

The Intelligence of Dogs



According to S. Coren, author of "[The Intelligence of Dogs](#)", there are three types of dog intelligence:

- Adaptive Intelligence (learning and problem-solving ability). This is specific to the individual animal and is measured by canine IQ tests.
- Instinctive Intelligence. This is specific to the individual animal and is measured by canine IQ tests.
- Working/Obedience Intelligence. This is breed dependent.

The Intelligence Ranking

Stanley Coren is a neuropsychologist and professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Coren has published articles in medical journals including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *American Journal of Public Health and Sleep*. He has appeared on numerous television programs including Good Morning America, CNN, The Osgood Files and The Today Show. Dr. Coren is a fellow of the American Psychology Association, American Psychology Society and Canadian Psychology Association. He was recently awarded the Killam Memorial Fellowship.

Ranking of Dogs for Obedience/Working Intelligence by Breed

Based on a dog trainer's survey.

Rank	Characteristics
1-10	Brightest Dogs
11-26	Excellent Working Dogs
27-39	Above Average Working Dogs
40-54	Average Working/Obedience Intelligence
55-69	Fair Working/Obedience Intelligence
70-79	Lowest Degree of Working/Obedience Intelligence

Ranks 1 to 10

Brightest Dogs

Understanding of New Commands: Less than 5 repetitions.

Obey First Command: 95% of the time or better.

Rank	Breed
1	<u>Border Collie</u>
2	<u>Poodle</u>
3	<u>German Shepherd</u>
4	<u>Golden Retriever</u>
5	<u>Doberman Pinscher</u>
6	<u>Shetland Sheepdog</u>
7	<u>Labrador Retriever</u>
8	<u>Papillon</u>
9	<u>Rottweiler</u>
10	<u>Australian Cattle Dog</u>

Ranks 11 to 26

Excellent Working Dogs

Understanding of New Commands: 5 to 15 repetitions.

Obey First Command: 85% of the time or better.

Rank	Breed
11	<u>Pembroke Welsh Corgi</u>
12	<u>Miniature Schnauzer</u>
13	<u>English Springer Spaniel</u>
14	<u>Belgian Tervuren</u>
15	<u>Schipperke</u> <u>Belgian Sheepdog</u>
16	<u>Collie</u> <u>Keeshond</u>
17	<u>German Shorthaired Pointer</u>
18	<u>Flat-Coated Retriever</u> <u>English Cocker Spaniel</u> <u>Standard Schnauzer</u>
19	<u>Brittany</u>
20	<u>Cocker Spaniel</u>
21	<u>Weimaraner</u>
22	<u>Belgian Malinois</u> <u>Bernese Mountain Dog</u>
23	<u>Pomeranian</u>
24	<u>Irish Water Spaniel</u>
25	<u>Vizsla</u>
26	<u>Cardigan Welsh Corgi</u>

Ranks 27 to 39

Above Average Working Dogs

Understanding of New Commands: 15 to 25 repetitions.

Obey First Command: 70% of the time or better

Rank	Breed
27	<u>Chesapeake Bay Retriever</u> <u>Puli</u> <u>Yorkshire Terrier</u>
28	<u>Giant Schnauzer</u>
29	<u>Airedale Terrier</u> <u>Bouvier Des Flandres</u>
30	<u>Border Terrier</u> <u>Briard</u>
31	<u>Welsh Springer Spaniel</u>
32	<u>Manchester Terrier</u>
33	<u>Samoyed</u>
34	<u>Field Spaniel</u> <u>Newfoundland</u> <u>Australian Terrier</u> <u>American Staffordshire Terrier</u> <u>Gordon Setter</u> <u>Bearded Collie</u>
35	<u>Cairn Terrier</u> <u>Kerry Blue Terrier</u> <u>Irish Setter</u>
36	<u>Norwegian Elkhound</u>
37	<u>Affenpincher</u> <u>Silky Terrier</u> <u>Miniature Pinscher</u> <u>English Setter</u> <u>Pharaoh Hound</u> <u>Clumber Spaniel</u>
38	<u>Norwich Terrier</u>
39	<u>Dalmatian</u>

Ranks 40 to 54

Average Working/Obedience Intelligence

Understanding of New Commands: 25 to 40 repetitions.

Obey First Command: 50% of the time or better.

Rank	Breed
40	<u>Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier</u> <u>Bedlington Terrier</u> <u>Smooth Fox Terrier</u>
41	<u>Curly-Coated Retriever</u> <u>Irish Wolfhound</u>
42	<u>Kuvasz</u> <u>Australian Shepherd</u>
43	<u>Saluki</u> <u>Finnish Spitz</u> <u>Pointer</u>
44	<u>Cavalier King Charles Spaniel</u> <u>German Wirehaired Pointer</u> <u>Black & Tan Coonhound</u> <u>American Water Spaniel</u>
45	<u>Siberian Husky</u> <u>Bichon Frise</u> <u>English Toy Spaniel</u>
46	<u>Tibetan Spaniel</u> <u>English Foxhound</u> <u>Otterhound</u> <u>American Foxhound</u> <u>Greyhound</u> <u>Wirehaired Pointing Griffon</u>
47	<u>West Highland White Terrier</u> <u>Scottish Deerhound</u>
48	<u>Boxer</u> <u>Great Dane</u>
49	<u>Dachshund</u> <u>Stafforshire Bull Terrier</u>
50	<u>Alaskan Malamute</u>
51	<u>Whippet</u> <u>Chinese Shar-pei</u> <u>Wire Fox Terrier</u>

52	<u>Rhodesian Ridgeback</u>
53	<u>Ibizan Hound</u> <u>Welsh Terrier</u> <u>Irish Terrier</u>
54	<u>Boston Terrier</u> <u>Akita</u>

Ranks 55 to 69

Fair Working/Obedience Intelligence

Understanding of New Commands: 40 to 80 repetitions.

Obey First Command: 30% of the time or better.

Rank	Breed
55	<u>Skye Terrier</u>
56	<u>Norfolk Terrier</u> <u>Sealyham Terrier</u>
57	<u>Pug</u>
58	<u>French Bulldog</u>
59	<u>Brussels Griffon</u> <u>Maltese</u>
60	<u>Italian Greyhound</u>
61	<u>Chinese Crested</u>
62	<u>Dandie Dinmont Terrier</u> <u>Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen</u> <u>Tibetan Terrier</u> <u>Japanese Chin</u> <u>Lakeland Terrier</u>
63	<u>Old English Sheepdog</u>
64	<u>Great Pyrenees</u>
65	<u>Scottish Terrier</u> <u>Saint Bernard</u>
66	<u>Bull Terrier</u>
67	<u>Chihuahua</u>
68	<u>Lhasa Apso</u>
69	<u>Bullmastiff</u>

Ranks 70 to 79

Lowest Degree of Working/Obedience Intelligence

Understanding of New Commands: 80 to 100 repetitions or more.

Obey First Command: 25% of the time or worse.

Rank	Breed
70	<u>Shih Tzu</u>
71	<u>Basset Hound</u>
72	<u>Mastiff</u> <u>Beagle</u>
73	<u>Pekingese</u>
74	<u>Bloodhound</u>
75	<u>Borzoi</u>
76	<u>Chow Chow</u>
77	<u>Bulldog</u>
78	<u>Basenji</u>
79	<u>Afghan Hound</u>