



**Wetterhoun**  
(Frisian Water Dog)



## The Wetterhoun: a dog with character



The Wetterhoun is one of the two Frisian dog breeds. The other one is the Stabijhoun. The Wetterhoun is a breed that may be called unique in more than one aspect.

The appearance of the Wetterhoun barely shows any similarity to other dog breeds. The tight curls of the astrakhan coat, the oily undercoat, the somewhat sturdy look, the fierce and broad head and the spiral tail give the Wetterhoun its characteristic appearance. It is a



medium-sized dog: the ideal size for dogs is 59 cm, for bitches 55 cm.

The Wetterhoun (Frisian for 'water dog') was used for hunting otters, polecats, and other vermin that usually isn't caught very easily. For this job, the Wetterhoun had to be fearless and steadfast.



These characteristics still apply to many Wetterhouns but at the same time these dogs have a very affectionate and sensitive nature. They are gentle and devoted and very attached to the family members.

The Wetterhoun behaves in a somewhat more reserved manner toward strangers, but is certainly not aggressive. It is considered an excellent guard dog: an ideal dog for the yard.

In order to understand its character, some insight is needed into why it was once used in hunting otters.

These dogs work closely to their owner, always trying to stay in contact in order to know what is wanted from them.

They are not pointing dogs but are good retrievers and in particular excellent and very persevering trackers. The curly, somewhat greasy coat protects the dog from all outdoor conditions. A Wetterhoun is a dog that can stand hard weather. It copes with thick reedy borders, dense undergrowth and even bramble bushes with ease.

A Wetterhoun thrives best when it gets enough exercise: a few long walks a day and the possibility of a swim now and then are ideal. Due to its great attachment to its owner, the Wetterhoun is usually an easy dog to walk with. It hardly ever feels the need to leave its owner's side.

Since the Wetterhoun is very attached to its owners and its premises, it usually is a very suitable yard dog as well. Of course it has to be trained, but most Wetterhouns tend to stay near their yard. The inclination to go off wandering is low. The Wetterhoun is an ideal pet and yard dog, although it does prefer its owner to be around; it is not a suitable kennel dog.

Its calm and reliable nature develops best with an owner that steps in somewhat laid back and has a sense of humour. These dogs can be persevering in all they do, but mean well. They just never give up on what they do, regardless the circumstances. The Wetterhoun is a dog with great character and an excellent companion.



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