

# AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD



## Average size, weight & lifespan

46cm – 58cm

18kg – 30kg

14 – 16 years

## General Appearance

The Australian Shepherd or “Aussies” as they are known as; come in a wide range of coat colours and also have a range of tail lengths, with some dogs having little or no tail while others will have a full length tail. “Grinning” is a characteristic of some “Aussies” and should not be mistaken for snarling.

## Background

The Australian Shepherd was actually developed in America and the name “Aussies” was coined because of the believed link between Australia and the herding of Australian Merino Sheep.

## Characteristics/Temperament

Aussies are “people” dogs that thrive on human companionship. They have an intense need to be near their owners, following them from room to room when indoors and staying close by their heels when outdoors. Isolation from humans can quickly ruin an Aussies personality.

## Exercise

Aussies are energetic dogs that require vigorous daily exercise to keep them happy and healthy. Running, playing with another dog, retrieving a ball or Frisbee, swimming or participating in other activities are some ways your dog can get the exercise they need.

## Grooming

A good weekly wash and brush to remove dead coat and tangles should be part of your dog’s grooming routine.

## Health

Some inherited conditions of Hip and Elbow Dysplasia can occur. Ensure that both parents of any pup have been tested and have clear eye certificates.

## Contacting Council

If you require any further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issue, please call Council on 1300 878 001 Council or visit the Townsville City Council website at [www.townsville.qld.gov.au](http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au) and follow the links to Pets and Animals.

