

# 15 Characteristics of Behaviorally Healthy Dogs

- 1) **Friendly toward people**, including well-behaved children
- 2) **Friendly toward other friendly dogs**
- 3) **Does not become anxious** if left alone for a reasonable period
- 4) **Eliminates appropriately**
- 5) **Readily gives up control of food**, toys and other objects to owner
- 6) **Relaxed during normal handling** and touching
- 7) **Calms down quickly** after being startled or getting excited
- 8) **Not overly fearful** of normal events
- 9) **Barks when appropriate**, but not excessively
- 10) **Plays well with people** without becoming too rough
- 11) **Plays well with other dogs**
- 12) **Plays with its own toys** and doesn't damage owner's possessions often
- 13) **Affectionate** without being needy
- 14) **Adapts to change** with minimal problems
- 15) **Usually responds to owner's request or commands**, such as sit, stay, come

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