

## *Midlands & Northern Rhodesian Ridgeback Club*

### *Life with a Rhodesian Ridgeback*



Owning this wonderful large, intelligent hound should not be undertaken lightly. They are enthusiastic about walks and are happiest when they have an adequate amount of exercise for their age and size; they need an energetic owner. Their speed means they can cover vast distances quickly and as hounds they are instinctive hunters.

Usually they will chase anything that runs from them and being a tad energetic their antics are not always appreciated by all. As hunters, their inherent nature is to think for themselves and act independently without looking to their owner for direction. They are generally obedient and trainable but without basic training they can develop into an unruly hound. They love their food, so modern training with tidbits really suits them.

As an athletic hound they can easily clear high fences so proper precautions must be taken that they cannot get out to roam. Many are proficient swimmers and lots enjoy gardening; pruning and digging especially.

An extremely clean dog, with little odour, they generally dislike being dirty and rarely drool. Contrary to popular belief they do shed their hair and as they are short coated their hair will stick into most fabrics. They are a house dog, and do not fare well in a kennel environment, they are usually very easy to house-train. Most will quickly become master of comfy chairs and beds unless the owner discourages this from the start.

The same approach must apply to counter-surfing as most Ridgebacks will always be on the look out for a stray morsel. Their happily wagging tails will easily clear everything off low coffee tables. A Ridgeback will usually only ever be a few feet from you at home or in the garden and loves to ride in the car as it means they are with you.