



Heartland Animal Shelter
2975 Milwaukee Ave.
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
Tel 847-296-6400
Fax 847-296-4198
www.heartlandanimalshelter.net

Dog Adoption – Beagle Adoption – Beagle Traits

If you are considering dog adoption and a Beagle is on the top of your list, take time to do your homework before taking the plunge on a Beagle adoption. Beagles, as a rule, make wonderful family companions and are generally good with children. With adequate exercise, they make excellent house pets but, if you're thinking about a Beagle, you need to understand Beagle traits for a successful adoption.

- **Beagles as hunters and hunting dogs** – One key Beagle trait is that Beagles were bred to hunt. They are pack animals that need companionship, whether other dogs or humans. Before moving ahead with a Beagle adoption, realize that they are inquisitive by nature and if left unsupervised for long periods, they can become bored, dig and get into trouble.
- **Beagles as trackers** – Another key Beagle trait is Beagles have a highly developed sense of smell and an independent nature. They often like to run off and roam the neighborhood following a scent. Many Beagles end up in shelters because they are expert escape artists. Spend time talking to dog experts at your shelter when considering Beagle adoption.
- **Beagles need room to roam** - Beagles love to explore the outdoors and would appreciate daily healthy-paced walks, but they also should spend time in a securely fenced yard where they can run around. Because of this Beagle trait, they are not ideal apartment dogs, but can adapt to life in most any setting – city, suburbs or country.
- **Beagles and Children** - Beagles are playful and energetic, friendly and outgoing, and make an excellent children's dog. Gentle and tolerant, they are eager to join in their child companions' games and adventures. This is why many families consider Beagle adoption.
- **Beagles as watchdogs** - Beagles make good watchdogs, but they often bark, howl and can be stubborn. Because this Beagle trait can cause problems if unchecked, early and consistent obedience training is recommended to avoid long-term behavioral problems.

Information sources: [ASPCA Complete Guide to Dogs](#) by Sheldon L. Gerstenfeld, DVM; [Barron's Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds](#) (Second Edition) by D. Caroline Coile, Ph.D; [Dogs for Kids: Everything You Need to Know About Dogs](#) by Kristin Mehus-Roe; [The Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds](#) by Juliette Cunliffe; and [The Illustrated Directory of Dogs](#) by Juliette Cunliffe.



###