



# afghan hound

[FORREST GUMP WITH FOUR LEGS]



**REASON FOR LIVING:** The Afghan Hound was originally developed to run and hunt in the mountainous region of Afghanistan and to guard sheep and goats. We are not sure what this means to you because these fashion accessories are probably not smart enough to differentiate a sheep from a dead tree and we would certainly not trust our flock of sheep to the protection of these dogs.

**SIZE:** 50-60 lbs (23-27 kg), 25-29 in (64-74 cm)

**SNAPSHOT:** Belonging to the Sight Hound family, which includes Greyhounds and Borzois, Afghan Hounds share the sleek build and propensity of their relatives to chase anything on four legs. Unlike their distant relatives, if your Afghan gets on a tear (“Run Forrest Run”), it is likely you will never see it again because it is probably not smart enough to know when to stop running or how to get home once it stops. Once it does stop, its fierce independence may prevent anyone without a dart gun from getting close enough to check its tags to return your dog to you.

Owning an Afghan Hound is a life of exercise, grooming, and frustration. Nothing looks worse than a matted Afghan. Good luck with the daily brushing. While you are at it, good luck with the exercise. You will need to keep it on the leash but that will prevent you from exercising it sufficiently. A Catch-22 if I ever saw one. Finally, these dogs are not the sharpest tools in the shed. Set your obedience goals low and do not expect too much out of these non-wizards.

I used to tell my clients that these dogs are good for five things 1) running away from their owners 2) not listening to their owners 3) chasing everything that moves as they run away from their owners not listening to their owners 4) frustrating their owners by running away from them as they ignore their owners and 5) teaching their owners that there is nothing that they can do to train them to stop running away not listening to their owners.

**MEDICAL ISSUES:** Until they run away from you and get hit by a car you should not incur too much



in the way of veterinary bills related to congenital medical problems. Congenital disorders such as bloat, hypothyroidism, and dilated cardiomyopathy have been reported but if you are crazy enough to get one of these dogs, you will probably happily deal with whatever rare, heritable medical issues arise. Total Cost of Ownership: Health problems are relatively uncommon in this breed. The base cost about \$15,000. The inevitable car accident will vary depending on the damage done to your dog. If it survives, the emergency room vet bills can run as high as \$10-15,000 depending on what it takes to put your dog back together again. 🐾