

American vs. European Behavior Outreach Study

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Published: 8/4/2021

Purpose

The purpose of this research is to better understand the similarities and differences in some key personality traits with the European and American Doberman varieties. This will be done through outreach to those who have owned both varieties and therefore possess an excellent frame of reference to compare and contrast these two dogs over those who have only owned one variety. The survey should only be taken by those who have owned both. It's not necessary that respondents own both Doberman varieties concurrently.

A survey form will be created with questions targeting the key personality traits of the most interest to new owners of the Doberman breed. Each question will be asked twice in an identical way, once for the respondent's American Doberman and once for their European Doberman. This will be the basis for our data collection.

The survey was run from 7/20/2021 through 8/3/2021 and was available at the following URL: <https://forms.gle/PWgUyCzbxCQ8WDzT8>. Individuals who have owned both American and European Dobermans were located through social media postings on the Doberman Planet YouTube community, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. In all, 82 owners were located and surveyed who met the above criteria.

Results

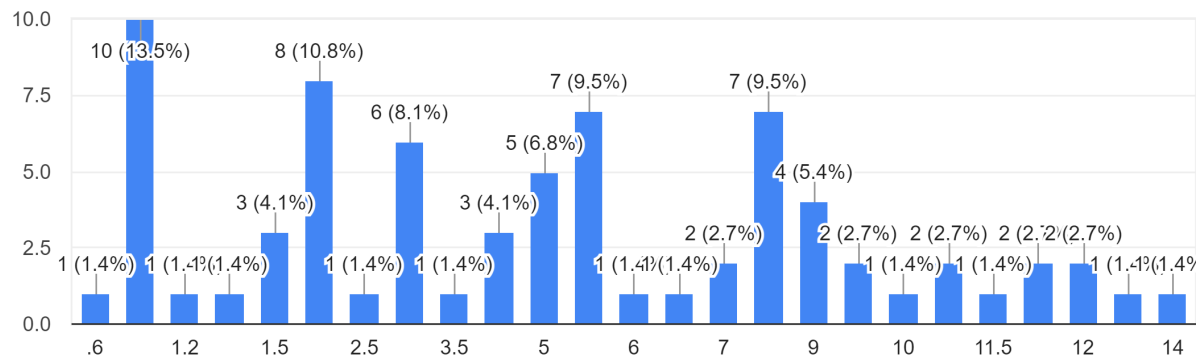
Below are the results from the survey form and the responses of 82 owners of both American and European Dobermans. A response to every question was not required to submit the survey, so some questions have a varying number of responses. Averages for each question are published below the results where appropriate.

Enter Your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman's Age (in years)?

Further Details Provided: None.

Enter Your AMERICAN Doberman's Age (in years)?

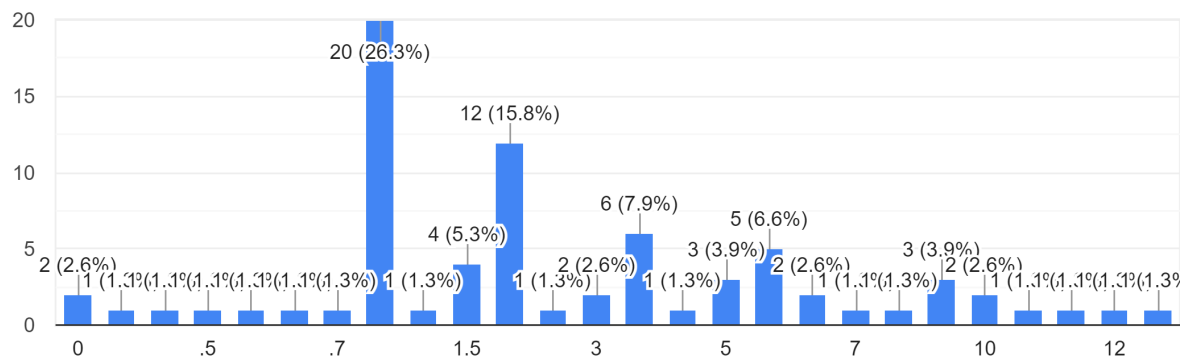
74 responses



Average Age: 5.3 Years

Enter Your EUROPEAN Doberman's Age (in years)?

76 responses



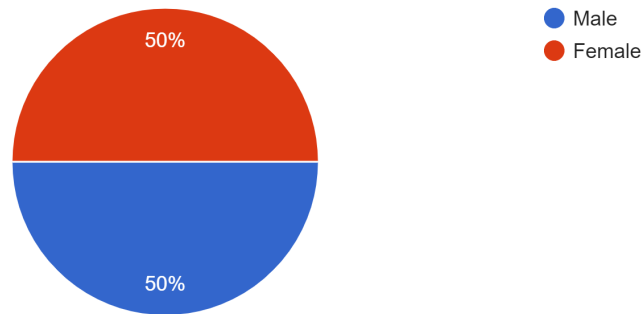
Average Age: 3.4 Years

Is your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman a male or female?

Further Details Provided: None.

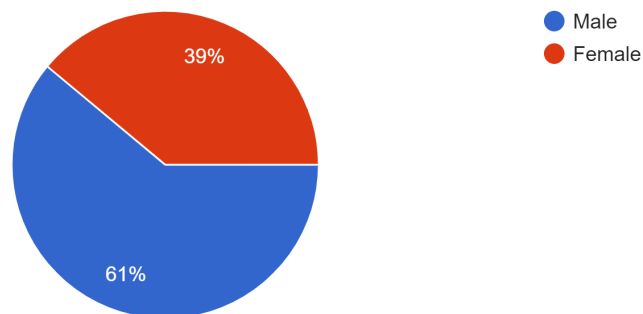
Is your AMERICAN Doberman a male or female?

74 responses



Is your EUROPEAN Doberman a male or female?

77 responses

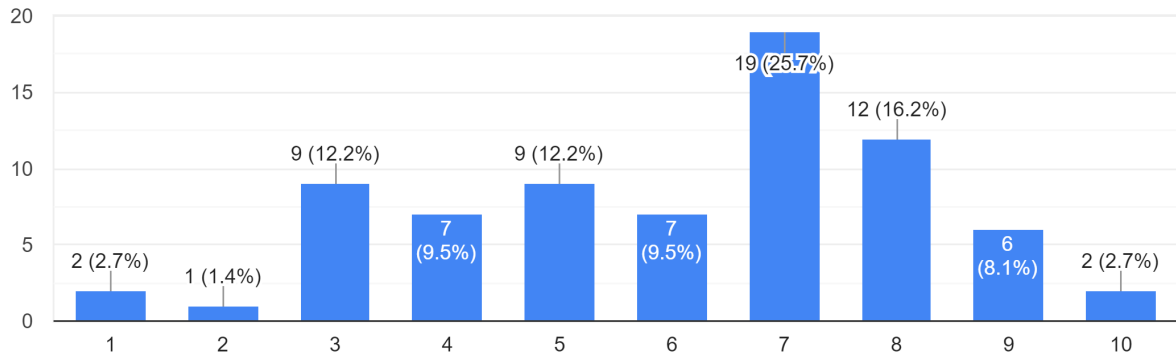


How assertive is your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman?

Further Details Provided: 1 = Very shy. 10 = Very assertive.

How assertive is your AMERICAN Doberman?

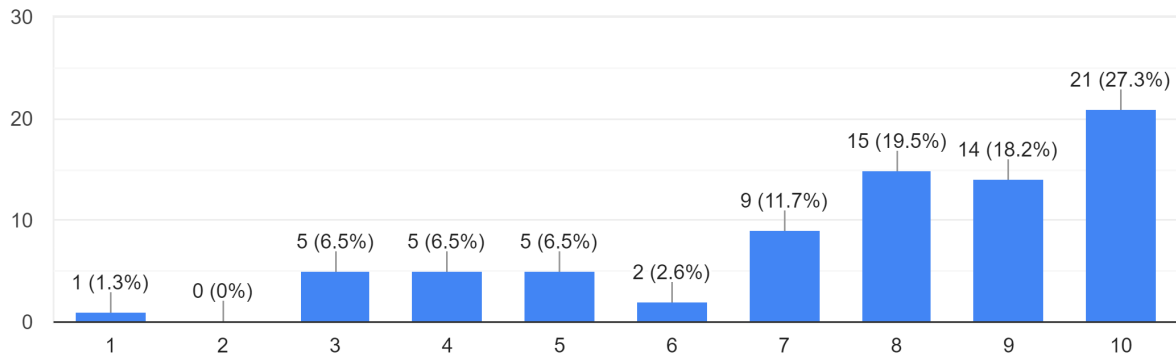
74 responses



Average: 6.1

How assertive is your EUROPEAN Doberman?

77 responses



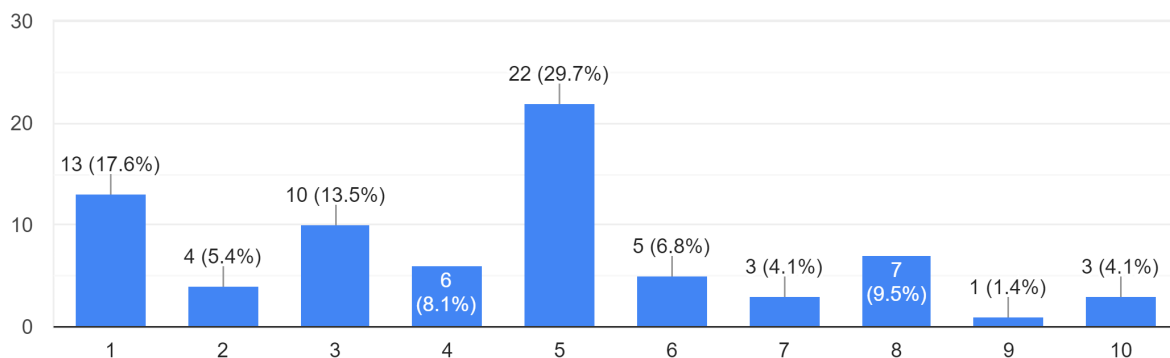
Average: 7.7

Does your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman learn best from positive reinforcement or firm direction during training?

Further Details Provided: 1 = Positive reinforcement only. 5 = A 50/50 mix of both. 10 = Firm direction only.

Does your AMERICAN Doberman learn best from positive reinforcement or firm direction during training?

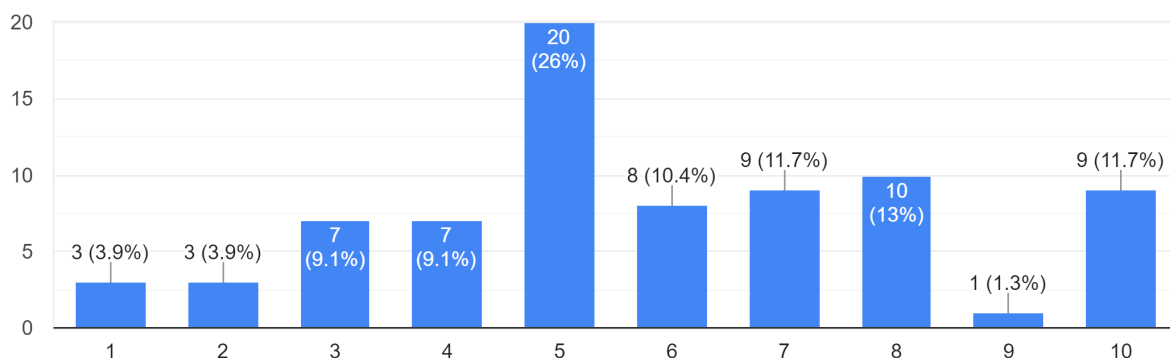
74 responses



Average: 4.5

Does your EUROPEAN Doberman learn best from positive reinforcement or firm direction during training?

77 responses



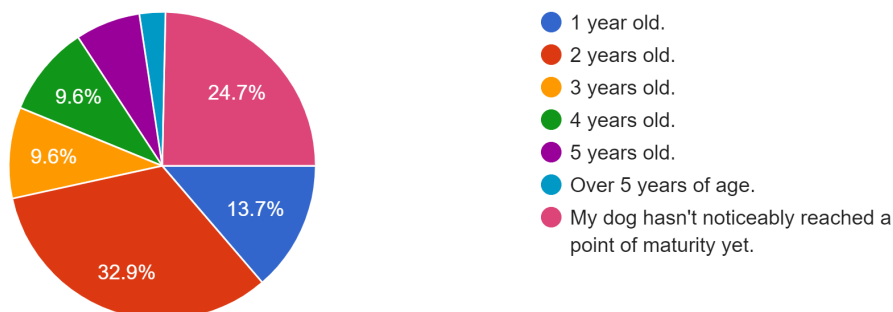
Average: 5.8

At what age did your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman mentally "mature" and calm down?

Further Details Provided: None.

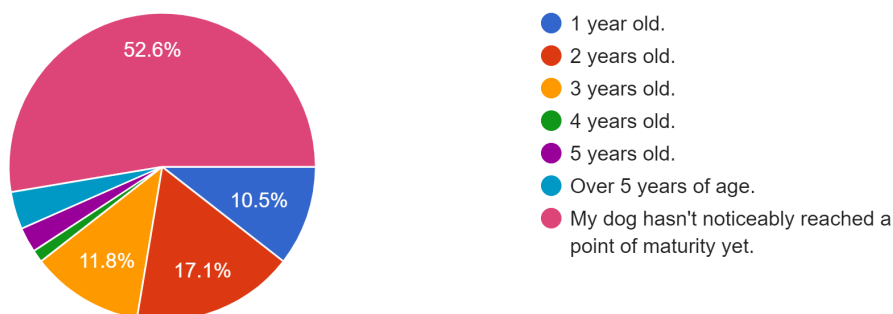
At what age did your AMERICAN Doberman mentally "mature" and calm down?

73 responses



At what age did your EUROPEAN Doberman mentally "mature" and calm down?

76 responses

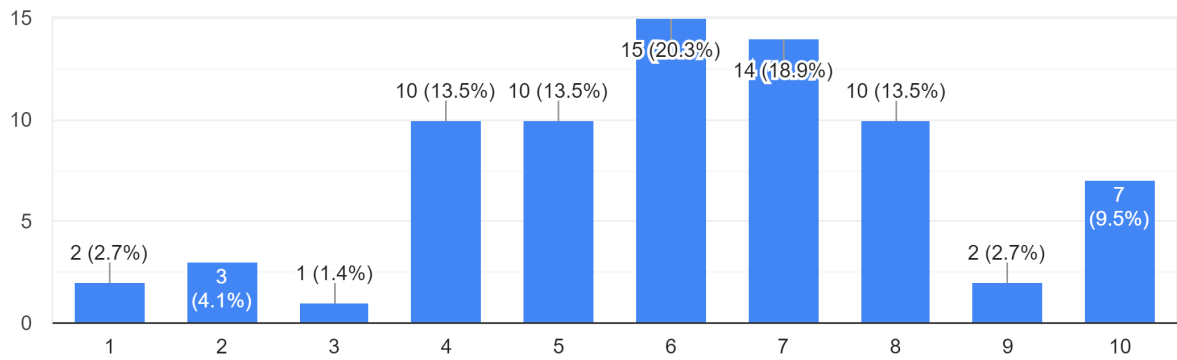


How energetic is your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman on an average day?

Further Details Provided: 1 = Very lazy (doesn't need must exercise). 10 = Tons of energy all day long (needs lots of exercise).

How energetic is your AMERICAN Doberman on an average day?

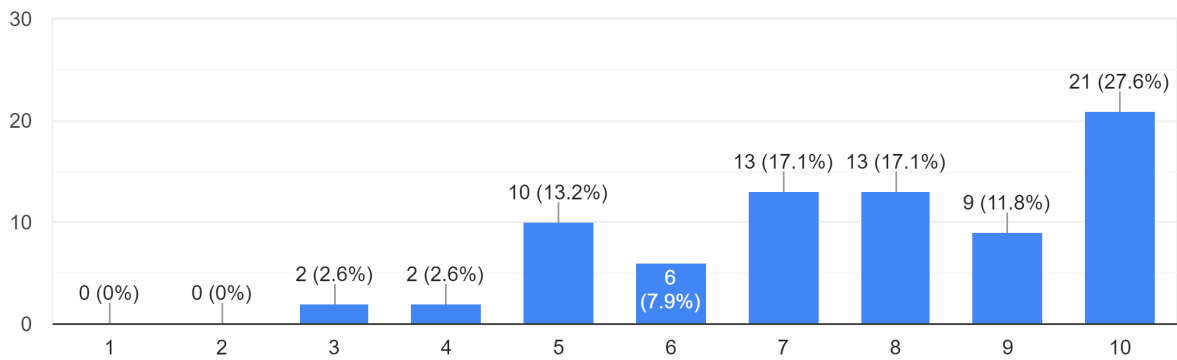
74 responses



Average: 6.2

How energetic is your EUROPEAN Doberman on an average day?

76 responses



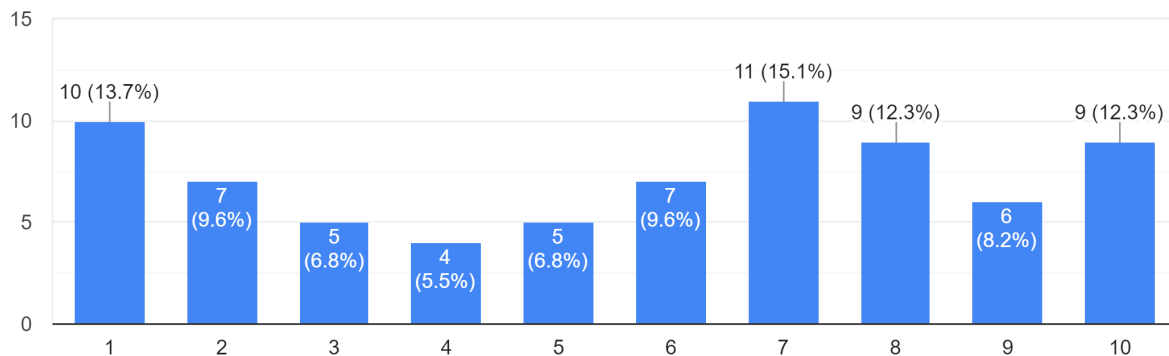
Average: 7.7

How accepting is your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman if you bring someone new into the home?

Further Details Provided: 1 = Very accepting. 10 = Very suspicious.

How accepting is your AMERICAN Doberman if you bring someone new into the home?

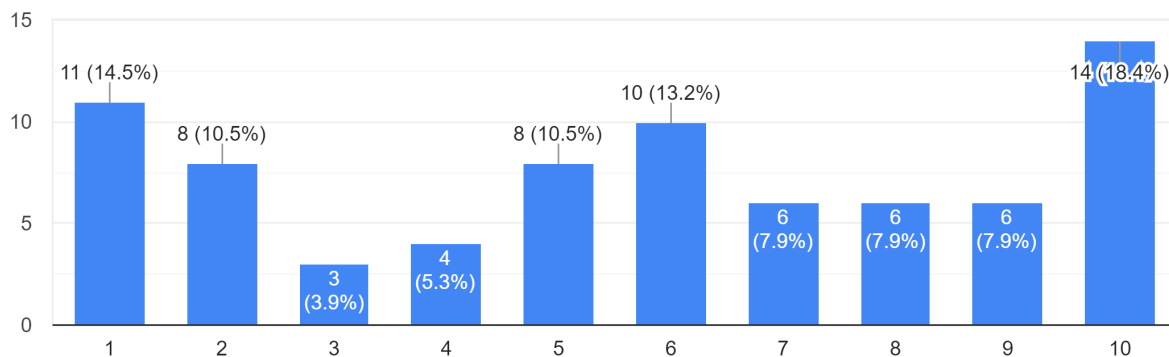
73 responses



Average: 5.7

How accepting is your EUROPEAN Doberman if you bring someone new into the home?

76 responses



Average: 5.7

How does your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman behave in new or unusual surroundings?

Further Details Provided: None.

How does your AMERICAN Doberman behave in new or unusual surroundings?

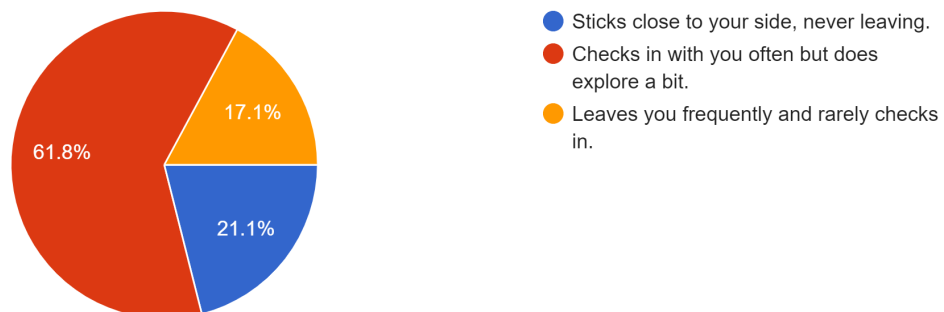
73 responses



Data Not Shown: "Leaves you frequently and rarely checks in." = 5.4%

How does your EUROPEAN Doberman behave in new or unusual surroundings?

76 responses

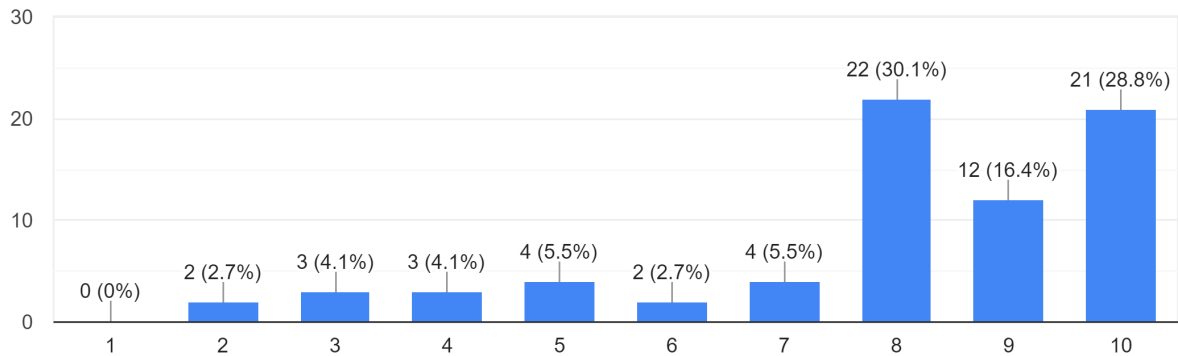


How in-tune does your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman seem to be with your emotions?

Further Details Provided: 1 = Not in-tune at all. 10 = Very in-tune with my every emotion.

How in-tune does your AMERICAN Doberman seem to be with your emotions?

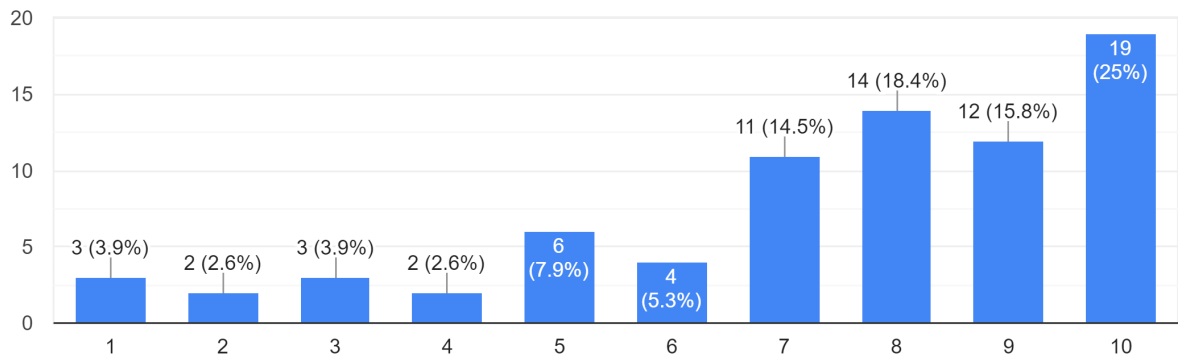
73 responses



Average: 7.9

How in-tune does your EUROPEAN Doberman seem to be with your emotions?

76 responses



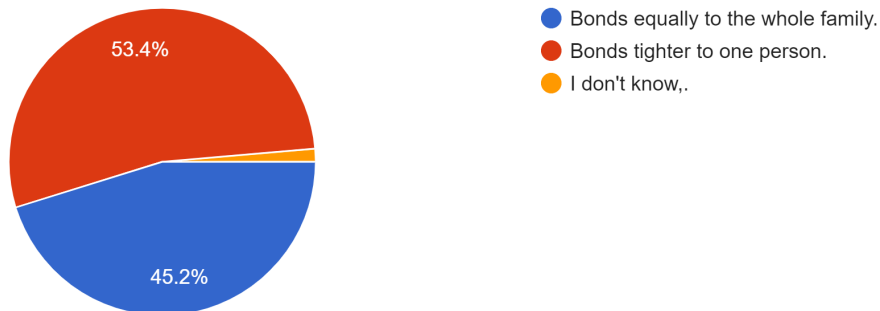
Average: 7.4

Who does your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman seem to bond with?

Further Details Provided: None.

Who does your AMERICAN Doberman seem to bond with?

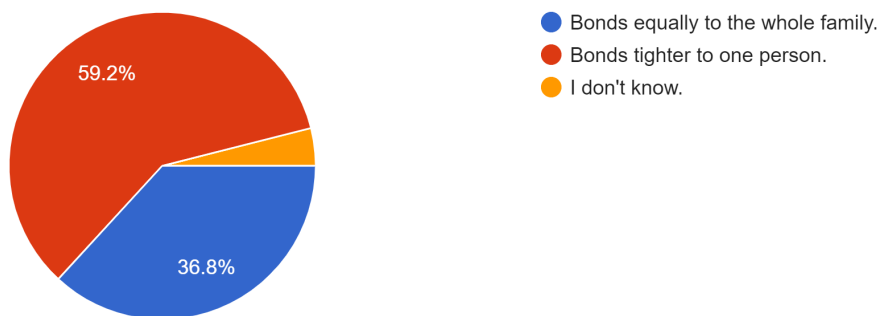
73 responses



Data Not Shown: "I don't know." = 1.4%

Who does your EUROPEAN Doberman seem to bond with?

76 responses



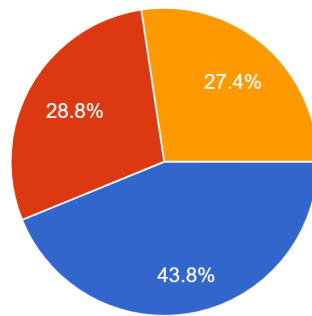
Data Not Shown: "I don't know." = 3.9%

How is your [AMERICAN/EUROPEAN] Doberman off-leash?

Further Details Provided: None.

How is your AMERICAN Doberman off-leash?

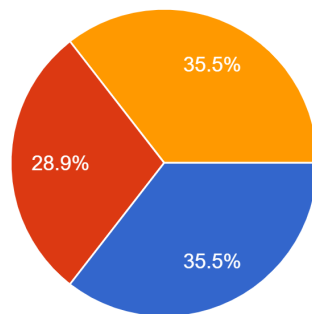
73 responses



- Trustworthy and responds to commands off-leash.
- Doesn't always listen while off-leash.
- We never go off-leash.

How is your EUROPEAN Doberman off-leash?

76 responses



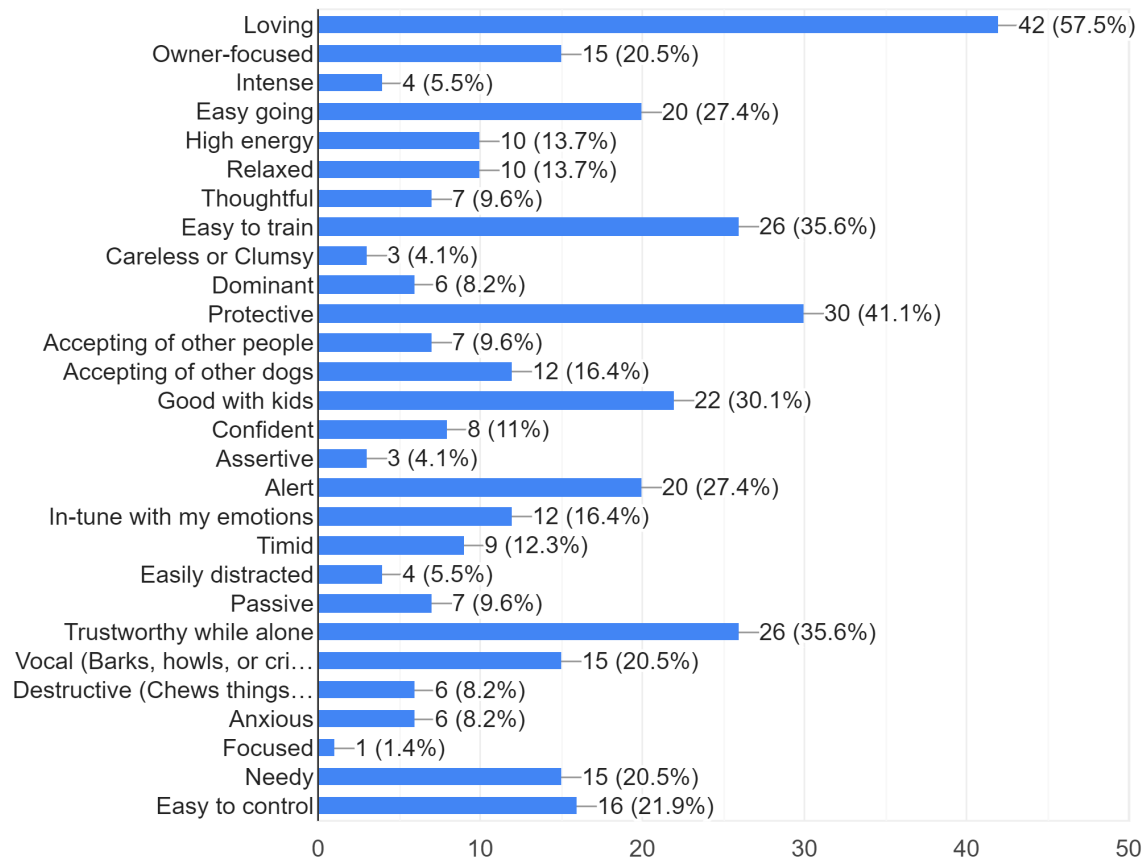
- Trustworthy and responds to commands off-leash.
- Doesn't always listen while off-leash.
- We never go off-leash.

"My AMERICAN Doberman is..." (Pick up to 5 choices)

Further Details Provided: None.

"My AMERICAN Doberman is..." (Pick up to 5 choices)

73 responses

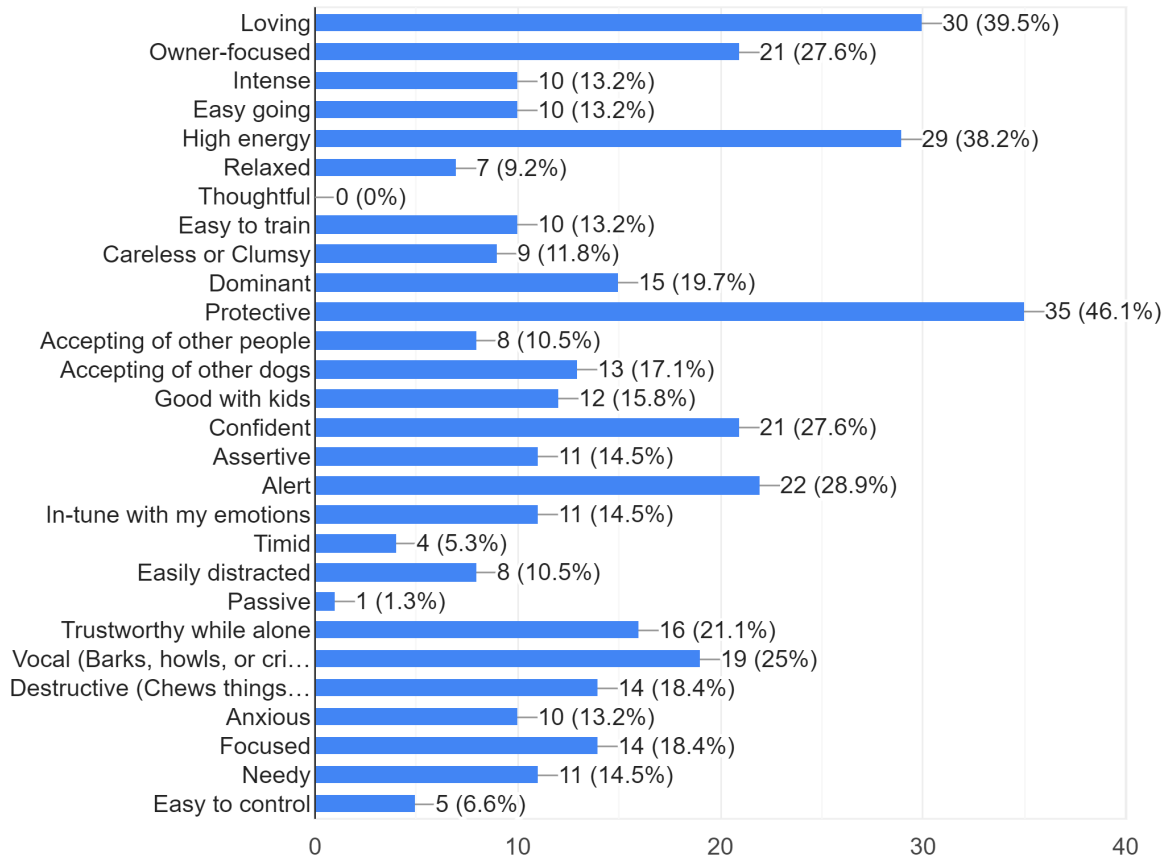


"My EUROPEAN Doberman is..." (Pick up to 5 choices)

Further Details Provided: None.

"My EUROPEAN Doberman is..." (Pick up to 5 choices)

76 responses



Conclusion

While the results above speak for themselves, there are a few interesting conclusions that can be drawn from this data. First, differences in behavior between the American and European Doberman although present, do seem to be somewhat subtle. There are some notable differences in assertiveness, effective training style, and daily energy levels. While other areas such as how in-tune the dog is with their owner's emotions, or how accepting they are of strangers brought into the home, are either identical or extremely close between them.

Overall, it does appear that the traditional notions of the European Doberman being a more confident, headstrong, and possibly stubborn dog than the American has held up to this research. Equally, the notion that the American Doberman is a dog who is a bit softer with lower energy levels also seems to hold up.

This study, while certainly not completely scientific in its approach and lacking a controlled environment, does show some interesting trends and differences between these two Doberman varieties. It's also worth noting that factors such as environment, socialization, past experiences, and the dog's individual genetics likely play a more significant role in how an individual dog behaves.

Further analysis of this data can be found at:

<https://www.dobermanplanet.com/difference-between-an-american-and-european-doberman/>