful family dogs. What more could you ask?

Temperament and Personality

In general, Weims tend to be happy, enthusiastic, loyal and devoted companions, with boundless energy and curiosity. Therefore, the key to a happy, well-behaved Weim is training, daily exercise, and time and attention from their people. If properly socialized and introduced to infants and children, they will be great companions for them as well. Their favorite place to be is where you are, doing what you are doing. If you are in the kitchen preparing dinner, count on their full attention and maybe more “help” than you need. If allowed to sleep on your bed even once, their face may be the first one you see every morning after, accompanied by a cold nose making sure that you know they are awake and ready to go. Because they are sporting dogs, many people might assume that Weims will be content spending time outside alone. Not true. Weims enjoy the outdoors, but only when you are with them. A person who wants a more independent, passive dog should not consider this breed.

Weims are extremely intelligent and they learn quickly, but because they are so intelligent, they are easily bored and prone to mischief. Without sufficient exercise and training, they can become extremely creative about entertaining themselves and burning off their energy. Because Weims can be notorious foodies, counter surfing is a favorite sport, and they can get into serious trouble eating things that are toxic to dogs. A knowledgeable owner/pack leader who gives time and attention to consistent training can help prevent this behavior, which unchecked will form patterns and habits that are difficult to correct. The importance of crate training cannot be over-emphasized. The good news is that Weims are eager to please, and they respond well to the attention they receive as part of training. Patience and positive reinforcement training will be most effective. Strong corrective training and a heavy hand will make a Weim guarded and completely defeat the purpose of training, which is to teach behavior, and also build trust. With respect to other animals, owners should always remember that Weims are hunters. Some Weims have a strong prey drive and should never be trusted with small furry animals, including cats. There are other Weims that adapt very well and can happily share a home with cats and other small animals.

To reiterate, the investment in training and socialization is worth it. It will reward you with a well-behaved, happy Weim. Note: Weims do not necessarily need a large home and yard to be happy. They can be happy living in a small apartment or condo, provided they get sufficient exercise and time outdoors.

What the Breeds Need...

Health

A healthy Weim is muscular and lean. In general, with proper nutrition and exercise, they remain healthy and active and can live to 12 years of age or more. They will do best with a quality grain-free food. Some owners provide daily supplements including coconut oil, flax seed oil, fish oil, and probiotics, in small amounts. Consult your vet or breeder for more information before giving any supplement.



Weims may be susceptible to the following illness or disease:

Bloat - Like other deep-chested dogs, Weims are prone to bloat or gastric torsion, a condition that can cause painful and rapid death if left untreated. Immediate medical attention can be life-saving, as surgery is the only option, if it is caught early enough. One way to guard against bloat is to feed your Weim two or three small meals each day, rather than one large meal. Exercise should be avoided one hour before and one hour after meals. Dogs that eat too quickly can significantly increase the risk of bloat. For more information visit; <http://thebark.com/content/recognizing-signs-bloat-video>

Allergies - Weims can develop allergies from food and environmental factors in the home or outdoors. A dog that develops red, bumpy, itchy skin, feet or ears, or scratches or licks excessively, should be seen by a Vet.

Mast Cell Tumors - Mast cell tumors are the most common skin cancer tumors in dogs and can occur at any age. If your dog develops any sort of lump or bump, it should be evaluated by a Vet. Surgical removal is the recommended treatment for MCT's.

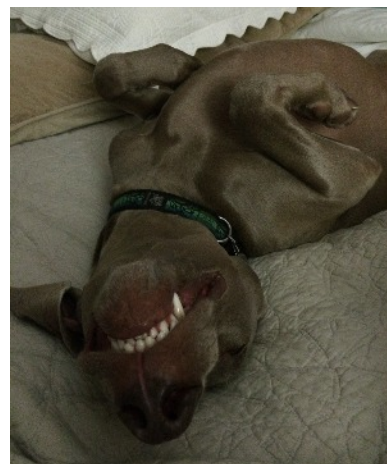
Separation Anxiety - A dog that is not trained to feel safe and secure can experience extreme stress when left alone, and this can result in separation anxiety. Weimaraners with severe separation anxiety can destroy property or injure themselves trying to escape

their kennels or crates. They are likely to bark, whine, howl, and even dig or chew through doors and walls. If left outside, it's not uncommon for them to dig holes in the yard, unlatch gates, and climb fences. Like other problem behaviors, positive reinforcement training will help. Further, a dog who does not receive proper socialization can become timid, guarded, unpredictable, and even aggressive when put in unfamiliar situations. It is important to expose them to a variety of people, situations, environments, and other animals. The following link provides valuable information :

<http://www.justweimaraners.com/the-separation-anxiety-tool-book/>

Weims end up in rescue for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, owners experience life events that prevent them from caring for their dogs. Sometimes, owners who adopt a Weim puppy without doing their homework can find themselves completely unprepared to meet their needs. Rescues exist to save, protect and re-home these amazing dogs. For the dogs, rescue is understandably stressful. Whatever the cause, they are no longer in their familiar surroundings with the people they knew. Without a doubt, they are confused and scared. No matter how comfortable and reassuring the new environment, they need patience, love and understanding while they adjust.

Mile High Weimaraner Rescue is a 501-c, non-profit organization, committed to the safety and security of the dogs entrusted to us, but we also strive for the long-term happiness of the dogs and families that we place together. We do our utmost to thoroughly vet and evaluate the dogs that come to MHWR, and we carefully screen potential fosters and adopters. All factors are considered before we place a Weim. We rely solely on volunteers and donations to continue our work. If you would be interested in fostering or adopting, applications are available on our website. We always need and welcome support! You can find us at www.mhwr.org. Our website contains a link to All Things Weimaraner where you can find additional information and resources.



Weims need daily exercise and activity.

Time, attention and a routine they can count on.

Weims need positive training and socialization.

Love, care and commitment.



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