

## Things to Love/Hate about Weimaraners

Life with a Weimaraner is a “double-edged sword” co-existence. Some inherent Weimaraner traits are also ones we’d like to delete or at least modify.

Take for example, the activity level of a big, healthy, raring-to-go Weimaraner. Want a dog that can go all day with your recreational activities and never seems to tire out? Yes, that’s our Weimaraner. Need a long stretch of quiet, contemplative time for buckling down to some complicated cerebral task? Your Weimaraner just doesn’t comprehend that kind of inactivity. “Doesn’t this dog have an off switch?” The answer to that question is yes, he does have an off switch but it’s his, not yours. (How many times can he bring you his ball to entice you into a game of catch when all you want to do is finish that email for work?)

The loyalty and companionship are endearing and legendary traits of a Weimaraner. They want to be with you and are endlessly curious about whatever it is that you’re doing. To live with a Weimaraner is like having to have a second shadow. Most of the time that’s great but they have a tendency to take it to the extreme. (It would wonderful to take a shower without a big gray nose plastered to the outside of the shower’s glass door.)

Go hunting with a Weimaraner and they are persistence personified. They will endlessly search and try to ferret out the birds’ best hiding places. They will carry on when others give up and head for home. Weimaraners are goal driven and nothing will deter them from their quarry. (Why does this hunting persistence have to extend to my neighbor’s cat?)

If you do tracking or scent work with a Weimaraner and it’s almost like cheating. Their scenting ability is so exceptional that I’ve heard them described as a nose with a dog attached. It is uncanny how they can find and follow a scent that to us is non-existent. They use their noses as a primary investigative tool. (Why do they have to apply this skill diligently and stubbornly to every new guest who comes into my house?)

The companionship that a Weimaraner offers borders on the obsessive. The positive aspects of this partnership is a boon to training and can be channeled into

dazzling performances in many dog sports. They see their role in life as being your constant sidekick, sharing in your activities from morning till night. (Why doesn't this dog understand that I have to go to work? Separation anxiety is taking its toll on both of us.)

The intelligence of a Weimaraner continues to amaze me. From the time they are little guys they learn routines of what and when things happen at their house. When to go out, when breakfast is served and don't try to inordinately delay the time for their dinner. They quickly learn how we conduct our lives and the timing of our repetitive activities that affect them. Their remarkable internal clocks give them the ability to know when to expect something to happen. (How does he know the postman's schedule so he can shred the mail as it is pushed through the slot?)

Yes, living with a Weimaraner can be challenging but it is also an enriching privilege to share the human/canine bond with such a wonderful breed.

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