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Borzoi Temperment

What makes a Borzoi so endearing? Temperament has to be a huge part of why so many people continue to own Borzoi after Borzoi. People that have first owned a Borzoi and then gotten another breed often come back to get another Borzoi, and swear that they wouldn't be without one. It is not just their esthetics that we get repeat ownership, but because people find living with their unique temperament to be so endearing.

A Borzoi is not a typical sight hound, not that they can't be shy with strangers, or aloof upon approach, or that they have that typical response of just turning their head away as stranger approaches. History tells us that the Borzoi was bred down from ancient sight hound stock blended with a heavier herding or guard type dog that existed in the mountains of Russia. Maybe it is this blend that gives them their loyalty to their owners and devotion often shown only in private. Bred to live and work in pairs and packs they easily transfer their devotion to their owners. Maybe that is why they seem to have a sense of our feelings and emotions and know just when to drop their head in our laps or give a big grinning smile upon being caught at the crime scene.

As for trainability, doing it once is enough for most Borzoi and well beneath them to repeat a command or a trick. Unlike a retriever that is bred to again and again bring back the bird, a Borzoi is happy to chase the prey or subdue the plastic coursing bag and then expect us to finish the deed. As for a repeat performance, hopefully, you were paying attention the first time as the Borzoi expects that once was enough and can't be bothered to repeat a menial task.

It is almost an oxymoron that they can be sedate in the house, yet fast in the field. Aggressive with their prey, but sedate and gentle lying on the couch. In a split second, a history of breeding can take a dog from laying sedate in the yard, to chasing at full bore, a squirrel from their pen. It is this juxtaposition that makes a Borzoi so wonderful to own. A dog so powerful and strong yet they can be soft and soulful.

While we have to be careful not to anthropomorphize, it does appear that these graceful hounds can in fact display a sense of humor and a keen sense of play. If you are fortunate enough to own a Borzoi that is a "smiler" (raising their lips and nose to expose their teeth upon approach) it is almost as if they are indeed happy to see you, and, oh yes, embarrassed once again that you caught them sleeping on the couch when their dog bed is just a few feet away.

The Borzoi temperament is not for everyone, but once you bring one into your life the potential grace, power and speed, wrapped in a pile of long hair sleeping on your couch is just the ticket for a majestic companion.

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