

So, you think you want a Patterdale Terrier.

Before you run out and get a Patterdale Terrier there are a few questions you should consider before continuing:

1. Are you insane?!? You don't have to be nutz to want one but some madness will help others understand your choice.
2. Do you have the time and patience to help a puppy learn the right and wrong ways to behave?
3. Who will be the young dog's personal companion?

Know it or not you are making a lifestyle decision.

Be sure you understand a few things about these dogs. Having a Patterdale requires commitment much like having a child. These dogs were developed to be fearless hunters and killers of the types of animals that live or hide in holes in the ground. It takes a special type of character to go into an animal's den and try to drive it out, drag it out or to keep the beast busy in one location until men can dig to the spot.

Patterdales have no peers in this task. Unless carefully trained otherwise, no small animal is safe from a Patterdale Terrier on the loose. Do not let it happen.

This naturally brings us to the subject of training. It is foolish to try to train a Patterdale by beating him. If you make the mistake of thinking that a heavy hand will teach him, the result will be a highly nervous and anxious dog. That is where the trouble usually begins.

Most problems begin with the owner!

Bad dogs are not born, they're *created* by bad owners!

Anxious dogs are famous for destroying your house and being generally difficult to the point that you'll wish to be rid of him.

The only reliable tool for teaching these dogs is the love and affection you show them. First you make the dog your friend. Then you show or withhold your love to help him learn what you like or dislike and what incorrect behavior is.

Never ever punish *any* dog for something he did some time ago. Even if it was only a few moments, dogs cannot mentally connect the punishment with past events.

These dogs are almost desperate in their desire to please you. He must be given something to do or he'll think of something on his own....something you probably *won't* like much.

Patterdale Terriers are NOT suitable for apartment living.

These dogs require *lots* of exercise. Without suitable outlets for their energy they will become troublesome.

If small children are in the house do not get a Patterdale.

No small child should ever be left alone with *ANY* dog and especially not *any* terrier. A child's mind can't understand the many ways they provoke unwanted behavior in dogs and they often get hurt because of it. The dog *always* gets the blame.

Patterdale Terriers play too rough for small children.

Remember, these dogs were not developed to be pets. They're not show dogs either. They were developed to hunt and kill small animals that usually fight back.

They're really not for just *anyone* that wants a cool little dog.

If you have *any* doubts, get a different kind of dog!

It doesn't mean you're *bad*. It means you're thoughtful.

They *can* be excellent personal companions for responsible, thoughtful adults who understand them.

It takes about 3 years for *any* dog to become an adult, both mentally and physically. Patterdale Terriers seem to have puppy-like energy all their lives. Be sure you're prepared for that kind of energy for the next twelve-plus years!!

The level of activity he'll require will keep you and him in pretty good shape.

Give the matter some thought before you decide.

It's the dog who suffers most from your bad decision. Remember, this is a lifestyle decision you are making.

You'll need a place for the Patterdale to stay when he is not being exercised, played with or trained.

The "crate method" of house training is best for most terriers and especially so for the Patterdale. This will require a substantial amount personal responsibility from you.

You must let him out regularly and often. Never punish him for messing in his crate. He can't hold it forever.

The younger he is the shorter time he can hold it. Plan all your activities around the new pup. Remember that a dog will have to pee and/or poop shortly after being fed...every time.

He also needs to do one or both within minutes of *any* activity that follows hours of being in his crate.

Feeding him and *not* letting him right out is a recipe for a mess.

It will not be *his* fault. All the blame will be yours!

Be reliable! The dog will quickly learn that you'll let them out shortly after you come home...if you're reliable.

Don't let him down and he won't disappoint you!

As your pup is learning, you'll quickly see that he/she wants to do things with you that are fun! They *want* to please you. Be sure to have something the pup can do (with you) that it *knows* you like to do. And you'd better *like* it too, 'cause you can't fool these dogs for long. The simple game of fetch (the ball) is among the very best games because it requires the least effort from you and offers great physical release for the dog. Before long you'll be throwing the ball as far as you can with the dog working hard to bring it back for another throw.

Teaching "No!" & *Physical* corrections.

You *must* catch the dog in the act or nothing is served by any attempt at correction. Then, whatever it is, speak sharply so there is no doubt that you *mean it*. You must *always* mean it!

The pup must learn your angry tone of voice too.

Do not whine or plead with any dog about anything...ever.

Your voice must always convey that you are "the boss."

Just speak it, and stuff him right into the crate. At these times rough handling might be helpful to get the point across.

The best type of "*beating*" for the pup is a "finger-bump" across the top of his muzzle, as you sternly say "No!" For awhile this should always accompany an immediate end to whatever you were doing followed by being crated...and ignored for awhile.

A switch can be helpful but it should only make a slight sting. It should *never* cause pain. A switch is for getting his attention. It's not for inflicting pain. You don't want him to be *afraid* of you.

Talk to your dog like he's a child of about age 7 to 10.

He'll soon learn words and phrases and the fun will really begin. You'll have a loyal & loving friend for life! Try to be worthy of it.