Alaskan Malamute

Adult Height: 58cm-70cm
Adult Weight: 34kg-56kg
Exercise per day: at least 120 mins
Shed Amount: High

Why do Alaskan Malamutes make great pets?

With their plume-like tails, unique looks and affectionate temperaments, it's no surprise that the Alaskan Malamute is a popular pet for dog lovers across the world.

While they make much-loved pets, these loyal dogs originated in Alaska where they were traditionally used to pull sleds across the snow. In fact, they still pull sleds in many countries across the world today and it's easy to see why they suit their job role so perfectly. Their dense, double coat helps to protect them in all weathers (they even have fur inside their ears to keep them warm!) and their incredible stamina helps them cover long distances with their cargo.

But it's certainly not all work and no play. These social, affectionate dogs love to be around people and they often make wonderful family pets for the right home.

Looking to name your Alaskan Malamute? Use our Pet Name Finder for inspiration.-

How big do Alaskan Malamutes grow?

A fully grown male Alaskan Malamute can grow to 70cm and a female can grow to 66cm (measured from the floor to the top of the shoulder).

How heavy do Alaskan Malamutes get?

Generally speaking, a fully-grown male should weigh around 56kg and a female should weigh around 34kg.

How long do Alaskan Malamutes live?

Malamutes typically live for 10-15 years.

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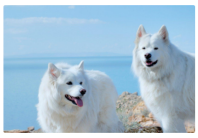

Space required

Alaskan Malamutes are generally best suited to large spaces, both indoors and out. They're not as well-suited to flats or small houses, and a garden is a must for this dog breed. They usually prefer a countryside setting but if you live in a town, it's essential that you find a dog-friendly park nearby.

How much exercise do Alaskan Malamutes need?

With their sled-pulling heritage and their incredible stamina, it's perhaps no surprise that these dogs need plenty of exercise to help them stay happy and healthy. They usually need at least two hours of exercise every day but they might enjoy more depending on their energy and activity levels.

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Coat type: Double coated

Professional groom required: Every 10-12 weeks, this should more frequent when shedding

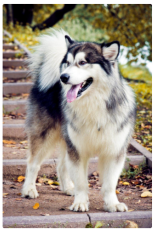
Grooming at home: Groom 2 to 3 times a week using a shedding blade or a de-shedding brush

Bathing: It's advisable not to bathe your Alaskan Malamute at home due to their large size

Winter care: During winter extra care should be taken to brush out wet or muddy fur to prevent any tangles appearing, it's also important to bathe paws after walking on roads where grit or salt has been used

Summer care: A visit to a professional grooming salon for de-shedding treatments may be needed to keep your dog cool in warm weather

Why not check out the Groom Room's advice pages for more tips on what makes a good grooming routine, plus lots of helpful seasonal grooming advice.



Do Alaskan Malamutes shed?

Yes, Alaskan Malamutes do normally shed. Their dense coats are designed to keep them warm in Arctic conditions and you'll typically need to groom your pet every day to keep both the outer and under coats in good condition. Regular grooming will also help to manage any shedding. This tends to happen seasonally, so you may notice a bit of extra shedding at certain times of the year.

Common health issues for Alaskan Malamutes

Alaskan Malamutes were bred to withstand hostile conditions in Alaska and while they're normally quite a sturdy breed, they can still be vulnerable to some health conditions.

If you choose to bring your Malamute home from a breeder, it will be important to make sure that your puppy and its parents have had all of the necessary health tests available for the breed. It's also a good idea to talk to your breeder and your vet in a lot of depth about any other potential health conditions.

Alaskan Malamute nutrition requirements

You'll find that your pet's nutritional needs will be different depending on their age, lifestyle and health requirements. When choosing a dog food brand, it's a good idea to look for one that's of a good quality that your Malamute enjoys.

If you intend for your Malamute to work, it may be necessary to adjust their food intake accordingly to make sure they've got the right fuel to get the job done. Some dog food brands have food designed specifically for working dogs and those might be right for your pet.

If you're bringing your Malamute home as a puppy, it's important to stick to your breeder's brand of dog food and their feeding schedule at first. Too much change could cause stomach upsets for your pup. Should you need nutritional advice, our fully trained colleagues are always on hand to help.

Once the puppy has settled into their new home, the breeder's selected choice of dog food can be changed over a gradual period of time, roughly between 1-2 weeks.

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Are Alaskan Malamutes easy to train?

Alaskan Malamutes are intelligent dogs that are generally keen to learn, though they can have a dominant streak. With their affectionate and friendly natures, training should be a joy and they're likely to respond best to reward-based techniques. It may be worth remembering that they're not always as skilled at responding to commands– particularly if they're off the lead and have spotted something they want to chase!

Are Alaskan Malamutes good with kids?

Alaskan Malamutes can make great family pets and are generally fine with children if both are taught how to properly interact with each other early on. They have very friendly natures and enjoy being with people, so they're likely to be firm friends and playmates with older children.

Like with all larger dogs, it will be important to make sure that all playtimes are supervised. It's also a good idea to think about whether a large dog will suit a home with very small children – while Malamutes don't tend to be aggressive, they may not appreciate being handled roughly.

Are Alaskan Malamutes good with other pets?

Alaskan Malamutes tend to be fine with other pets as long as they've been socialised from puppyhood. That being said, they do have a high prey drive so should always be supervised around other animals. It's worth remembering that these pets were bred to pull sleds as a pack and that some of their pack mentality might remain. This could lead to some displays of dominance over other dogs, particularly ones of the same sex.

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