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Fact Sheet: German Shepherd

Dog type: pastoral

History:

- The German Shepherd was developed in Germany in the 1880's as a herder of animals, especially sheep and goats.
- It was known originally as the Alsatian Wolf-Dog.
- It is known for its intelligence. It can work independently with little guidance or instruction when it has been trained.
- It is considered the best guard dog in the world.

Did you know...?

- German Shepherds are used in many jobs - as guide dogs for the blind, as members of bomb squad or drug squad teams, as sled dogs, as police dogs, as military dogs, as search and rescue dogs, as herding dogs and as guard dogs.
- Rin Tin Tin was a German Shepherd rescue puppy and the first canine movie star. Lee Duncan an American pilot in World War I took him to the USA from Germany. Rin Tin Tin went on to make 22 movies and signed his own contracts with a paw print.

German Shepherds as pets:

- Very intelligent and faithful companions.
- Make excellent guard dogs.
- Need plenty of exercise.