

## Ideal owner:

With all of the incredible virtues the Manchester terrier has, it is a surprise that this dog has not impacted the canine world more. This dog actually looks like a small sized Doberman. However it is a unique breed and has been around a lot longer than Dobermans have. This dog is perfect for active and energetic people. If you live in an apartment its size fits right into the picture. It has a very adaptable and pleasing personality.



## The Manchester is this the breed for you?

This page is about the average everyday Manchester in general terms. Some are more extreme than others. Review and learn more about the Manchester Terrier (Standard or Toy variety) [American Manchester Terrier Club](#); AKC Parent club if you are interested in this breed. Another good site is the [Canadian Manchester Terrier Club](#). Both of these sites will include breeder referral listings as well as Health Information on the breed.

Officially; The Manchester is best described as a loyal, affectionate and devoted companion. Neither shy nor aggressive, the Manchester is observant, alert and [discerning with strangers](#) yet generally friendly with other breeds. They can be considered an aloof breed as such as the Akita, Shiba Inu, Shar Pei. However they should not be 'aloof' but only [discerning](#). Definition of aloof; remote in manner: uninvolved or unwilling to become involved with other people or events should be avoid. Manchesters are discerning' and very selective in judging: showing good judgment and good taste. Thus they are called out as the 'gentleman's terrier'.

The Standard Manchester Terriers is said to be more sharp (quicker to react and less nervous, fearful, or anxious dog) whereas the Toy Manchester Terrier is said to be more of a barksy type. Although Manchester Terriers are not a barksy breed they do bark to sound the alarm about things. Both varieties have a strong need to be with their owners and to please them as much as possible. This is a [discerning](#) and strong thinking breed and cat like in greeting strangers - suspicious with strangers at first. However, once a manchester gets to know you, you will never look back!



## Why this MAY NOT be a breed for you... Attributes and Traits

Real-world definition of a Manchester Terrier showcased by my TMT and others from other MT owners

\_\_ **Velcro Dog:** It is devotion that is really almost pathological. If you don't want a dog who wants to be with you all the time (in bed, on the couch, in the bathroom!), then you do not want this kind of dog. He wouldn't leave my side, regardless of whether he has a leash on or not – well unless they see a squirrel

\_\_ **Prey Drive:** With squeaky or crinkly toys their sole goal with them is to make it so they don't squeak or crackle anymore. Relentless to the point of driving you crazy.

\_\_ **Energy Level:** Rather high energy but seems to burn it off quicker than some dogs. He will be climbing the walls and ping ponging (the zoomies) off the ceiling when I get home (even if I was only gone for 5 minutes) but will calm down in about 20 minutes and be a lap dog until I pull out his leash or come back inside again. When they have the zoomies they can zoom faster than you can watch them! They love tall grass for their zoomies too!

\_\_ **Lifestyle:** this is a dog that will mold itself to your lifestyle - Despite the proclivity for play, they can sit, sleep quietly in a car for hours. Personality will change with who he is around. Doesn't like children, unless they grow up with them.

\_\_ **Barking.** OK, these are terriers, they like to bark and don't let anyone tell you different. They will not bark aimlessly (i.e., Chihuahua, Pomeranians, Minpins, etc), only at "stuff". But we live in the city and there is a

heckuvalotta "stuff", people mostly.

\_\_ **Nails.** They grow supernaturally fast. You can do nails twice a week and that just barely keeps them in check! They have long quicks too!

\_\_ **Smarts:** definitely a very smart dog. They seems to truly understand what you are saying, and learn new info so quickly! Pickup up names, distinguish people talking to others from talking to them. Almost knows immediately what is off limits and are not threats. They are also extremely sensitive, and get their feelings hurt easily.

\_\_ **Train-ability:** smart, like to learn and are very willing workers. When actively working they have total focus. Elegant and athletic. There is a certain grace of movement that creates tremendously appeal. They move effortlessly and with purpose. They look like they could work all day without any difficulty at all.

\_\_ **Habits:** very particular about bedtime and will ditch you between 8:30 and 9:30 and go up to bed on his own. Will go on an occasional barking rant over the "ghost" in the yard, the wind that just blow passed or whatever.

\_\_ **Sociability:** Not so friendly when they doesn't know you but is way to happy if he remembers you. It takes a little while to get used to strangers that come to visit, but once they're accepted they're ok. (This is called being a discerning breed)

\_\_ **Observations:** Some say theirs are very calm and couch potatoes. Some sound like little angels, and others are very mischievous! (sounds like our human children)

\_\_ **Fear Stage:** Yes at about 6 months old and again a little over a year? They go through a process of not handling "new" things very well! However, Socialization and training do a lot to build confidence and mitigate fear in dogs and owners. (notice "socialization" is used again)

...But they are not without their challenges  
some contents below were taken from other forums)

- Most, if not 90% of Manchesters do not like getting their feet wet! They will try and avoid raining days completely! They don't mind pee'ing behind the chair or right in front of the door if they can avoid the wet ground! However they enjoy romping through the snow – go figure!
- MTs can also be hard to house-break reliably if you are not consistent and firm, particularly about going out in the rain/snow/cold to do their business. It can be maddening when a dog goes out for 1/2 hour or more, then comes in and poops on your floor.
- Our breed standard suggests that MTs should be discerning and not overly shy or aggressive. What that means in practical terms is that they can be standoffish to strangers, and if they're not properly trained and socialized, they can become fearful and/or aggressive, or they can end up running your life. If you don't train your MT, your MT will train you, it's very simple. MTs are very smart in general and they're very cute. It can be a very dangerous combination because it's hard not to laugh when they do something really evil, but look just adorable doing it.

**Are MT's right (or wrong) for you if ...Depending on your point of view almost all aspects of the manchester character can be a pro or a con.**

(some contents below were taken from other forums)

- Intelligence if a Pro is you enjoy a dog who is bright, curious and quick to learn.  
– It's a Con if you don't want a dog you have to keep up with. Same with training.
- Pro is you enjoy working with your animal and rewarding because they really do like to learn.  
– Con because they can learn a bad habit just as quick and never forget anything. Let them get away with something once and they will expect it to be a lifetime commitment.
- Size is a Pro if you want a port-a-pet who is easy to carry and meets the requirements that many places put on the size dog you may have.  
– A Con because they can get through holes you don't even notice until you see the end of a tail as it is going through. And they are unlikely to survive getting hit on the street or a fight with a bigger animal.
- Pro if you want a wash n wear pet.

– A Con because they don't have much protection from extremes of weather. They don't have undercoats to keep them warm.

- They really are a small Terrier. If you don't want an assertive dog you won't like any kind of Terriers. Terriers are born with more original sin than other dogs.

- Noise is one issue and is not addressed often enough in this breed. The size makes MT's good apartment dogs but they do bark. If the owner doesn't know how to train away from it or leaves the dog to run the whole place all the time, that dog will annoy the neighbors.

– On the Pro side, nobody is ever going to sneak up on you.

- Another thing to consider is how the breeder you get your puppy from thinks. Remember, this is not a breed that does well without a lot of very early socialization. If the pups are born in and stay in a kennel situation without an abundance of opportunity to learn about people, places and things before they are sent to new homes, you are starting out with two strikes.

- Research your Breeders right along with your breed and make sure you are on the same page.

- This breed EXCELS in dog sports. As companions and/or performers MT can hold their own with any other breed but they do take some effort.

- MT's are not for everyone. They tend to be as active as their people, but they are very capable athletes. If you're a couch potato, so are they, typically. If you're active, so are they.

- It may take a MT a while to warm up to you, but lord help you once they do. MTs are committed to their people. While some are more Velcro (follow you all over the house) than others, you can expect kisses, face smooching, puppy on your head, etc.

- The Toy Manchester is a toy dog expected to perform the functions of a working terrier where other toys were selected primarily to be lap-warmers.

- MTs live to be with their people (i.e., they will bark if you leave them in the house and go out to do yard-work, etc) but not necessarily to \_please\_ their people.

- MTs have selective hearing, at times, particularly when they're in chase mode. They have a very strong prey instinct, and they will take off after a bird or squirrel completely deaf to mom/dad calling them back.

**Socialization; due to its strong ability to discern and make judgment calls, extra socialization is required for this breed while it is young to help learn about the human world and be a well behaved adult dog. Read More about [how to socialize](#) them.**

- Socializing a Manchester requires you to go the extra step as they are discerning and need the extra human contact when they are young.

– Hand your dog off to strangers - don't be shy, just hand them off.

– Hand them to more men than women

– Allow them room to learn but consistency is a must.

- Desensitize and build their confidence level to different noises and objects. For example, bring treats and

– Sit/Stand with them outside of Starbucks, Safeway, hardware stores; high traffic areas. Home Depot allows dogs.

– Take your dog with you when you go get the car washed. Sit outside and enjoy the time with your dog.

– Go to a kids play ground and have your dog walk around the soft play padding or slide down the slide with him if you dare.

– When you walk your dog – shuffle your feet, touch the fence – you can create your own sounds to help them learn to ignore sounds!

– Hang outside the Laundry Mat or Beauty Parlor and help them learn different smells

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**HOUSE BREAKING;** The key to housebreaking a Manchester Terrier (or any dog) is consistency! A good rule of thumb would be to take your dog out every two hours (young puppies every hour) to have them get into a routine where the potty spots are located. Soon you will notice his signals when he needs to go out and he will learn how to tell you he is looking it go out. In addition young pups should be taken out after they have started

to settle down from a heavy playtime, or a few minutes after eating. Make sure your dog is on a consistent schedule (when they eat, when they sleep, when they are taken outside to "go"). Your job will be to figure out the times when they have to "go". Once a consistent routine has been established you will find your dog is housebroken. Read more about [how to; housebreaking](#).

- House Breaking: MT's are relatively easy to housebreak. However some manchesters take about a month to 'figure it out'.
- Feeding: Most people feed their MT's 1/3rd a cup, twice a day. Puppies are given the same amount but with a lunch added until they are 6mos - 1yrs old.

**BASIC CARE;** One advantage I have found about this breed is the lack of "doggie" odor normally found in dogs! This may be due to the lack of an undercoat as they are a single coated breed. MT's are a relatively low maintenance dog especially since they do not shed and do not require the weekly brush out. You will also find they clean themselves like cats too. Remember, their two back feet are 'cat like'.

- A bath every month or two works wonders and helps keep the dog clean, and neat.
- No undercoat, no real brushing, at all, seriously. A human shoe shine brush works great once a week.
- But not having all that hair makes up for with fast growing nails! They grow supernaturally fast. You can do nails once a week and that just barely keeps them in check!
- Regular teeth cleaning are a must in adults. I personally recommend raw (not cooked) chicken, turkey or pork rib bones as they do a great job of taking at tarter on the teeth. Teaching your puppy early in life the tooth brush is a good thing can do wonders for you later in life.