

## Dog behaviour

## Social behaviour

Dogs are generally sociable animals and can live with other dogs but some breeds prefer to be more solitary. Dogs like human company and don't generally like to be left alone.

## Activity levels

Normal activity for dogs depends heavily on the breed for example a Labrador will naturally have more energy than a bulldog. Some dogs will require more walks and exercise.

## Sleeping patterns

Typically, adult **dogs** will **sleep** 12–14 hours a day. However, just like humans, these numbers can vary based on your dog, their age, activity level, and personality.

## Eating and drinking

Dogs eat 2-3 times a day

Dogs need an ounce of water per pound of body weight.

## Mating and pregnancy

Dog breeding is usually very selective and requires help from a veterinarian. Dogs are pregnant for around 63 days. When a male **canine** is interested in mounting a female, he will sniff the female's vulva. If the female is receptive, she will stand still and hold her tail to the side, a stance referred to as "flagging".

**How environmental factors can influence behaviour for a particular species:**

## With or without companionship

Dogs that have a lack of companionship from other dogs or humans may become withdrawn and depressed. Dogs that are not used to human contact can become aggressive or scared.

## Time of the year/seasonal changes

Some dogs can become uncomfortable and irritable in hot weather, they can also suffer from allergies. All dogs are different though and some are more bothered by changes to the seasons than others.

## Accommodation

Depending on the breed and size of the dog, they will require enough space to move around, exercise and go to the toilet. Some dogs prefer to sleep in a crate but all dogs should have a comfortable area to rest in. The temperature should not be too hot or too cold and there should be good ventilation.