

MAREMMA – IS IT THE RIGHT FIT FOR THE DOG, ME, MY FAMILY AND MY ENVIRONMENT????

Can you or Can't you

If you require your dog to answer commands immediately and with obedience, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

The Maremma is very headstrong and has amazing instincts when it comes to its role – that of protecting / guarding its charges. It will be self directed and may come to you when it is ready – not when you want it to.

Can you or Can't you

If you do not have generous amounts of time to spend training and supervising your puppy with your livestock or poultry for 2 years, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

The Maremma matures around the 2 years of age mark, and up to this time you will need to feed him/her with puppy biscuits to assist healthy growth, and you will need to remember that it is just a puppy – albeit a VERY LARGE PUPPY And that means VERY LARGE HOLES HELL FOR YOUR PLANTS ETC ETC

Can you or Can't you

If you live in cramped quarters, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

The Maremma itself doesn't usually spend all day inside, but when he/she comes in it is you that will feel cramped – the dog will make itself right at home.

Can you or Can't you

If you do not have a securely fenced yard and/or pasture, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

The Maremma is not easy to contain – in fact some of them are absolute escape artists. When he or she goes, they can travel very long distances – “OK so what” you say ... when your dog doesn't return home for 24 plus hours and you have been searching out on the quad or on foot and you are tired and worried ... even a bit panicked Especially when Farmer Joe over the back calls to tell you that your Maremma is chasing his? sheep and so he says he will shoot the dogor even worse Your baby doesn't come home because he picked up a fox bait Or when you get home from working in the city all dayWonderful Here you are in suburbia and you realise that the meter man has left the side gate open No dog ...

Can you or Can't you

If you do not think a Maremma Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) puppy needs supervision and guidance, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

Many people make the mistake of thinking that a LGD (remember-Livestock Guardian Dog) will automatically know what its role in the family is Yes, many of them are true to their breed in most ways, but they still need to be trained, as any person or animal does, to do the job you want from it. Maremmas can live successfully in a more built up area, but it is not up to the dog to find its place – it is up to you to create what it needs and to teach it ... if the family or the environment are not right,the gates of hell open for everyone involved.

Can you or Can't you

If you have had trouble owning and/or managing any other dog, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

This one speaks for itself. We are very fussy about where our puppies go and we make no apology for that as they are worth every bit of the effort we put in to try and facilitate good, long term matches.

Can you or Can't you

If you are a person who doesn't like barking dogs or has neighbours who would object to a barking dog, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

I would guess that the most common complaint that owners of Maremmas get is about their barking. The dog is only doing its job and letting you know that something is amiss. You will need to go to your barking dog and show it that there is no threat – otherwise it will continue to bark for hours. This can cause major problems in built up areas, so you need to manage the dog. On a farm this is not such a problem, but the owner still needs to go and see what the dog is barking at, and to reassure him/her that all is good in her world and yours.

So, are you getting the picture here??? These dogs are a lot of work and the owner must put in the research before deciding on the breed of dog that would best suit the dogs needs and his.

Can you or Can't you

If you are not prepared to properly introduce your dog to every person who comes to your home, and if you cannot/will not supervise everyone, and especially young children, around your dog at all times, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

As I have already stated, this is a free thinking and independent dog that may end up weighing 45-60 kgs easily, and will be taller than you if he or she stands on her hind legs with their paws on your shoulders. A stranger comes into the house Your Maremma thinks Friend or Foe And if you don't guide your dog by making introductions, etc, that is one hell of a lot of weight to try to hold off.... And a child would have no chance. The Maremma usually uses its bark to chase the foe away ... that in itself can be ugly and loud It is unusual for them to attack / bite but they will mouth a warning, and they are capable of biting as are most dogs.... All responsible Maremma owners have a plan for their dog when visitors come and that is to remove the dog from the area where the visitors will be. This is really the only safe way to manage this situation, purely due to the size of the dog ... not the temperament. Also, please remember that you have not trained the visitors and that can mean misunderstanding on the dogs part.

Can you or Can't you

If you cannot live with lots of white dog hair on your clothes, and white fluff balls all over the house, The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Maremma has a double coat which seems to shed all year round. If you have visitors who don't like this, it can be a bit difficult. The double coat ensures that the Maremma can cope with extremes of temperature, allowing for both flow through of cool air in the heat and retention of body heat and warm air in the cold. The coat of a Maremma should never be shaved No discussion. Grooming is an important part of owning a Maremma – baths are nice but it is the brush/rake/& high powered pet blow dryer that you need to use regularly to ensure you get the knots and prickles out. I rake my dogs twice a week and blow vac when they need it. I check them every day for prickles, especially Barley Grass – your major enemy No 1.

Can you or Can't you

If you cannot commit to the lifetime of the dog (up to 14+ years), The Maremma is not the dog for you.

The Reality

This level of commitment should be given to any animal that a person/family/business takes on. If that commitment is not there, DON'T.