

THE DOBE FILES

HISTORY

The Dobermann originated in Germany. In the middle of the nineteenth century a man named Karl Friedrich Louis Dobermann (1834-1894) lived in the city of Apolda (Germany) in the principality of Thuringen. He served as the town dogcatcher, night patrolman and city rates collector among other duties. Herr Dobermann wanted a medium-sized dog who could be a companion dog and yet still serve as a guard dog. It is believed that Herr Dobermann used German Pinschers, Rottweilers, a black and tan Manchester Terrier, Great Dane, the old German Shepherd, (not the German Shepherd as we know today) and Greyhound may have been used in this early breeding and other breeds have also been mentioned. No matter what the ancestry, Louis Dobermann created a versatile working dog who has served ably in many capacities. The U.S. Marine Corps has used many breeds, including the Dobermann. In World War II, dogs were integral to the success of so many operations that a war dog platoon was required to serve with every Marine Corps division. A life-sized bronze statue of a Dobermann stands in Guam, labelled "Always Faithful," in honor of the many war dogs who served and died there.



1944 - Twenty five Marine War Dogs gave their lives liberating Guam. They served as sentries, messengers and scouts.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Dobermann is a dog of good medium size, with a well set body, muscular and elegant. He has a proud carriage and a bold and alert temperament. His form is compact and tough and owing to his build, capable of great speed. His gait is light and elastic, his eyes show intelligence and firmness of character and he is loyal and obedient. Dobies stand between 24 and 28 inches tall and usually weigh between 25 and 40 kilos, with females smaller than males. Dobermanns are easily trained, as long as they know who is 'the pack leader'. It is all of these characteristics combined that make them extremely suitable as a family companion, protectors, guard and utility dogs. One should always remember that a firm but kind attitude is required with a Dobermann. Once you establish yourself as their "Pack Leader", they will follow you to the ends of the earth and protect you with their lives. Many Dobermanns have done just this.

TEMPERAMENT

"Dobermanns are like chips-you can't have just one"

The history of the breed gives us an insight into the amazing and addictive temperament of the Dobermann. No other dog and few humans will care for you like your Dobermann. It is an aristocrat among dogs and behaves accordingly.

It requires close association with those it loves and when given love and affection is a trustworthy natural protector. Its intelligence allows it to be a discerning, easily trained companion. It will watch your reactions when meeting or inviting people into your home and react accordingly.

Loyal, clever and brave are just a few descriptions of the Dobermann temperament, energetic and ready for anything yet curious and watchful. This strong, intellectual breed makes a great companion and when socialised correctly around other dogs and children it truly becomes one of the family. They are sleek, smart and sensitive always seeming to know when you are upset or lonely and never hesitate to come and have a cuddle. Despite their reputation as a great guard dog, which they most certainly are, the breed can be very gentle and loving towards children and like all breeds, they should be supervised around young children.

Breeders strive to produce Dobermanns that have a natural ability to protect their owner and property as well as being a manageable member of today's community; dogs with stable temperament, easy to train and with an absolute devotion to their owner and immediate family.

Dobermanns are usually outgoing and friendly in nature but have the natural ability to weigh up a situation and determine whether their owner or property is under threat. This is usually the only time that the Dobermann's natural ability to protect will be seen. They have a presence about them that conveys their strength of character and ability that rarely, if ever, needs to be tried. Dobermanns do not have distractions as do some of the older breeds that were bred to hunt or flush game or retrieve. The breed exists for the sole purpose of being with a person. Therefore, they make great house dogs and personal guards in the home. As long as they are with you or near you they are happy. They like to keep mentally active and no two Dobermanns are the same in personality and nature. They each have their individual likes and dislikes although many of the traits are the same. Dobermanns are not for everyone. They want to be your constant companion day and night. They are ideal for those who treat their dog as part of the family.

GROOMING

Dobermann's are a family dog and enjoy being with you, but despite the fact that he might sleep indoors, he will benefit from spending most of his time in the fresh air and sunshine. The Dobermann does not have an undercoat (though the Breed Standard allows for an imperceptible undercoat on the neck) which accounts for his sleek looks. In any event, Dobermanns generally shed their coat at least once a year, and some seem to shed all year round. Brushing will be required to remove this shed coat. Bathing removes the natural oil from the coat, so only wash you Dobermann when necessary. The time required to groom a Dobe as you can see is very little, however most dogs enjoy the attention they receive whilst being groomed, be it a bath or a massaging brush down.

TRAINING

A Dobermann normally is an alert dog, but this quality can be exaggerated or stifled. They must not be allowed to become apathetic or bored. The best way to accomplish this is to supply him/her with things to do. They need safe toys and bones to chew on, interesting things to do and exercise, both mental and physical. They need some obedience training (either done by yourself or through an obedience school), interesting walks, rides in the car and chances to meet people. The bored dog often creates a behaviour problem. Your dog will usually try to find something to do on his/her own. The dog not taken out often may find that visits become a novelty and become so excited they forget their manners and thus become over active, cringe or get too boisterous. Training classes really are the first step towards a happy life for the dog and their owner as they enable the dog to go anywhere and to keep mentally balanced. This does not mean that your dog will not be obedient if they do not attend these classes but Dobermanns are a lot smarter than the average dog and will try to rule if you don't GENTLY BUT FIRMLY let them know who is the boss from the start. Dobermanns are relatively easy to train, but thrive on new exercises to ensure boredom doesn't set in. Dobermanns are champions in dog sports all around the world. Some of the things Dobermanns are used for and participate in all over the world are: obedience, agility, endurance, schutzhund, flyball, conformation, tracking, pets as therapy, guide dogs, protection, search and rescue. Dobies are dedicated, loyal companions, excellent with people of all ages and a joy to share your life with!!



Resource: Dobepac and "All about the Dobermann" - by Jan Irven

and

'Focus On' article from the December 2006 VicDog