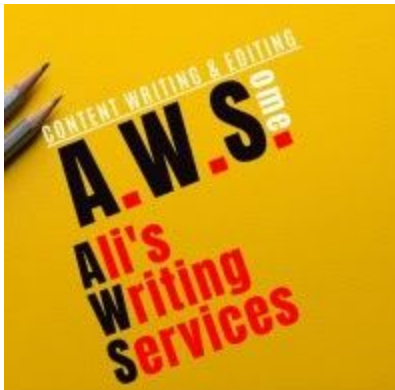




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Are Shock Collars Good For Dog Training?



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To be a successful dog parent, you do not need a training squad of professional dog trainers. Sometimes, all it takes is a little buzz sent to your furry friend with the mere touch of a button on the remote controller of the shock collar. People began using **shock collars for training** the hunting dogs in the 60's - now, it is maneuvered for training all kinds of dogs, quite effectively.

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Shock collars for dog training have become more advanced and user-friendly. It is an aversive training method aimed more at correction of behavior than hurting the dog physically. Twenty-six percent of homes in the United Kingdom alone own a dog, according to a survey regarding the pet population¹. Not all dogs are trained when you bring them to your household. The need for **Shock collars for training dogs** is evident because many dogs, even the extremely cute ones, are seldom presumptuous. They need a little discipline in their lives. Pet owners are staggered if the most adorable member of their family “does not sit” when asked. Thus, it is imperative to utilize shock collars for a little “persuasion.” Although many people believe **shock collars are not suitable for dogs**, it is kind of a necessity to curb the “reprehensible etiquette” of the furry fellow.



¹ "Dog ownership in the United Kingdom (UK) 2010-2019 - Statista." 6 Jul. 2020, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/515333/dogs-ownership-in-the-united-kingdom-uk/>. Accessed 24 Aug. 2020.

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Are shock collars good for dogs?

Using shock collars for dogs is a fluid topic, and whether you are for or against the leitmotif - here is a list of the why's.

- Family dogs could be stubborn, and mannerism is to be enforced conclusively.
- It keeps the impulsive barking in check.
- As a dog parent, you do not want your best friend to behave inappropriately in public.
- You can unleash your dog with a shock collar around his neck, even in a park.
- Best used when you don't want your buddy to get lost in the wild when hiking.
- It is the most productive way of teaching your dog the house parameters.

Shock collars are used for obedience training. Many members of the dog community have a firm belief that the tiny electrical jolt that a dog receives is more of a reminder than a punishment. This *reminder* will train the dog to stay in the virtual fence and to remain in sight. Another merit of technological development in the shock collar industry is the availability of trackers. It actually saves your doggy from getting lost or in trouble. Therefore, the retrospective of shock collars is an excellent tool for dog owners.

The listicle approach to determining whether the shock collar usage is good or bad:

- **Controlling the aggression**
Your canine can display aggressive behavior if not taught obedience the right way. This hostility could range from biting to barking. With a shock collar, one can train the dog for observing good manners without much effort.
- **Goodbye to leash pulling**
Imagine, taking your dog out for a walk in the park and still feeling "not frustrated"? Once you train your dog with the aid of a shock collar, it will be an immense relief in itself. Not having to drag your pup's leash is possible even without a high-velocity electrical fuzz. You could turn down the shock level to a lower level, and make it work as a gentle reminder.
- **Safety for your pooch and you**
Dogs are a curious species, very energetic, and difficult to be tugged around when hyper-excited. This behavior could seldom lead to an aggressive outcome, and you wouldn't want that. A dog fight is neither safe for your dog nor you. If that is about to happen, you could quickly control your dog.

- **Avoid the embarrassment**

Walking a dog could be embarrassing if your fellow is not obedient. If it does not sit when you ask, I tell you from experience that it is not a great position to be in. Moreover, you do not want your dog to be pooping anywhere he wants - let's face it; nobody likes to pick up dog poop with tissue paper. Hence, the shock collars are somewhat inevitable.

Is training a dog with shock collars cruel?

There are a few societies and NGOs against the use of a shock collar for training dogs. The humane society, for instance, advocates the notion that it leads to a fearful life or more aggressive one for a pooch². They are of the view that positive reinforcement techniques should be used to mold your dog's behavior. However, they do not declare all shock collars as cruel, and thankfully, we will give out the reasons for a decisive rebuttal.

- **Approved Shock collars**

First of all, if you use regulated and approved shock collars, you will never need to worry about brutality. Most countries have laws monitoring the usage of shock collars to avoid animal cruelty. These collars will have minimal and absolute necessary shock velocity. Also, keep in mind that choking chains is never recommended. Shock collars are a blessing in disguise for your pup as it is a free pass for the adorable fellow.

² "Dog collars | The Humane Society of the United States."
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/dog-collars>. Accessed 25 Aug. 2020.



Photo by [Petra Bouchalová](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- **Not intended as punishment**

Every dog parent, living in any part of the world, would never think of it as punishing your most beloved part of the family. The only intention behind using a shock collar is to enforce mannerism. This is a part of affection one has for pets to conform their behaviors into more appropriate ones.

- **No lasting physical harm**

It is a proven fact that the reliance on shock collars has no lasting physical harm for mental health, as well as bodily well-being. Therefore, it is safe to use a shock collar without worrying about the long-lasting impact on the state of your pooch, because there isn't any.



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- **Over-correction is not encouraged**

Take an example of a new pet, if you deem it necessary to train the dog manners of not barking unnecessarily, using a shock collar will serve the purpose. You do not want to over-do it. If the behavioral correction is your mission, then call it a day after accomplishing it.

- **Empathy overcomes fear**

Please be empathic when training your pup. After a session in the park, maybe allow some time in a pool, give your friend a nice bath, and feed him or her a doggy-licious meal. If you are able to express your love to your friend when training, it will definitely overcome fear. After all, we don't want the dogs to turn out more aggressively than before. This empathy is the complete opposite of cruel, that is for sure.

- **Fast result**

It is a proven fact that a shock collar for training purposes is nothing like a slow death or a slow poison that is not dreaded at first but turns out to be deadly at the end. It is a quick method for obedience training, and results could be earned within weeks. Therefore, after a difficult couple of weeks, you might never need to utilize the shock collars.



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At what age is it OK to use a shock collar on a dog?

When a dog is born, like a child, it needs basic training first. The fundamental commands or manners do not require any extreme measures. The learning curve needs to be fulfilled in a more natural way than an enforced one. Although it is usually recommended to use the shock collar at a later stage, the training collar could be used on a ten-week-old puppy.

Furthermore, the usage of shock collars needs careful observation by the dog parent. Once you take off the shock collar in the evening, the contact area needs to be thoroughly cleansed to avoid rashes. Also, it is not recommended to keep the electrical collar for a longer period of time. Consequently, it could irritate the neck.



Photo by [Artem Beliaikin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The bottom line - Are shock collars perfect for dog training?

One should think twice about using a shock collar. It should only be practiced if your dogs need a lesson of obedience, not out of habit. A few countries have banned the use of shock collars³; however, it is preferred by a vast number of dog communities around the globe. Although training a dog with the help of a shock collar is entirely safe and a valid method, the onus is on you to decide whether your dog entails it or not.

³ "Places That Have Banned Shock Collars and Why You"

<https://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/places-banned-shock-collars/>. Accessed 25 Aug. 2020.

Puppy Training Schedule and Puppy Training Stages



Photo by [Yogendra Singh](#) on [Unsplash](#)

It all starts from your carpet getting peed on! Yes, that is what happens when you home a new puppy. Through the snuggles and the wet kisses, the journey to train your puppy starts from the moment you get a pup. It is not always a picture-perfect scene, like in the movies, when you are going through the initial stages of training your little one. Gruesome is what some would call it. However, if you have researched and comprehended a **puppy training schedule and all the puppy training stages**, you might cross the finish line with flying colors.

One thing's for sure; nevertheless, you will love every bit of the **puppy training stages**. Mama dog would have trained the youngster if they were in their natural habitat. Now, I am assuming it is your job. So, first of all, you set some ground rules. Follow a tight schedule, show him who is the man of the house; do not fall for the adorable cuddles as the newcomer will be all over you. If you are thinking of adopting or buying a puppy, you have found the right blog post to weaponize you with a **puppy training schedule and puppy training stages**.

Puppy Training Schedule and Puppy Training Stages

Here are the primary areas where you would need to work. Understanding each in depth would help a great deal.

- Basic obedience
 - Potty training
 - Walking with a leash
 - Killing the bad habits
- And, most of all, have fun while training the pup.

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Rule of thumb: Start training from day one. Do not wait for your puppy to get older. It is all about enforcing a routine.

The rigorous follow up on a **puppy training schedule** will ace you through it. The dog observes every experience, keeping an eye out for the consequences or, rather, reactions to the actions. For instance, if you ask the tyke to “sit” once and repeat if the new pup on the block does not listen to you, the trainee dog will feel that it is okay to wait to repeat the order. This much is the level of technicality one needs to follow.

What is the first thing you should train your puppy?

Make him listen to you. The best way to go about it is by offering a reward for obedience. Hold onto a piece of food or a toy, and order the pup to *sit*. If it does not follow your order right away, keep jingling the reward item in your hand until the tyke sits down. Afterward, give the remuneration for the performance to motivate the little one. This quote-simple-unquote motivation will be enough for the newly homed pup to feel prompted to follow your order.

After the basic obedience training, potty training, etc., are equally crucial. Giving a loving name to your little puppy is a responsibility and makes him responsive to hearing the designated name. Show him his crate (the private den), and put him there to sleep every night regardless of your wishes to sleep with the cute little pup. Crate training will prove out to be the best thing ever, once it learns to drink water from the bowl, etc.

What is the best age to start training a puppy?

Simple obedience training could start at seven weeks of age. It includes the following keywords:

- Sit
- Down
- Stay
- Good Dog (Praising the task response)
- Yes (Praising the obedience)

After that, you socialize the newest family member with people. Your dog must behave friendly with people around; otherwise, it could get quite embarrassing.



Photo by [Gulyás Bianka](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Formal puppy training schedule and puppy training stages start from the sixth month. Any how, understand this: when you bring a new puppy home, it could be really scared of the new home, or a new parent. The pup is expected to be unsure of the circumstances. Potty training is a basic thing but could be frightening for the young puppy if you scold him right away. Working up the pup in the bud could get a little aid, thanks to Pee Pads.

Moreover, discourage the nipping. The little daggers could not be very hurtful but it is crucial to assert some manners. For safety reasons, keep your child away from the puppy if it is in the mouthing stage.

How much training should I do with my puppy?

It is not about the amount of time being an assurance of training the puppy effectively. Puppies could have a short process span; therefore, it is crucial that you train every day.

Needless to say, it could be a 15 minutes training session, or you could hold small five minute sessions three times a day with the little one.

Furthermore, training the dog all by yourself is not our recommendation. Have all your family members give out the same commands to the little whelp as you. It will give out an opportunity for the young golden-colored dog, on its way to become a retriever in his prime, to socialize with the family, and get comfortable with the environment.

How long does the puppy phase last?

The **puppy training schedule** and **puppy training stages** could prolong up to two years. Although two years is a promise, the puppish behavior could be gone before the deadline depending on the social interaction the puppy has had and the type of breed it is.

0-2 weeks	The sense of touch is developed already, time to influence the young one effectively.
2-4 weeks	The puppy starts walking a little, and barks.
3-12 weeks	Social skills are enhanced when curiosity to experience new things appears.
3-6 months	Chewing and teething initiates with a need of motivation to socialize.
6-18 months	After other developments, sexual behavior might start during this period.

Where should a puppy sleep the first night?

According to experts, a puppy needs to sleep on the crate right away on the first night. This is how you will design your upcoming puppy training schedule and puppy training stages altogether. It would help if you kept the dog crate next to the bed, make it cozy with blankets beneath, and a blanket draped around the young pup to give it a mother-like feel.



Photo by [Nathalie SPEHNER](#) on [Unsplash](#)

It is best to keep in mind that it will be a restless first night with the pup being unable to sleep through peacefully. That should be understandable. Please give it a *pup talk* after allowing plenty of playtimes. It is an absolute must that you watch the pup sleep on the crate by suppressing your desire to cuddle the little one to make him fall asleep with you on your bed. Do not fall prey to those squishy little eyes.

What is a good schedule for a puppy?

An excellent puppy training schedule revolves around potty breaks. You guessed it right; it is crucial that the young pup knows the program of potty training.

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Below is an overview of a good schedule for potty training.



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After waking up	Potty break number 1
Once finished breakfast	Potty break number 2
Before the dog parent leaves the house	Potty break number 3
Lunch time	Potty break number 4
After mama comes back from work	Potty break number 5
When dinner time's over	Potty break number 6



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Bedtime	Potty break number 7
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Apart from the schedule mentioned above, there could be random potty breaks too - be prepared for that.

Here are the initial training types and a summary covering all essential aspects of **puppy training schedule and puppy training stages**.

Potty Training - Teach to attend the designated potty area in the house
Crate Training - Train to sleep, enter exit, feel comfortable in the crate
Playtime Training - Introduce new toys, allot your time to it
Name Training - Teach the name to the young puppy
Leash Training - Train walking with a leash
Obedience Training - Sit, Down, and other habit making maneuvers
Recall Training - Train the dog to come back when you call " <i>come</i> "
Social Training - Make the puppy acquaintance with your family, friends, and other dogs

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How to stop a puppy from biting?



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A puppy would nibble on anything and everything - pillows, bathrobes, slippers, and even your toes. Experts consider it a healthy activity; although, it becomes more aggressive if not behaved appropriately.

A puppy would start mouthing, nibbling, and biting as soon as it starts growing teeth. It builds up the gums and teeth of the adorable fellow and quite amusing for the dog parent. If you keep ignoring the furriest member of your family when he is biting your fingers or even your face, it could prove to be presumptuous. Thus, the best approach is to nip evil in the bud. This blog-guide will explore various perspectives and will help you **manage a puppy from biting**.

Firstly, it is vital to comprehend that a puppy does not usually stop biting on its own, you have to strategically discourage it. Hence, it is best if we first discussed the *dog-version* of the biting problem.

- A puppy bites when exposed to fear or a fearful situation.
- Usually, puppies are mouthy by nature.
- When physical exertion or playtime activities are limited.
- A dog in need would bite you to gain your attention for seeking help.
- Undersocialized dogs bite more often than a “social puppy”.
- Strange surroundings could provoke a pup to bite.

What to do to stop a puppy from biting?

If your newly adopted or purchased puppy started biting and wouldn't stop, you must be clueless on **how to stop a puppy from biting**.

There are two approaches to train your pup for bite inhibition, without physically hitting the pooch.

- Positive reinforcement
- Forceful Training

Manage a puppy from biting with positive reinforcement

First thing's first, let the pup play with your hands without fear of getting bitten. Mouthing is crucial for a dog's health; therefore, it must be encouraged in a positive environment. One needs to be consistent and firm and take up the challenge of training your **puppy to stop biting**. Never shout or scream for this purpose, do not physically punish the furriest member of your family.

When your puppy bites you really hard, stop playing and do these two things to prohibit your new family member from biting.

1. Yelp a high-pitch, and act hurt
2. Let your hand free

This approach works best for non-aggressive dogs, and they would immediately know that their “move” was not approved by its owner. Moreover, make your puppy understand the gravity of listening to a **NO**. It is crucial that your furriest friend knows at an early age the significance of **NO**. If none of the above stated positing reinforcing methods work, please let it be for a while. Sometimes, a time-out is the most practical way out. Keep trying again, and do not give up on your dog without applying every motivating procedure.

Make your puppy stop biting with forceful technique

Training is detrimental when it comes to enforcing good habits in your puppy’s persona. There are some *naturally obedient* breeds, which do not require too much effort by a trainer or dog-parent. However, if your tyke is not listening, use one of the following techniques as per the requirement.

1. Deterrence collar is a widely used alternative to shock collars. Dog owners use it to manage the behavior of their puppies or fully grown dogs. Its functioning includes releasing an unpleasant odor. Dogs being one of the finest sniffing creatures on the planet are prone to inhaling that smell, which causes them to halt their ill-manners behavior rapidly.
2. Many trainers also use spray bottles to spray water onto the pup’s face for a crackdown against biting. It is only used when a puppy is not listening to *NO*. When you are using a forceful method of spraying water on the puppy’s face, make sure not to hurt the poor soul.
3. Keep in mind that when training your dog with firm determination, you should be in a safe environment, as your dog could respond aggressively, which could prove to be dangerous if people are around.
4. Approved Shock Collars are an excellent method of **stopping your puppy from biting**. These collars give a little nudge to the puppy, when they do not stop biting, or when they bite really hard. This method is used by almost all the trainers, and many dog owners around the globe.

What age does a puppy stop biting?

Seven months is the golden age for a puppy to stop biting, usually. The primary reason for biting is teething, as a puppy is growing teeth, it feels the itch to bite something. Once the set of teeth



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is completed, i.e., at seven months of age, your pup will not have the urge to bite anymore. A puppy would continue to bite if you have given an impression of biting being equal to playing. Having “discipline training” from a young age will have fruitful impacts on forfeiting these “uncomfortable” habits.

Here is a to-do list for bite inhibition for puppies:

- Ask your children or other kids to not tease the puppy
- Do not pull back at the first instance of the puppy nibbling
- Fathom the significance of bite inhibition (it is not a good habit, after all)
- Stop punishing your pup by hitting, especially

Golden Retrievers are considered to be the finest breed when it comes to the etiquette of family dogs. Still, a puppy is certain to have basic animal instincts, involving “the bite phenomenon”. One needs to make sure that the pup is not exposed to a triggering situation.



Photo by [Vladimir Istomin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Why is my puppy biting me aggressively?

Who does not like a puppy nibbling, or gently nibbling on your fingers? Although the mouthing phase is adorable and deemed necessary to stop at a certain point, some exceptions could be aggressive biting. If you notice a hostile behavior and you find yourself being subject to offensive behavior, take caution, and put an immediate end to it. A few puppies may want to demonstrate their aggression, and the most reliable sign is an exhibition of threatening behavior.

The basic reason for aggressive biting is under-socialization. If your puppy is uncomfortable around people or other puppies, it can demonstrate aggression. A positive approach to solving this issue would be increasing the comfort level of your pup with others of the same species.

There are numerous ways to revamp socialization, while some are listed below:

1. Take your puppy to the dog park
2. Allow a handsome amount of playtime
3. Let him develop associations
4. Arrange positive experiences for the pup
5. Applaud his socializing attempts by cuddles and training treats

How to stop puppy biting fast?

If your puppy only started biting a few days ago and you are concerned about your little one, here are a few keynotes to conclude the debate.

1. Discourage play-biting. The awe-so-cute expression will only encourage your pup to bite more. If your allowance for playful nibbling is scarce, the pup will know it. Therefore, you need to train it away once your pup develops the 28 teeth set.
2. Teach what is okay to bite and what is not. One can offer Chew Toys to a 6 months old puppy to express the approval of chewing a toy-bone, or a piece of rope. Their littermates will “inform” the fellow to not bite by yelping quickly. If your pup is the only dog of the house, you have to complete the yelping part.



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3. Halt the playtime if the puppy starts to bite. Trust me, playtime is extremely important for a pup, and getting it forbidden for a mere urge of biting is not the bargain a pup wishes for. Thus, you need to call it a day if your puppy bites your finger. This will let him know that “it was him, not you”.
4. Calm down the pup. As per experts, a puppy bites you when it is agitated; therefore, it is vital to provide some time off. One can do that by putting the pup into the crate. This gentle relocation will help the puppy to cool down.
5. Potty Training is also directly related to Bite-training. As mentioned above, when the little one is feeling edgy, it starts biting. It could be due to the over-tiredness as well. Having a potty-routine calms a pup down, and many puppies fall asleep after a much-needed dump.

If your puppy is not the “listening-kind” even after applying all the tricks and tips mentioned above, you ought to seek experts’ help by hiring a dog-trainer.

Flat-Coated Retriever Puppies

The gundog breed, which originated from England, is a retrieving superhero. A **flat-coated retriever** will work efficiently on both land and water. If you live near a lake, this breed is definitely what you should pet. Once your prey falls down and drops in water, this retriever breed will mark it - and fetch, it can.

Flat-coated retriever puppies

The “Peter Pan” of retriever dog breeds is a popular puppy-choice for the people who want movies-like friendship with their pup. You could play “fetch” all day long because a flat coat will stay tire-free. However, on a down side, **flat coated retriever puppies** could take up a lot of time and training to mature. According to FCRSA, a **flat-coated retriever** could act like a puppy for up to 3-4 years of age⁴. If you love puppies, this forever adolescent dog should be your top priority.

This good looking puppy is loved by all dog-parents, and it certainly knows its way around people. A **flat coated retriever puppy** has a friendly nature, and it is a great companion especially if you have an active lifestyle, and/or if you have older kids full of energy. If you are anxious about your puppy maturing early, a **flat-coated retriever puppy** is not for you. However, if you like the naughty nature of a pup, this breed is just what you are looking for.

Here are a few facts (some fun) about this gunbreed.

- It is known to be a good sport, friendly, and loves to socialize.
- The slow-maturing process prolongs, even if the size exceeds other breeds at the same age.
- They are not excessive chewers. You wouldn't need to worry too much about biting.
- This dog breed can live up to 14 years.
- Flat coat is a great house dog, but it is not reliable for attacking the intruders (if any)
- At the age of 3-5 years, this dog will remain youthful, and a treat to be around.
- This people-friendly dog rarely growls at a human being.

⁴ "The Forever Adolescent Flat-Coat - Flat-Coated Retriever"
<https://fcrsa.org/the-forever-adolescent-flat-coat/>. Accessed 2 Sep. 2020.

- Two hours of exercise per day is what is recommended for a flat coated retriever puppy.
- An excellent watchdog due to the strong sense of smell.

How much do flat coated retriever puppies cost?

A flamboyant pup, cheerful, full of energy, and an always confident chap is a treat for your family. The prices for buying a **flat coated retriever puppy** vary from country to country and it could range from \$1300 to \$1800.

Should I get a flat coated retriever?

Who does not love a cheerful friend to be around 24/7 with endless energy and boundless love? **A flat coated retriever puppy** is your best friend who will not let you depress. If you are an active person yourself, who loves to follow a healthy routine, this breed is your definite choice.

Now, when you are deciding about getting a flat coated retriever, you must consider the fact(s) that it is suited best for the following situations:

1. If you have kids, and want a child-friendly dog.
2. If you have a house with a back-yard, as the puppy will be an out-going one.
3. If you are someone who is considerate about daily exercise - this pup will be your best companion for jogging, and out-door activities.
4. If you love brushing the dog once a week, at least.
5. Shredding is a "hobby" of **flat coated retriever pups**; you will therefore need to vacuum regularly.

Does a flat coated retriever shed?

Yes, it does. Although the breed is known to shed, it is still less compared to many other dog breeds - the shedding is quite moderate, so relax!

Many families fear the allergic reactions to canine shedding. Well, this hunter dog is not hypoallergenic. If you brush it regularly, the shedding will be minimal as well. Therefore, keeping it brushed up is the ultimate solution to the shedding problem.

What is a flat coated retriever a mix of?

A flat coated retriever is considered to be a purebred. This large dog breed with a glossy coat has origins from England. This breed was extremely popular in the early 20th century; later, taken over by the golden retriever in terms of popularity.

It belongs to the Labrador family, and was first bred in the 1850s. It is a mix of the early version of the labradors, called St. John's Dog. This wavy retriever is a beautiful breed, and appreciated by many members of the dog community.

Are flat coated retrievers aggressive?

The flat coat is a well-known "social" dog breed, and are considered family dogs. They are comfortable around young family members, and other dogs. They are not attracted towards aggression, if trained in a fairly nice manner. However, there are two things to be careful about.

The Jumping Habit

A flat coated retriever is a jumper. It could launch a jump quite high that might be surprising for you. When your furriest fellow is around kids, you need to be watchful about the jumping behavior of the flat coat. Apart from that, you can play "fetch" as long as you can, this dog will not be tired.

Loneliness

As discussed in this blog post, this dog breed is a cheerful, playful, and friendly canine. It always wants to be around people, playing and mischieving. However, if you leave it alone without supervision, it will get bored. This boredom, in a flat coated retriever, will result in extensive chewing and a lot of barking. If you want to avoid that, keep up with the energy level of the gunbreed.

At what age is a flat coated retriever fully grown?

As much as you would want your flat coated retriever to grow up and act mature soon after the 7th month, trust me - it could take a long time, as long as 3-4 years. This breed is famous for a slow transition into adulthood.

Furthermore, even if your flat coated retriever is at the age of above four years, it could still be mischievous - count on that!

How much exercise does a flat coated retriever need?

Nota bene: If you are not a fitness enthusiast, this dog will make you one.

As per the experts, an average of two hours of exercising time should be allotted to the flat coated retriever. Your best companion is never tiring, and never out of energy - that is for sure!

If you have a small apartment, or you work extremely long hours, you must find a way out to “manage” a flat coat.

Are flat coated retrievers smart?

When you are training your flat coated retriever puppy, you will notice a flare of quick learning. This dog breed is easily trainable and extremely responsive towards positive training procedures. This aptitude in itself, is a proof of flat coated retrievers to be smart. Especially, when it comes to retrieving the prey, this dog loves to carry things in its mouth without excessively chewing it. Intelligence of a flat coated retriever puppy is a no brainer.

How long does a flat coated retriever live?

8-10 years⁵

Unfortunately, **flat coated retrievers** are prone to various diseases. Cancer, being the major cause of death, is the primary health problem for these dogs. About seventy percent of flat coated retrievers die of cancer.

Flat coated retrievers have inherited epilepsies, heart diseases, etc. If the dog happens to be sick, cancer symptoms appear from the age of 4 - so young age for a flat coated retriever.

Due to these serious medical problems, the lifespan of a flat coat retriever dog is trimmed. If the inherited diseases are absent, your furriest member of the family is expected to live between 8-14 years.

Conclusion - Flat-coated retriever puppies

Many dog parents-to-be are searching for a playful dog that is safe around the family, elegant around other dogs, watchful for house intruders (if ever, God forbid), and an excellent retriever. These traits are all combined in a flat coated retriever puppy. Moreover, if you are a hunter, who hunts near water, or even plain land, a flat coated retriever will catch your prey - no questions asked.

⁵ "Flat-coated Retriever - Wikipedia." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flat-coated_Retriever. Accessed 3 Sep. 2020.

Does a Flat-Coated Retriever Shed?

Flat Coats are one of the friendliest, eye-pleasing, playful, and active dogs around the world. A **flat-coated retriever** is famous for its black or liver (dark brown) colored skin. The multi-talented dog is exuberant and confident. A **flat-coated retriever** has a distinct head, different from other breeds, which flows smoothly without a stop. It is known to have “a one-piece head”. This loving family pet is a great companion for the young ones (supervised by the adults, that is). In this article, the answer to a frequently asked question “**does a flat-coated retriever shed**” will be discussed.

What is a Retriever Dog?

A flat coat is one of the retriever breeds, which is a part of the gun dogs’ family. These dogs with a soft mouth, exuding readiness to carry the game in its mouth without nipping it off, are a type of gun dog that are favorites of most hunters, commonly known as retrievers. The key function for breeding these dogs was to “retrieve” birds, ducks, or other prey without damaging or harming it. Apart from the distinguished ability to retrieve, they are always up for pleasing their dog-parents by learning, obeying, and being a cheerful sport. Therefore, members of the dog community refer to retriever breeds as one of the best dogs to be around kids and families.

There are six retriever breeds, listed as follow:

- Chesapeake Bay Retriever
- Curly Coated Retriever
- **Flat Coated Retriever**
- Golden Retriever
- Labrador Retriever
- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

Preceded by only Labradors, and Golden retrievers in fame, a **flat-coated retriever** is full of energy and requires regular exercise to display enthusiasm. These dogs are people-friendly with almond-sized eyes that show eagerness and intelligence combined. Although a **flat-coated retriever** is an excellent watchdog, there are a few concerns of shedding that a number of people have when getting a flat-coated retriever dog. “**Does a flat-coated retriever shed a lot**”, is a fluid topic and there have been a lot of discussions on the subject. With respect to that, this blog-post will scan the whole nine yards.

Does a Flat Coated Retriever Shed?

Peter Pan of dogs, with a desire to make its owners happy, has boundless energy. A **flat-coated retriever** is an outgoing dog. This sporting breed has a tendency to protect their parents and premises with aggressive barking, but one should not expect a heroic back-up to those assertive barks. This submersible dog breed is an excellent marker for retrieving game from under the water, and equally admirable on land. An owner of **flat-coated retrievers** should expect to experience **shedding** throughout the year. However, a heavy amount of **shedding** is expected in a **flat-coat retriever** about twice a year.

A **flat-coated retriever shed** because of being outfitted in a straight coat. This long coat protects it from harsh weather and especially underwater. This shiny-looking coat is quite heavy around the neck. Nonetheless, this coat needs regular brushing and care, and most importantly, if you want your **flat-coated retriever to shed** a lot slower, you must take special care about the brushing routine. It is safe to assume that flat-coated retrievers shed quite a lot; therefore, regular combing and brushing is crucial. Many dog owners also prefer occasional trimming of the coat of this retriever breed, which makes it shiny and declines the excessive shedding throughout the year. It is best to know beforehand that a **flat-coated retriever sheds** heavily two times in a year.

Are Flat Coated Retrievers Hypoallergenic?

A lot of people in the world are tempted to adopt or buy a specific breed for two reasons:

- If the shedding is little to absent (Non-shedding Dogs).
- If the allergic reactions are minimal (**Hypoallergenic** Dogs).

That being said, non-shedding dogs also shed a little. Still, the minimalist shedding behavior is often preferred by patients and tidy people. Now let's be honest, with shedding comes allergies. According to Wikipedia, flat-coated retrievers are not hypoallergenic⁶. Pet lovers, therefore, rely on this silver lining of brushing, combing, and taking regular care of their **flat-coated retriever** to attain the two most plausible outcomes:

- Keeps the Coat Shiny

⁶ "Flat-coated Retriever - Wikipedia." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flat-coated_Retriever. Accessed 9 Sep. 2020.

- Keeps the shedding moderate

Here is the “Wiki Version” of the answer to **Are flat-coated retrievers hypoallergenic?**

Flat-coated Retriever

The Flat-Coated Retriever ... [Wikipedia](#)

Hypoallergenic: No

Life expectancy: 8 – 14 years

Temperament: Optim...

Weight: Fem...

Colors: Black, Liver

Height: Fem...

Origin: Uni...

Thus, if you have an allergy sufferer in your household, it is not best to adopt **a flat-coated retriever, as they are not hypoallergenic**. A person gets allergic reactions to, usually, dog saliva or dander. Hence, it is suggested to clean a **flat-coated retriever** regularly to avoid spreading allergies.

Do Flat Coated Retriever Puppies Shed?

A **flat-coated retriever puppy** comes with a strong physical trait of shedding. Because the species is known to **shed** quite a lot, dog-owners come prepared and aware of the “**shedding habit**” of a **flat-coated retriever puppy**.

The discussion seems to be swaying away from the significance of sharing your home with a friendly dog. And, a **flat-coated retriever puppy** is as friendly as they come. There is an obvious or rather implied, indication of regularly cleaning your house of dog hair. Even a neatnik needs to “compromise” the tidiness standards a bit, to home a pet your kids would endear, your family would be comfortable with, and your sleep would be peaceful when you live with a **flat-coated retriever puppy**.

How Can I Stop My Flat Coated Retriever From Shedding?

Look on the bright side, a **flat-coated retriever** requires weekly brushing only. If you want to **stop your flat coat from shedding**, maintenance of this forever-young dog breed is relatively easy. However, if you find your **flat-coated retriever is shedding**, you could mold the weekly brushing routine to daily cleaning. This will **stop the flat-coated retriever's hair** from loosely floating around.

A flat-coated retriever has feathered ears, and if you wish to **stop your flat-coated retriever from shedding** a lot, you should trim the ears, tail tip, and also belly. It would make a flat-coated retriever neat and bathing is also recommended when required to **reduce the shedding in a flat-coated retriever**.

How Much Does a Flat Coated Retriever Shed?

Medium Level.

A **flat-coated retriever sheds** at a moderate rate. This is an entirely natural process of growing hair, and should not be taken as an argument against the “awesome” dog breed of **flat-coated retrievers**.

Do Flat Coated Retrievers Smell?

The doggy-smell is a common dilemma for the **flat-coated retrievers**. The retriever family, as a whole, tends to **smell** bad if not cared appropriately. Because of the **flat-coated retriever's** ability to swim underwater to find the gunned down prey, it loves water. Whether it is a duck or a frisbee, a **flat-coated retriever** is not afraid to dive into the water; thus has a likelihood to wet itself quite often. Therefore, brushing, cleaning, and taking care of your dog as your offspring will ensure that **flat-coated retrievers** do not **smell** bad often.

Furthermore, tooth-brushing is nothing to ignore. Dog experts recommend brushing a **flat-coated retriever's** teeth twice, or even thrice, weekly to avoid smelling bad breath out of it. It will also reduce the spread of gum diseases.

Flat Coated Retriever shedding season

Dog's fur is deemed to age eventually. **Flat-coated retriever's shedding season** is a natural process. Your furriest friend will grow the hair back after **shedding**. Many dog owners perceive brushing regularly as reducing the **shedding** habit of your best buddy. While in essence, it removes the dead hair before it would fall automatically.

A **flat-coated retriever sheds** twice a year.

- Spring
- Fall

Conclusion

If you get a **flat-coated retriever** as a puppy, this loving dog will dwindle the grave concern of “**does a flat-coated retriever shed.**” While a dog parent should be aware of shedding in the early summer or the fall season, the **shedding of a flat-coated retriever** is still controllable. Having a lint roller or a vacuum handy to clean out the fallen hair of your **flat coat** is beneficial. A **flat-coated retriever** has long hair and requires bi-weekly brushing in the off-season. In addition, **flat-coated retrievers**, the ever-juvenile friend of yours, will need daily sessions of combing and brushing in the “shedding season.”

This article rates **flat-coated retriever's shedding** to be a little above medium level. A non-issue really for the lively dog breed.

What is the Best Backpacking Sleeping Bag?



Photo by [Felix M. Dorn](#) on [Unsplash](#)

After a day filled with outdoor exertion, all a hiker or traveler wishes for is going into a cozy, bed-like place. The choice of **the best backpacking sleeping bag** is crucial to ensure your leisure-time enjoyment to the fullest since a peaceful sleep at night will keep you fresh for the next morning to roam around at your desired attractions without being tired or sleepless due to uncomfortable sleep hours.

A **sleeping bag** is a human-sized padded bag, which is used to sleep-in, particularly when camping in tents. Whereas, a **backpacking sleeping bag** is more convenient because of its lightweight and compact size along with the quality comfort that it provides. There are several brands; in addition, choosing the best option for **backpacking sleeping bags** depends on various factors. Some people prefer to spend less whereas others desire to attain the maximum comfort level without considering the cost.

What is the Best Backpacking Sleeping Bag?

While traveling, a routine traveler always prefers to travel light with less luggage and foldable stuff, etc. The emerging backpacking sleeping bag has proven to be significantly helpful for travelers all around the world.

There are numerous varieties in the market depending on its weight, shape, filling, temperature control, and price. "REI Co-op Magma 15" is recommended as the best backpacking sleeping bag⁷ considering the following facts:

- **The temperature** rating limit is **16°F to 28°F**
- **Weight** 1 lb. 12.2 oz
- **Filling** 15.9 oz. of 850-fill down
- **\$379**

While there are other brands available at the same or less price, with the above-mentioned features, the price of this backpacking sleeping bag is justified. Its lightweight and soft padding have made it the top choice of hikers. While some believe the temperature rating of the sleeping bag is being exaggerated, its advantages cannot be denied.

⁷ "Best Backpacking Sleeping Bags of 2020 | Switchback Travel." 28 Aug. 2020, <https://www.switchbacktravel.com/best-backpacking-sleeping-bags>. Accessed 23 Sep. 2020.



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What is a Good Weight for a Backpack Sleeping Bag?

Since a **backpack sleeping bag** is meant to be carried on the shoulders, it is vital to keep in mind how much weight you can carry keeping in consideration the amount of walk or hiking that you will be doing during your trip if the trip is, entirely, without a car.

Lighter sleeping bags are assuredly more expensive than the heavier ones that may not confine with one's budget. The common **Weight for a Backpack Sleeping Bag** is between 1 to 2 lbs⁸.

Ideally, a **sleeping bag** should not weigh more than 2lbs. However, the weight of a sleeping bag depends on the season in which you are planning your journey.



Photo by [adrian](#) on [Unsplash](#)

In summers, you need to pack less whereas cold weather requires extra layers of comforters. Consequently, a heavyweight **sleeping bag** in winter could be replaced with quilts instead.

⁸ "How Much Should a Backpacking Sleeping Bag Weigh? - The"
<https://thehikingauthority.com/how-much-should-a-backpacking-sleeping-bag-weigh/>. Accessed 23 Sep. 2020.



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What is the Lightest Sleeping Bag for Backpackers?

It is of no surprise to people who know **backpacker** travelers that they strive to keep their packs light and calculate merely ounces in order to reduce weight. According to Amazon⁹, The **lightest sleeping bag for backpackers** is "Therm-a-Rest Hyperion 32-Degree Ultralight". As the name suggests, it is advertised to be as light as a feather and weighs barely **15 ounces**. It is not only lighter on the shoulders but also pocket as compared to other brands. Another bonus feature of this **sleeping bag** is its ability to convert into an exceptionally compact package for easy loading.

⁹ "Therm-a-Rest Hyperion 32-Degree Ultralight ... - Amazon.com."

<https://www.amazon.com/Therm-Rest-Hyperion-32-Degree-Ultralight/dp/B084LTVBYS>. Accessed 23 Sep. 2020.



Photo by [Nicole Giampietro](#) on [Unsplash](#)

How to Choose a Backpacking Sleeping Bag?

It is an intricate task to choose a suitable **sleeping bag**. Three important factors that are considered before opting for purchasing a **sleeping bag** are price, attributes, and weight¹⁰.

- **Temperature rating:** You should keep in mind the weather conditions in which you are traveling because some **sleeping bags** do not comply with the mentioned temperature

¹⁰ "How to Choose the Best Backpacking Sleeping Bag | REI Co-op."
<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/sleeping-bag-backpacking.html>. Accessed 24 Sep. 2020.

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ratings. It is suggested to choose a **sleeping bag** with low-temperature ratings than the anticipated temperature for your tour to keep away from any mishaps.

- **Weight:** You should be aware of the other items that you will be packing along with a sleeping bag and choose a sleeping bag with appropriate weight accordingly.
- **Attributes:** The other qualities that you need to check before buying a **backpacking sleeping bag** are the type of filling that it has. Whether the **sleeping bag** is ideal for your specific travel needs or not.
- **Shapes:** The sleeping bags come into particular shapes including Rectangular shape, Barrel shape, Mummy, Double and Kid-size shape¹¹. The shape of the **backpack sleeping bag** is chosen wisely according to individual preferences depending on the body size, shape, and adjustments.



Photo by [Mitchell Hartley](#) on [Unsplash](#)

¹¹ "Sleeping Bags for Camping: How to Choose | REI Co-op."
<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/sleeping-bag.html>. Accessed 24 Sep. 2020.

What is the Best Backpacking Sleeping Bag for Stomach Sleepers?

The majority of people sleep on their backs; therefore, most of the **sleeping bags** are made keeping their sleeping positions in mind and providing them the utmost comfort away from their beds. Nevertheless, some people sleep on their stomachs and they have no choice other than to look for a **sleeping bag** that provides them equal comfort during their camping. The difference in sleeping posture causes a completely new arrangement of filling because **stomach sleepers** require extra layering of filling to save their stomach and knees from rubbing against the hard surface beneath the **sleeping bag**. **Hyke & Byke** has introduced a sleeping bag with a **cluster loft base** to ensure extra layers for stomach sleepers and they promise their products to be practically tested in advance¹². It is also indicated to be water-resistant and durable with enhanced technology.

How to pack a Sleeping Bag for Backpacking?

Without proper packaging, you can damage the **sleeping bag** by making it wet, messy, and not user friendly¹³.

Points to Ponder:

- **Rucksack:** Firstly, you would require buying a rucksack to compress the backpack into a smaller pack so that it carries less space since that is the primary objective for buying a **backpacking sleeping bag**.
- **Avoid folding:** Instead of rolling or folding the bag into a sack, it is recommended to take one edge of **the sleeping bag** and stuff it into the sack with force. This will

¹² "Hyke & Byke Quandary 15 Degree F 650 Fill ... - Amazon.com."

<https://www.amazon.com/Hyke-Byke-Down-Sleeping-Backpacking/dp/B01HNPJWFI>. Accessed 24 Sep. 2020.

¹³ "How to Pack a Sleeping Bag: 11 Steps (with Pictures) - wikiHow." 11 Mar. 2016, <https://www.wikihow.com/Pack-a-Sleeping-Bag>. Accessed 24 Sep. 2020.

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eventually help the air to be distributed evenly. Resultantly, it will be easier to unpack it once you reach your destination.

- **Extra Layer:** Make sure you have a protective layer to cover your sack containing **sleeping bags** to avoid any damage from water or rain during the travel. A night of comfortable sleep is essential and one would not want to ruin it due to showing negligence in taking care of a sleeping bag. An ordinary bin bag or a proper covering could be used. Do not forget to tie both ends tightly.
- **Pack intelligently:** A traveler would always prefer to pack in a clever way and pack the sleeping bag at the bottom of the **backpack**, as it will not be needed until later that day. In addition, the **sleeping bag** might be the bulkiest object among all, it will be a hindrance to reach other necessary things if you pack it on top of the **backpack**.



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Photo by [Andrew Ly](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- **Be vigilant:** While passing through wet areas, do not forget to keep your bag on dry surfaces (if any) to save it from moisture and getting it wet. While packing, try to keep the tent below the **sleeping bag** so that in unforeseen circumstances, you save the **sleeping bag** from getting wet.
- **Position it perfectly:** Once the **sleeping bag** is packed in a **backpack**, ensure it is fastened properly with back and also positioned according to the person's comfort level. A traveler may need to stop at several points to take rest or to eat; therefore, an uncomfortably packed **sleeping bag** will not only hurt his back but also give him disruptions to pack it repeatedly.



Photo by [Steve Halama](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What are the Differences between a Backpacking and Camping Sleeping Bag?

The **backpacking sleeping bags** are mainly different from camping **sleeping bags** because of their feature to be lightweight. Unlike camping bags, **backpack sleeping bags** are converted into smaller compact packs and easily carried during an expedition. The experienced expeditors prefer to invest in buying an adequate backpack sleeping bag, which may sound costly to a new hiker, but they are surely aware of the importance of a fine quality **sleeping bag** in the long run. **Backpack sleeping bags** outweigh camping **sleeping bags** due to their ability to provide more comfort and convenience¹⁴. Every ounce counts for **backpackers**; therefore, it is highly recommended to use a **backpack sleeping bag** for its inevitable merits.

¹⁴ "How to Choose the Best Backpacking Sleeping Bag | REI Co-op."
<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/sleeping-bag-backpacking.html>. Accessed 24 Sep. 2020.

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