



Maricopa County
Animal Care and Control

Thinking of Adopting a Teenage Rottweiler



Teenage Rottweilers bring love and joy to a home, along with some particular problems. Preteen (6 months to 2 years of age) and teenage Rottweilers need a lot of attention. Be sure to research them and your own lifestyle.

Teenage and preteen Rottweilers have a lot of confidence. At about 6 months of age they stop being cute little fuzz balls and can start to really get into trouble. They may jump up on people, get into the trash and chew on furniture. If not trained, played with and exercised enough, and if not confined properly when unsupervised, they have the ability to destroy a home in one day. It is recommended that Rottweilers up to 2 years of age (and sometimes beyond) be crated when not supervised to keep them out of mischief.

Rottweilers are very intelligent dogs—so much so that it can be a burden for the owner. Because of their high intelligence, they can and do get bored very easily and bored dogs are destructive dogs. If you want a dog that will just patiently lie around your home or yard until you invite it to do something, then perhaps an older well-trained Rottweiler or dog of another breed is more suited to you.

As intelligent dogs, they will test boundaries, seeing how far they can push the rules. If one day they experiment with a tiny growl when they are eating and people back away, then this encourages them to go to greater extremes. If they shove you out of the way to get out of the car and you say nothing, then they will continue to do that.

Going to obedience classes or training the dog yourself consistently, and often, keeps life in order. Rules are not made for your dog to break. Rules must be set and enforced by all members of the family. Sometimes getting the humans to agree and comply with enforcing the rules is harder than getting the dog to follow them. Physical force is a bad idea as a rule - consistency, fairness and firmness are a must.

If you are a laid back, non-confrontational or soft-natured person, then a Rottweiler, especially a teenager, is probably not the dog for you! If you are a leader type, someone who can

step in and take control of a situation while keeping a level head, then read on.

Mentally, Rottweilers mature very slowly. The housebreaking, crate training and chewing may be over with by 12 months old. But remember, the Rottweiler is a puppy until he is 2 years old. They require training sessions at least every other day. They also require a lot of exercise and mental stimulation. Though Rottweilers under 2 should never be jogged or biked, they should get lots of play time every day. Walking or swimming is fine as long as you know the distance your teenager can easily walk or the amount of swimming he can do without getting exhausted. Over-tired pups and teenagers can easily injure their joints and ligaments. If your Rottweiler is acting out and getting in a lot of trouble, he or she probably needs more exercise and training sessions. Boredom, lack of play time/exercise, and lack of mental stimulation are the three biggest causes of bad behavior.

Physically, Rottweilers also mature very slowly. They need to be kept lean. If they don't have a visible waist or you cannot easily feel their ribs, the dog is overweight. Rottweilers do not finish filling out width-wise until they are 3 to 5 years old. Overfeeding will not make them fill out faster but will make them more susceptible to pain from hip dysplasia, arthritis, shoulder ailments and torn knee ligaments.

If after reading all the above you still want a teenage or pre-teen Rottweiler then please go out and find your new companion. But remember the commitment you are making to this dog. You are promising to properly care for, train, feed and exercise him for his entire life (8 to 12 years) while keeping in mind all the above things that make this dog a Rottweiler.

For more information on animal care or MCACC programs, contact
(602) 506-PETS or visit www.pets.maricopa.gov