

The Manchester terrier

A rugged, short haired, agile, little dog, that can manage long walks/hikes

“A Thinking Dog”

- They are considered an aloof breed like the Akita, Shiba Inu, Shar Pei, etc
- Looks like a small Doberman, with a sleek black and tan coat, elegant build, and keen expression
- Active, stubborn, curious and hilarious at all times
- Moves swiftly with light-footed grace
- Is lively, playful, and athletic - when you are active, they are active. When you are chillin' they are chillin'
- Lives a long time +16 yrs
- Is more responsive and better mannered than some terriers
- Makes a keen watchdog; are generally quiet and not prone to nuisance barking
- Tends to be a clean breed with not much of a "doggy" odor
- Can often be seen grooming themselves in a cat-like manner
- Aloof toward strangers, they form strong family bonds. Really, they are one-person dogs
- Highly intelligent with keen sense of humor
- The only acceptable color for a Manchester Terrier is black and tan
- Yes, they do shed, however, not excessively as they do not have an under coat.
- The Standard Manchester is a very powerful dog and the Toy Manchester is not a fragile breakable dog
- They are “very alert,” nothing escapes their notice. They always have 1 ear tuned in for trouble.
- They are suspicious little buggers (another word for reserved with strangers or aloof 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 are considered an aloof breed as such as the Akita, Shiba Inu, Shar Pei

Most Manchester's are equally as comfortable spending a day

lounging in bed (preferably under the covers) as they are in more athletic pursuits, making them an ideal house pet. Generally Manchester's are not well-suited to kennel life nor are they physically prepared for extended periods outdoors in inclement weather as they do not have an undercoat.



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Attributes and Traits - *This may not be a breed for you*

Real-world definition of a Manchester Terrier seen 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
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **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 getting hurt easily. This is a “thinking” dog through and through
- ❑ **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 aloof 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)

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.

Manchester Terriers (MT) are a wonderful breed, but they are not without their challenges.

(some contents below were taken from other MT owners)

- 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 smooshing, 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.
- Most, if not 99% 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.

Health of the MT - [American Manchester Terrier Club](#) | [The Canadian Manchester Terrier Club](#)

vWD - [VetGen - Intro to vWD](#) (Hereditary Disease)

- Von Willebrand's disease is a bleeding disorder common in a number of breeds, including Manchester Terriers (both standards and toys), Doberman Pinschers, Scottish Terriers, and Shetland Sheepdogs.

Hypothyroidism(Hereditary Disease)

- Hypothyroidism is a common and serious genetic problem in purebred dogs. There is virtually no breed of dog unaffected.

LCP (Hereditary Disease)

- Some lines are afflicted with Legges-Calves-Perthes – which causes deterioration of the femur. Known by a number of names including legges perthes, and aseptic necrosis. This condition is common to many small breeds. Effective families should not be breed.

LP - Luxated Patellas (Hereditary Disease)

- Dislocating kneecap, luxating patella, loose knee, trick knee. This condition is common to many small breeds.

Anesthetic

- A Manchester Terrier should not be given premeds. They should be gassed straight down.

Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF)

- Some lines are prone to glaucoma (eye disease). Yearly CERF is recommended to ensure free of heritable eye disease (Hereditary Disease)
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Heart problems affecting our breed. Manchester Heart Study; Cardiomyopathy - Affects Standard and Toy Manchester Terriers *differently*. In Toy Manchester Terriers; unexplained deaths (under one year of age). Contact The Canadian or American Manchester Breed Club if you suspect a case to help our research studies.

Note; The term cardiomyopathy literally translates to "sick heart muscle." Over the past few years, North American breeders have noticed the presence of a heart problem called cardiomyopathy, which has killed very young puppies! Your help is urgently NEEDED with postmortem examinations on suspected puppies. Inform your breed club you would like to participate any in study if your puppy suddenly dies. Your support greatly is appreciated in identifying a marker to help learn about this disease.

Dental Disease in Dogs and Cats

Regina R. Allen DVM

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Dental disease is the most common problem found in dogs and cats of all ages, yet the mouth remains a neglected area of veterinary care. As your pet ages, the severity of dental disease increases, which is then compounded by age-related problems such as decreased liver and kidney function. In any animal (including humans), the simple act of chewing food causes a transient bacteremia (showering of bacteria into the bloodstream) with normal mouth bacteria. In a healthy animal, this is quickly resolved by normal immune system mechanisms. In dogs and cats with severe dental disease and oral abscesses, these animals are essentially chewing on pus, which causes this bacteremia to be frequent and severe. Additionally, with advancing age, the normal immune response declines over time. So, as your pet gets older, the dental disease worsens, and the pet's ability to deal with it declines.

There is an established association between dental disease and its associated bacteremias and heart, liver, kidney, and joint diseases, and even early death. In addition, abscessed and fractured teeth are painful to the pet. Two huge misconceptions that I often hear from clients are that their pet is "too old to anesthetize" or that the dental procedure



"isn't worth doing." First and foremost, there is no upper age limit for anesthesia, and age is a number, not a disease. If the animal has or is suspected of having age-related problems, your veterinarian may recommend bloodwork and/or chest x-rays before the dental cleaning procedure to help gauge the risk of anesthesia. Most age-related problems such as a heart murmur or kidney insufficiency can be dealt with by altering the anesthetic protocol, starting the pet on medication(s) before the procedure, or administering intravenous fluids during the procedure.

Often, clients will ask me about cleaning a pet's teeth without general anesthesia. This type of cleaning does a huge disservice to the pet, and provides the owner with a false sense of security. First, dental tartar is firmly adhered to the teeth, and needs to be removed with sharp instruments and ultrasonic scalers. Even the best-behaved pet will not stay 100% still, which puts them at risk for injury to the oral tissues if they move at an inopportune time. Second, professional dental cleaning includes scaling the

teeth both above and below the gum line. The most critical area to clean is the tooth surface in the gingival pocket (area between the gum and the tooth root), where periodontal disease begins, and this is not possible in an awake patient. Removing the tartar only on the visible surfaces of the teeth does not adequately clean the entire mouth, and has little effect on improving the pet's health because it does not remove the pockets of bacteria hiding below the gum line. Third, merely scraping the tartar off visible teeth and not following up with polishing those teeth actually causes the tartar to build up faster in the future! Scraping causes grooves in the surface of the teeth, and polishing them afterwards removes those grooves and restores a smooth surface. "Cleanings" done without anesthesia just involve scraping the tartar off the visible surfaces and not polishing afterwards, which makes the problem worse by providing a rough surface for the tartar to stick to. Fourth, gas anesthesia with an endotracheal tube protects the airways from inhaled debris and accidental aspiration. Fifth, a complete oral exam and removal of diseased teeth is not possible without general anesthesia. Anesthesia provides the complete cooperation of the patient for a procedure it would not hold still for, and eliminates pain associated with examining and treating diseased teeth and gums.

Although there is never a 100% guarantee with anesthesia, we have much safer anesthetics today than in the past, and risk to the pet is minimal. The benefits that pet receives from the dental cleaning far outweigh the small risk of general anesthesia. Even if the pet is very elderly, there is no easy way to predict how long it will live. A 15 year-old small dog or cat may very easily live until 20. And the quality of life of most elderly pets can be greatly improved by removing painful, diseased teeth and resolving chronic mouth infections. Isn't a dental procedure "worth doing" if it increases the quantity and quality of the life of your pet?

About the writer:

Regina R. Allen DVM has been training and showing her dogs in obedience, agility, and conformation for about 12 years. She has trained a variety of breeds to numerous obedience and agility titles, and owner-handled two Toy Manchester Terriers to breed Championships. One of the dogs was shown sparingly as a special, and finished 2003 as the #16 Toy Manchester Terrier. She currently has a Doberman Pinscher and three Toy Manchester Terriers, one of whom finished her MACH (Master Agility Championship) in 2010. Her Ch. MACH Carlee CD RAE XF HOF is a high ranking Manchester Terrier in AKC agility.

<http://regalmanchesters.weebly.com/>

Care of your MT

- House Breaking: MT's are relatively easy to housebreak. The key to housebreaking is consistency! A good rule of thumb would be every two hours, in addition to; after they are settling 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"), figure out the times when they have to "go". Once a consistent routine has been established you will find your dog is housebroken.
- Feeding: Most people feed their MT's $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ a cup twice a day. Puppies are given the same amount but with a lunch added until 1yrs old.
- Basic Care: MT's are a relatively low maintenance dog especially since they have no under coat and are very clean.
 - A bath every 10-days works wonders and helps keep the dog clean, and neat.
 - Coat, no brushing, at all, seriously. A human shoe shine brush works great.
 - But, this is made up for with the nails. They grow supernaturally fast. You can do nails twice a week and that just barely keeps them in check!
 - Regular teeth cleaning is a must in adults. Raw chicken, turkey bones do a great job of this. Teach your puppy early in life the tooth brush is a good thing.

Socialization

Early puppy socialization is extremely important in any breed.

- Socializing a Manchester requires you to go the extra step as they are an aloof breed and need extra human contact when they are young.
 - Hand your dog off to strangers
 - Hand them to more men than women
 - Allow them room to learn but consistencies are 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
 - Go to the carwash and stay in your car with your dog and help them learn it's OK.

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