

## The 411 on Beagles

The American Kennel Club provides a good history and thorough physical description of Beagles:

<http://www.akc.org/breeds/beagle/>

*Below is some general information about Beagle temperament and needs.*

Beagles are small in size but big in heart! They have a lively and affectionate personality. They can be a good watchdog but are certainly not a guard dog. Because of their social nature, they enjoy family time and like to be included in all activities.

Beagles are sometimes known as a nose with four legs, and like the Basset they can easily get into trouble following scents. Positive training from the start will help you and your dog establish proper behavior and avoid a counter surfing pro! Because of their tendency to follow scents, Beagles must be leashed when outdoors or secured in a fenced yard. Again, like other hounds, Beagles can be very stubborn to train, but with patience and consistency—and of course, yummy treats—they can excel.

Even though they are small, Beagles are quite active dogs. Regular vigorous walks and activities keep them stimulated and make for a happy dog with less chance of unwanted behaviors. Once tired, they are quite content to snuggle on the couch or in your lap. Beagles were bred to hunt in packs and are generally very social with other dogs, enjoying the company of other dogs in a household.

Although they have a nice short coat and require little grooming, like most dogs they do shed and may require a weekly brushing. They have drop ears, so like most hounds they need weekly ear cleaning to minimize problems such as ear infections.

As with any dog, each Beagle has his own personality and traits. Please consider a dog's personality when looking for a canine companion, to ensure that he will be a good “fit” for your family for many happy years!