

# Learn More About the Black Russian Terrier

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## Black Russian Terrier Club of Canada

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The Black Russian Terrier (BRT) was originally bred to meet the demanding needs of the Soviet Union's military, including sentry and protection duty. Over time, the BRT has evolved into a beloved companion and versatile performer in various disciplines, while still remaining a vigilant protector of their family and property at maturity. Owning a Black Russian Terrier is a privilege and a joy. With their striking appearance, intelligence, loyalty, and trainability, BRTs make exceptional companions who thrive on connection with their owners. Adults range from 25 to 31 inches (65 to 77 cm) and 90 to 140 lbs (40.75 to 63.5 kg).

### Raising your puppy ....

The BRT is a 'slow to mature' breed, so it's important to exercise caution during growth stages. Avoid stairs (especially going down) until 4 months of age, jumping until 6 months of age and slippery surfaces until 18 months. Early and ongoing socialization is essential. Expose your puppy to various sounds, smells, locations, and people—particularly family and friends. BRTs are reserved with strangers but affectionate with family. They can be good with children if raised with them but always require supervision. When it comes to other dogs, BRTs are usually not 'makers of friends' unless raised together. Consistency is critical – BRT need clear and consistent house rules, leash training, and obedience reinforcement throughout their lives. Establish, enforce and consistently maintain rules from day one.



### Training and Exercise ...

BRTs are highly intelligent and thrive with structured training. They can learn words, phrases, and solve problems but require firm, consistent leadership. Training is mandatory, and owners should attend breeder-recommended training classes throughout their BRT's life. Engaging in canine sports and activities is highly recommended to keep your BRT mentally and physically stimulated. Moderate, low-impact daily exercise - such as walking, hiking, or swimming - are ideal.

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## Health ...

The BRT is generally a healthy breed and the life expectancy is approximately 8 to 12 years. Ethical, responsible breeders perform all breed-appropriate health checks to ensure the best genetic health. Maintaining pet health insurance is highly recommended, as veterinary costs are rising, and accidents can happen.

## Grooming ...

The BRT has a minimal-shedding coat with a medium coat length on the body and longer on the beard and legs. Regular grooming is a must - weekly brushing, combing, and detangling are essential to prevent matting.

Bathing and professional grooming should be scheduled every 30–60 days (or more frequently). The beard may require towel storage near the water bowl to avoid a trail of water drips after drinking. Nails and ears should be maintained at least twice a month.



## Planning for the Future ...

A BRT is a lifelong commitment. They form a strong, unbreakable bond with their owner and family, making rehoming extremely difficult. Prospective owners should thoroughly research the breed and choose a breeder who provides lifelong support. It's also essential to plan for the unexpected—decide who will care for your BRT if you are no longer able to. Many owners include their BRTs in estate plans or wills to ensure their continued care.

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The **Canadian Kennel Club**, Canada's primary registry body for purebred dogs in Canada, is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging, guiding and promoting the benefits of purebred dogs. CKC partners with clubs across Canada to provide conformation, performance and field events for all breeds.

Learn **how to get involved with your dog** in the exciting world of CKC sports and events, the benefits of becoming a CKC member and more at [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca) or email [information@ckc.ca](mailto:information@ckc.ca).

