

# Male vs. Female Doberman Behavior Study

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**Research Conducted by:** Doberman Planet LLC

**Website:** [www.DobermanPlanet.com](http://www.DobermanPlanet.com)

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## Purpose

The primary purpose of this research is to gain a better understanding of the natural behavioral instincts and personality differences between male and female Dobermans. This research will be conducted through a detailed behavior survey for dog owners who have experience owning both a male and female Doberman as they are in a unique position to speak to their behavioral differences. It will not be necessary for the respondents to own both sexes concurrently. The study will rely on self-reporting through a behavior survey.

## Method

A survey form will be created to study the differences between the sexes of this breed as a whole and will not differentiate between varieties of Doberman. This survey will contain questions targeting key personality traits of interest to typical owners of the Doberman breed. Each question will be asked in an identical way for each sex. This will be the basis for data collection.

A request for owners who meet these requirements to complete this survey will be posted publicly to Doberman Planet's various social media accounts and through any other means of outreach deemed appropriate.

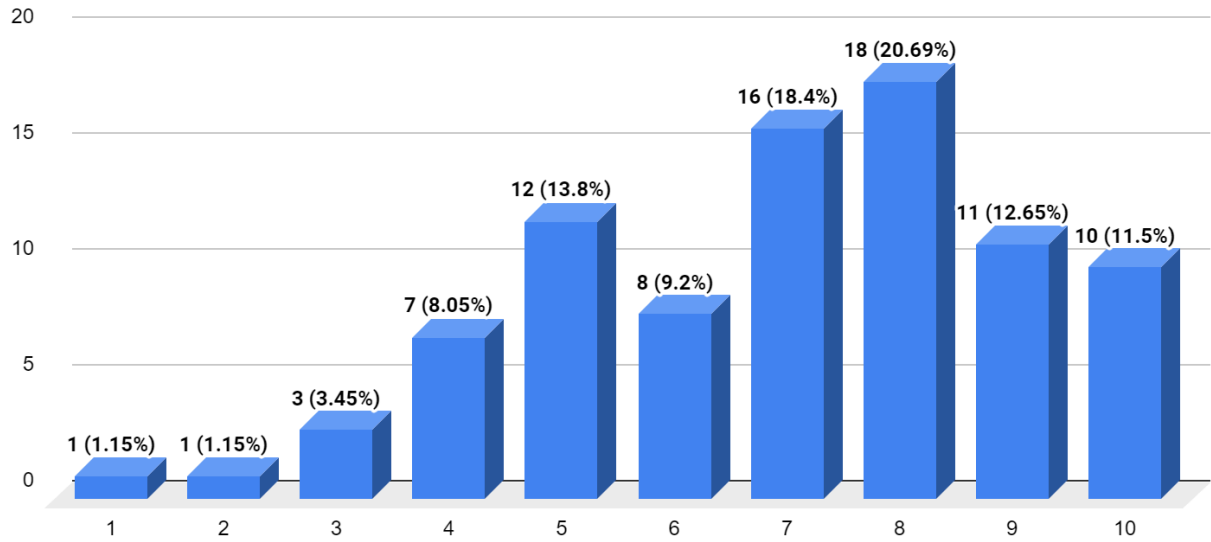
## Results

The survey was conducted from May 9, 2023, through May 20, 2023, for a total duration of 12 days and was available at the following URL: <https://forms.gle/ugNZEbuUUZpxaKjy9>. In all, 131 owners who self-reported to have owned both male and female Dobermans completed the survey.

The results for each survey question are depicted below along with the number of responses for each, the exact questions as presented to the respondent, and the average result for each question. Each individual question was optional, which accounts for discrepancies in the number of responses to each question.

## Assertiveness

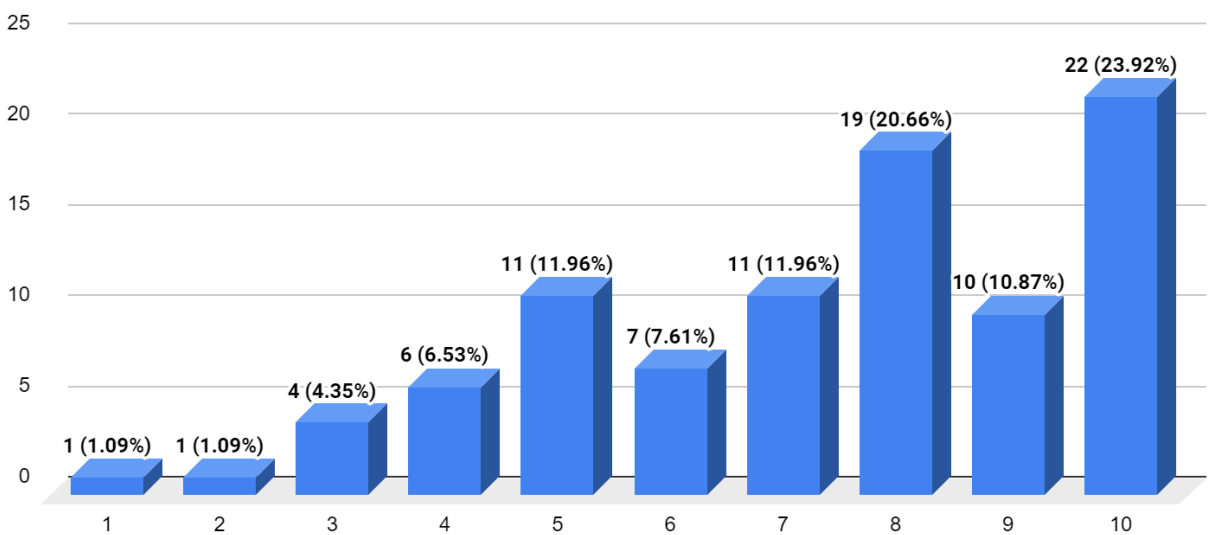
How assertive is (or was) your MALE Doberman?  
1 = Very shy. 10 = Very assertive.  
87 Responses



**Average: 6.9**

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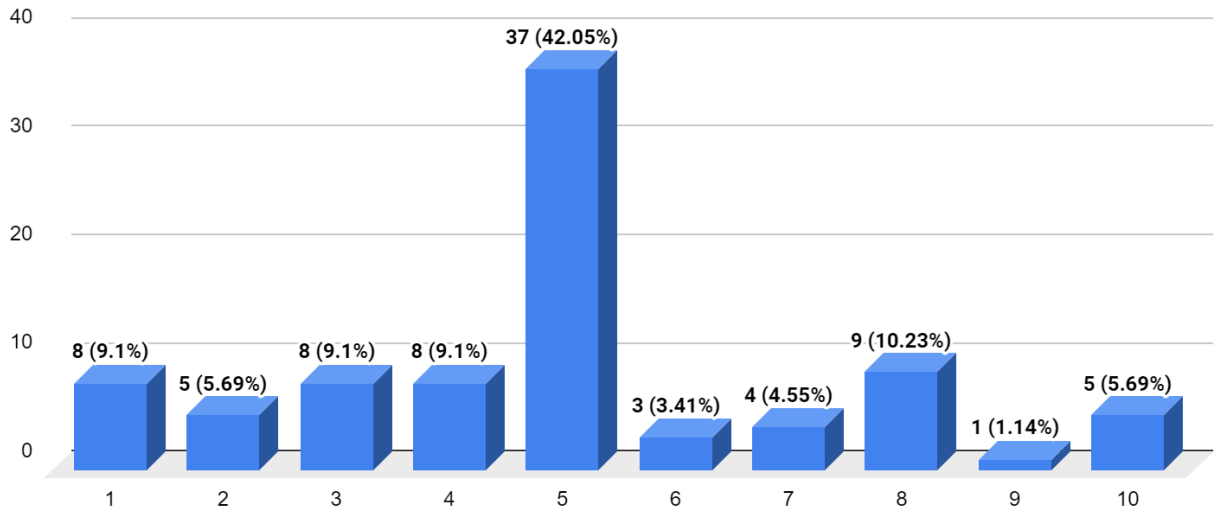
How assertive is (or was) your FEMALE Doberman?  
1 = Very shy. 10 = Very assertive.  
92 Responses



**Average: 7.3**

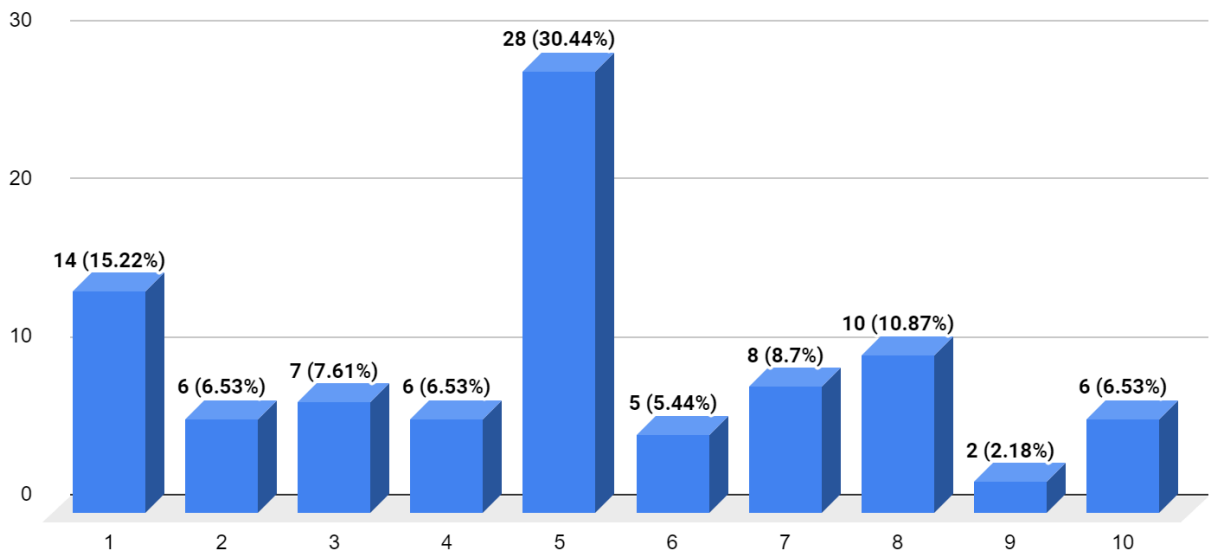
## Training Style

Does your MALE Doberman learn best from positive reinforcement or firm direction during training?  
1 = Positive reinforcement only. 5 = A 50/50 mix of both. 10 = Firm direction only.  
88 Responses



**Average: 5.0**

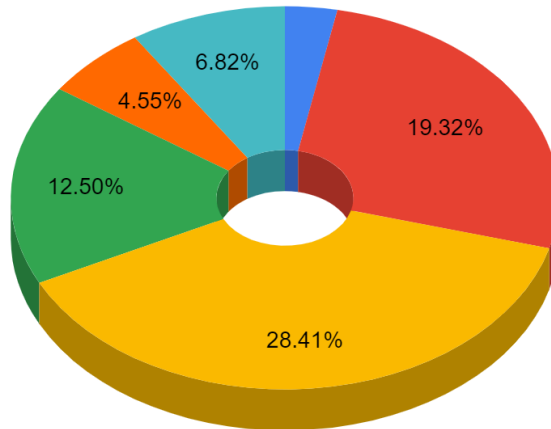
Does your FEMALE Doberman learn best from positive reinforcement or firm direction during training?  
1 = Positive reinforcement only. 5 = A 50/50 mix of both. 10 = Firm direction only.  
92 Responses



**Average: 5.0**

## Age at Mental Maturity

At what age did your MALE Doberman mentally "mature" and calm down?  
88 Responses

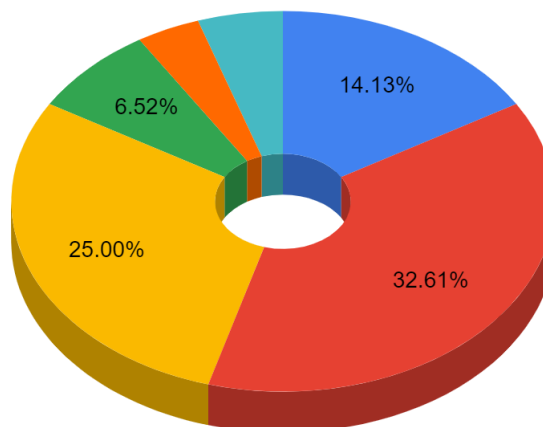


1 year old. 2 years old. 3 years old. 4 years old. 5 years old. Over 5 years of age.

**Data Not Shown:** "1 Year old." = 2.27%

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At what age did your FEMALE Doberman mentally "mature" and calm down?  
92 Responses

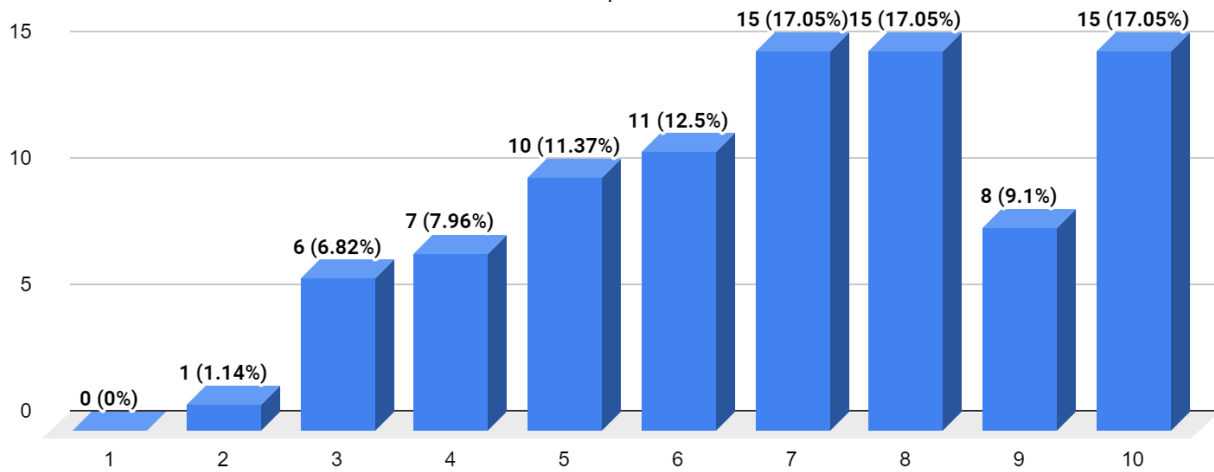


1 year old. 2 years old. 3 years old. 4 years old. 5 years old. Over 5 years of age.

**Data Not Shown:** "5 Years old." = 3.26 %, "Over 5 Years old." = 4.35 %

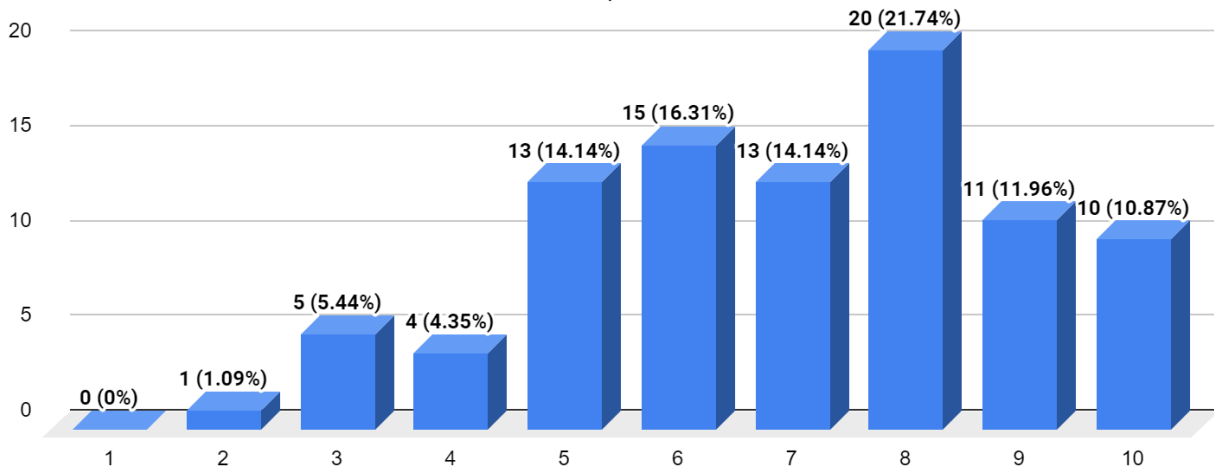
## Energy Levels

How energetic is (or was) your MALE Doberman on an average day?  
1 = Very lazy (doesn't need must exercise). 10 = Tons of energy all day long (needs lots of exercise).  
88 Responses



**Average: 7**

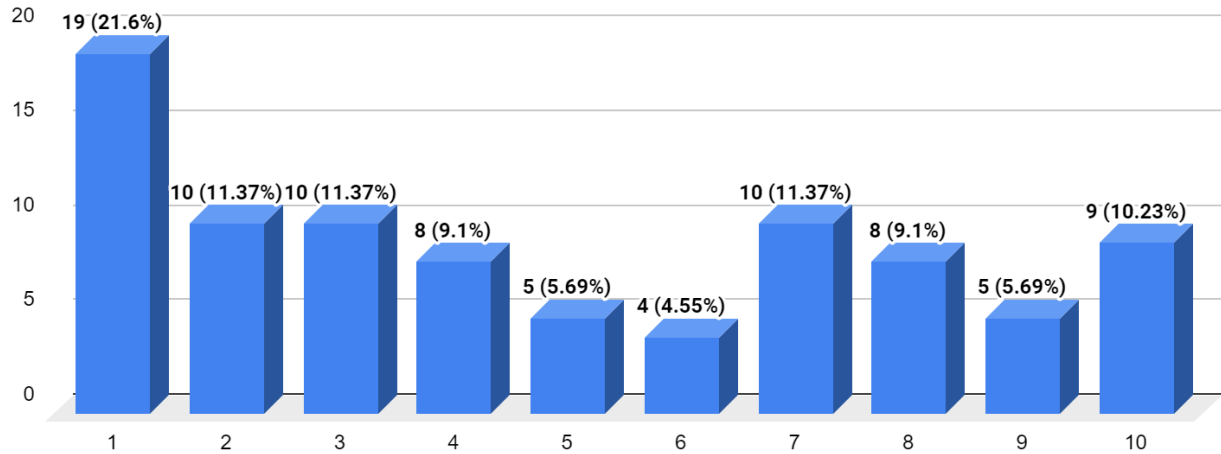
How energetic is (or was) your FEMALE Doberman on an average day?  
1 = Very lazy (doesn't need must exercise). 10 = Tons of energy all day long (needs lots of exercise).  
92 Responses



**Average: 6.9**

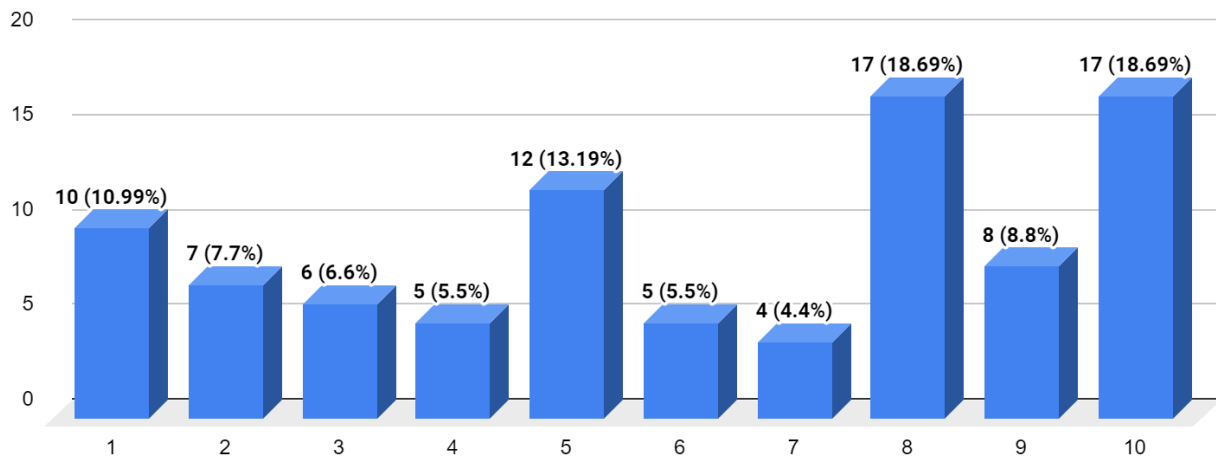
## Suspiciousness of Strangers

How accepting is (or was) your MALE Doberman if you bring someone new into the home?  
1 = Very accepting. 10 = Very suspicious.  
88 Responses



**Average: 4.8**

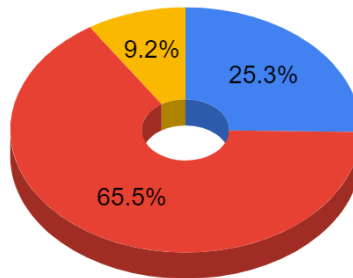
How accepting is (or was) your FEMALE Doberman if you bring someone new into the home?  
1 = Very accepting. 10 = Very suspicious.  
91 Responses



**Average: 6.1**

## Behaviors in New or Unusual Surroundings

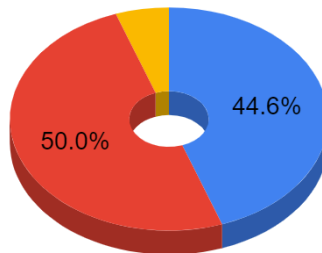
How does your MALE Doberman behave in new or unusual surroundings?  
87 Responses



- Sticks close to your side, never leaving. ● Checks in with you often but does explore a bit.  
● Leaves you frequently and rarely checks in.

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How does your FEMALE Doberman behave in new or unusual surroundings?  
92 Responses

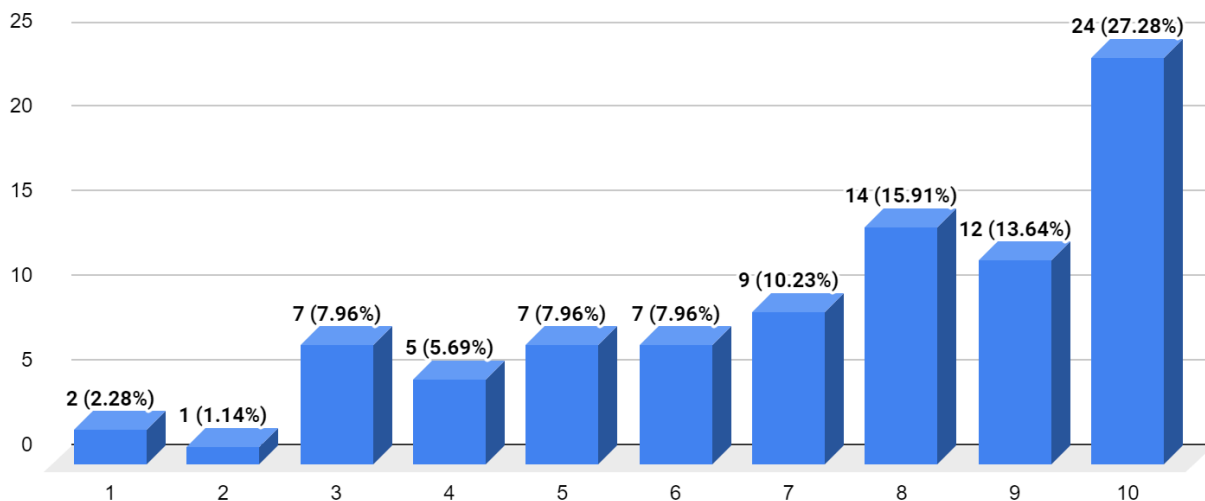


- Sticks close to your side, never leaving. ● Checks in with you often but does explore a bit.  
● Leaves you frequently and rarely checks in.

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

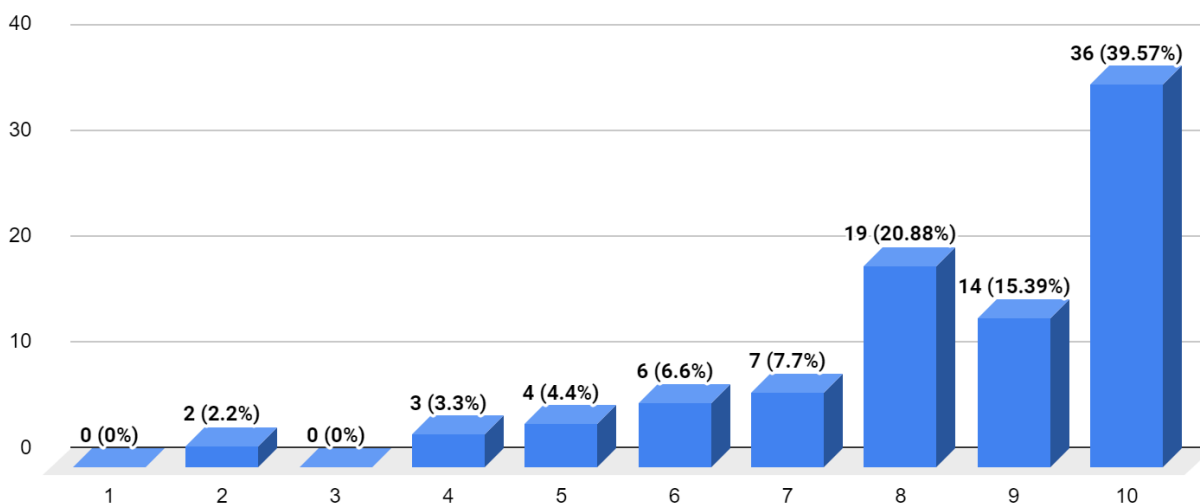
## Ability to Read Owner Emotions

How in-tune does your MALE Doberman seem to be with your emotions?  
1 = Not in-tune at all. 10 = Very in-tune with my every emotion.  
88 Responses



**Average: 7.3**

How in-tune does your FEMALE Doberman seem to be with your emotions?  
1 = Not in-tune at all. 10 = Very in-tune with my every emotion.  
91 Responses

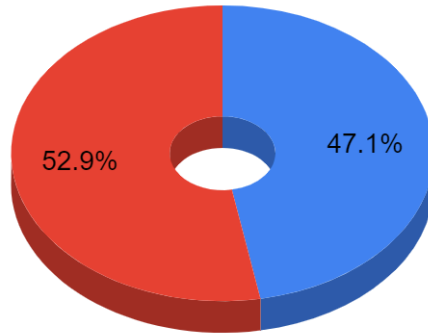


**Average: 8.4**



## Bonding Style

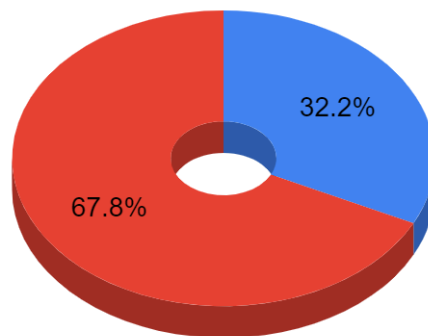
Who did your MALE Doberman seem to bond with?  
87 Responses



● Bonds equally to the whole family. ● Bonds tighter to one person.

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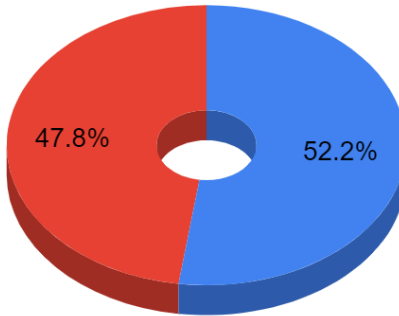
Who did your FEMALE Doberman seem to bond with?  
90 Responses



● Bonds equally to the whole family. ● Bonds tighter to one person.

## Off-Leash Behavior

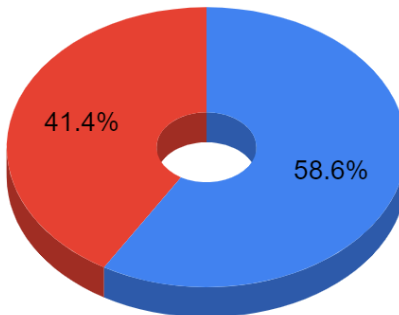
How is (or was) your MALE Doberman off-leash?  
67 Responses



● Trustworthy and responds to commands off-leash. ● Doesn't always listen while off-leash.

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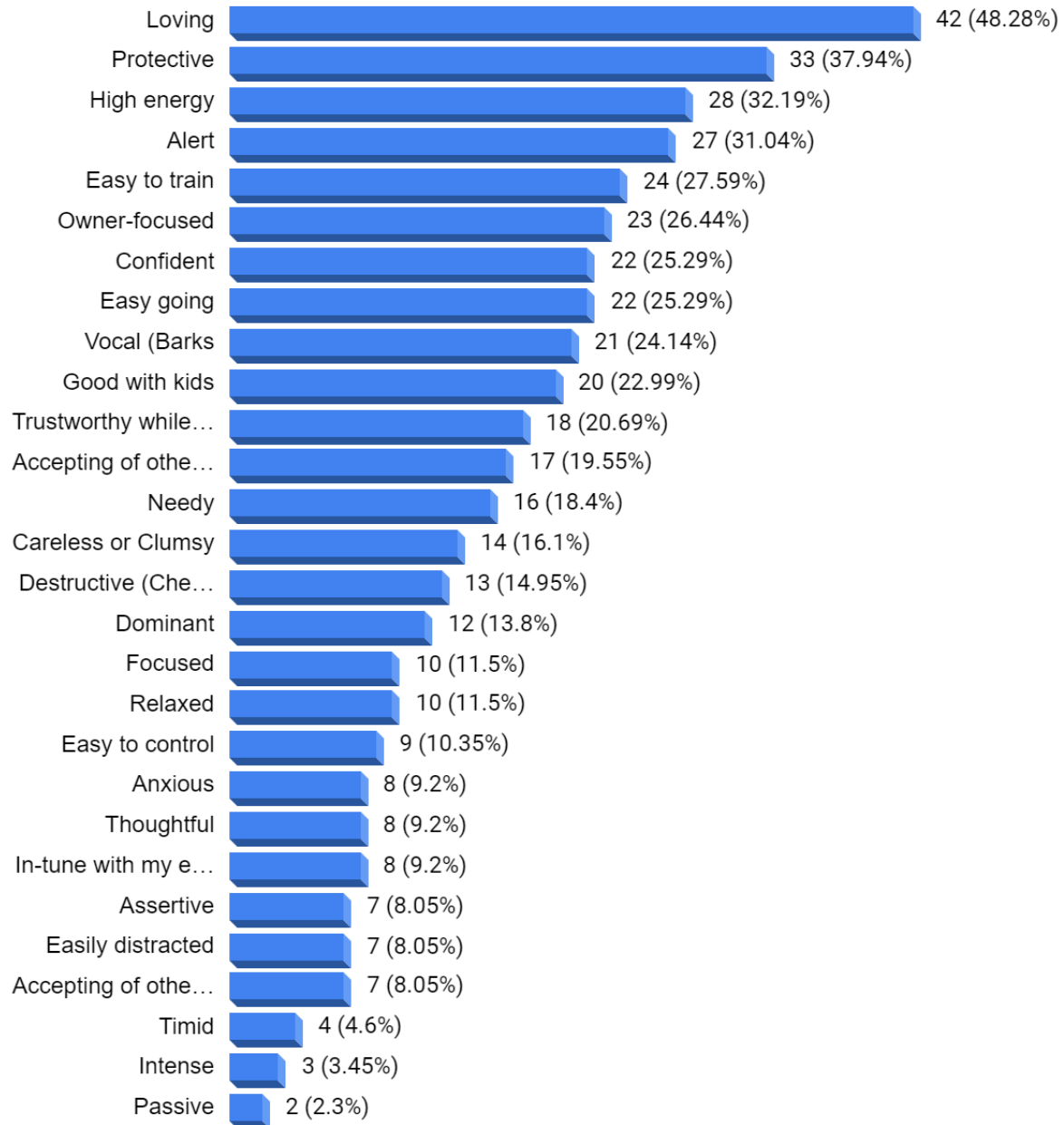
How is (or was) your FEMALE Doberman off-leash?  
70 Responses



● Trustworthy and responds to commands off-leash. ● Doesn't always listen while off-leash.

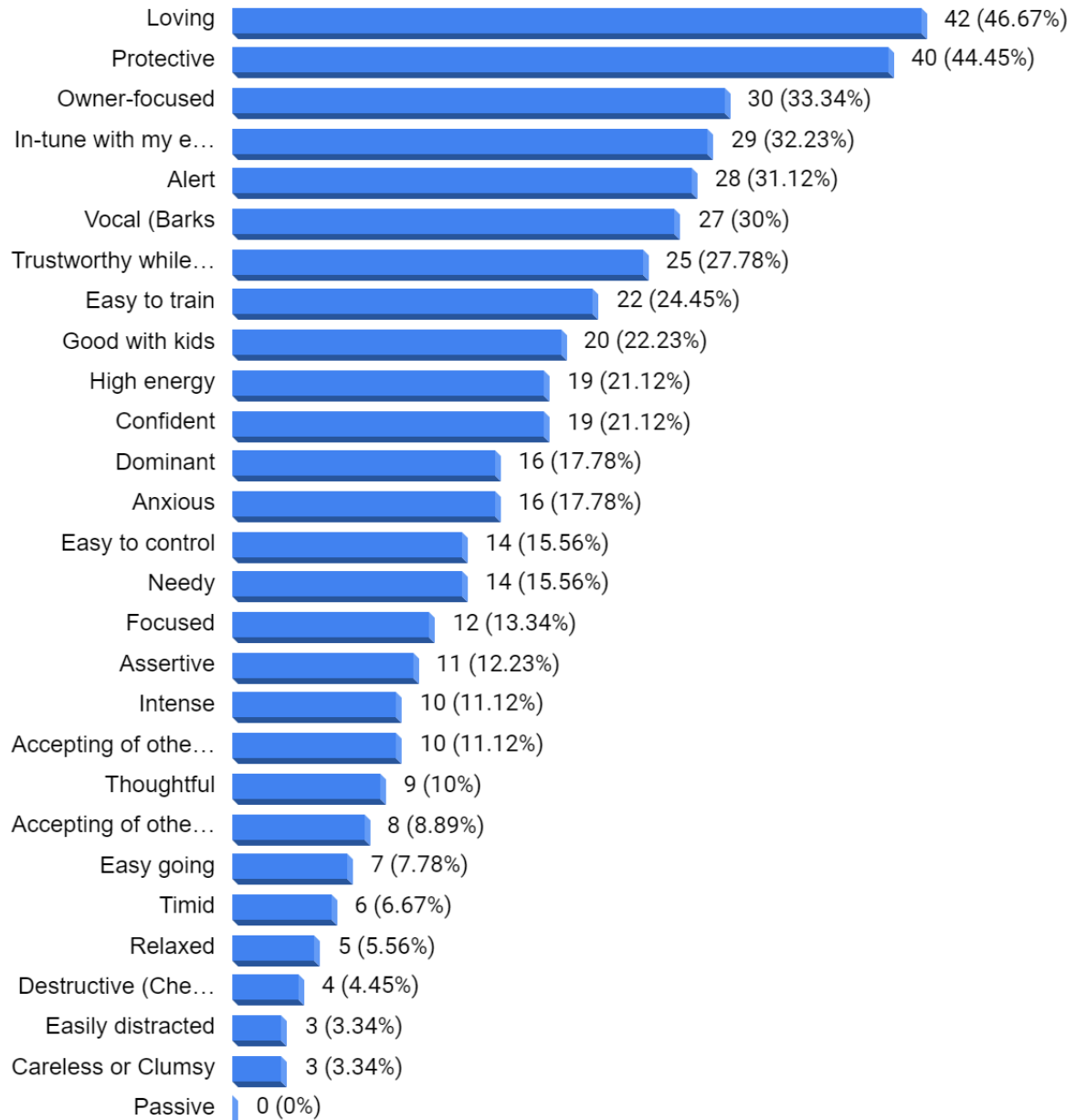
## Personality Descriptors

"My MALE Doberman is (or was)..." (Pick up to 5 choices)  
87 Responses



## Personality Descriptors

"My FEMALE Doberman is (or was)..." (Pick up to 5 choices)  
90 responses



## Conclusion

The results above show the potential for significant behavioral differences between the two sexes of Doberman. Of our respondents, notable differences between the two sexes were seen in the areas of Assertiveness, Age at Mental Maturity, Suspiciousness of Strangers, Behaviors in New or Unusual Surroundings, Ability to Read Owner Emotions, Bonding Style, and Off-Leash Behavior.

Overall, this data appears to support the traditional descriptions of female Dobermans as being more owner-focused, bonding tighter to one person, and generally more protective. As well as the traditional descriptions of males as being more accepting of strangers, bonding tighter to a whole family unit, and being slower to mature.

This study, although relying on self-reporting of owners, depicts some interesting differences between the two sexes of Dobermans as described by a very specific group of owners, those who have real-world experience owning both sexes. These owners are in a unique position to speak to their differences in behavior and seem to be experiencing very notable differences in their behaviors.

It's worth noting that while sex likely does play a significant role in their behavior as with all canines, there are many additional variables as well that can have a significant impact on behavior including environment, socialization, past experiences, and the dog's individual genetics.

**Further analysis of this data can be found at:**

<https://www.dobermanplanet.com/male-vs-female-doberman-which-is-better/>