



Heartland Animal Shelter
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Dog Adoption – Jack Russell Terrier Traits – Jack Russell Terrier Adoption (Parson Russell Terrier)

Jack Russell Terriers are one of the more frequently returned dogs at animal shelters. If you do your homework and learn about Jack Russell Terrier traits before adopting, it increases the chance of a successful Jack Russell Terrier adoption.

- **Jack Russell Terriers as watchdogs** – One key Jack Russell Terrier trait is that they are fun-loving dogs, friendly to most people and good watchdogs. They will bark when someone comes to the door but aren't usually aggressive. It is one of the reasons why Jack Russell Terrier adoptions are so popular.
- **Origins of Jack Russell Terriers** – An important Jack Russell Terrier trait to consider is that they were bred to run with horses in pursuit of foxes and most are not well suited for city or apartment life. By nature, they may dig and burrow, and they may chase and kill cats, rabbits and other small animals. This is a key reason why so many Jack Russell Terrier adoptions fail.
- **Jack Russell Terriers and other dogs** - Jack Russell Terriers get along with other dogs if exposed to them early but can be scrappy or aggressive with strange dogs. If you have a dog or dogs, see how the dogs interact before moving ahead with a Jack Russell Terrier adoption.
- **Jack Russell Terriers – children and nipping** – One common Jack Russell Terrier trait is nipping. Because they can be possessive/protective of the food and toys, they may nip to protect their "stuff." Because of their tendency to nip and their energy level, Jack Russell Terriers do best with older children. Especially, if children have time to train and play with their dog to burn off excess energy.
- **Jack Russell Terriers are high-energy dogs** - Jack Russell Terriers are high-energy dogs that require vigorous play and daily exercise. For a successful Jack Russell Terrier adoption, remember they need plenty to occupy their minds and may become destructive if left alone for long periods of time.
- **Jack Russell Terriers and Exercise** - Jack Russell Terriers should be leashed or exercised in a secured area, preferably a yard with a 5' or higher fence. True to their hunting background, they like to run, wander and explore if given the chance.
- **Training and Jack Russell Terriers** – Many problematic Jack Russell Terrier traits may be overcome with good obedience training, preferably when they are young. Jack Russell terriers are playful and intelligent but may be easily distracted by surrounding scents and activity. A well-trained, obedient dog may avoid many of the problems typical of the breed.

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.

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