**Thoughts on what a Jindo is, and what it’s like to live with them**

(from several of our alumni and supporters)

Cats in a dog body

always judging? yes...independent? yes...picky eaters? yes...good hunters? yes

I forgot affectionate on their own terms - not often big cuddlers, but often leaners, or sitting nearby, or good at quick butt or head scratches and then off to hunt something else.

Polite. Makes the other dogs look bad. She will go after a ball...but not as if her life depended on it.

Describing Hachi as a ‘cat-dog’ is the quickest way for people to start understanding Jindos. With Hachi I learned that dealing with stubborn behavior often meant meeting him half way, and also builds trust. He often responds to recall 30 -60 seconds later, after I walk away from him... or if I walk up to where he’s sitting he’ll then go where I want him to. (Not sure if this just makes me sound like a sucker, but sure beats him running away from me!) good thing he’s so cute and cuddly!

I think Jindos can be good companions for introverted people. They likely are as disinterested in other people as you are. If you want a social butterfly, probably not a great fit.

I once described jindos in this way to a foster applicant! Jindos are the wallflowers at the party. Enjoying the music, people watching and grooving with close friends. They’re not the golden crowd surfing and having dance offs in the middle of the dance floor

I'd also say if you want to feel like a special snowflake, Jindos are great for that. As a comparison, Goldens and labs will share their love generously with everyone. Jindos are pretty good at showing you (and maybe specific super special people in their circles) are their one and only. Loki and Dorie have been living with my parents and brother 3-ish years now, but there's still a huge distinct difference in how they interact with them and then, with me in terms of obedience, displays of affection, body language, etc. Make me feel like a unicorn every day.

I love that me and the dogs co-exist in the same space but they are not constantly seeking attention or affection. If they want it, they come ask for it. I want to give it, the accept it, when they are in the mood. Often times they will just get up and move to another room as if to say, "no offense, but I just need some Me time."

Douglas Fur takes his job as family and property guardian very seriously. He's always alert when people pass by, and he makes it clear that those who enter the house are on HIS territory. Once he has communicated that, he goes about his business. Doug is affectionate but only on HIS terms. If I reach for him he's likely to shy away, however, if I put on my shoes, he's under my legs and will remain there until I tell him the party is over. He adores walks and riding in the car. On the street or in shops, he's a perfect gentleman. Every year gets better with him, he's clearly one of my better dogs (and I've had lots). Curiously, he will allow my son to cradle him like a baby (Doug is pushing 60 lbs) but nobody else.

Jack is a Gemini in spirit. Aloof or on the hunt when outside, full of aegyo (affectionate cutesiness) when inside. Once he gets to know you very well, he will be full of aegyo with you when he wants something. He actually rubs past you the way cats do.

Bennett loves having human houseguests-so long as they don’t take an active interest in him. One of his favourite activities is having a few people over for dinner. He loves to observe, and will sit in a circle with us if we’re on the floor. He does not want to be pet by strangers, he does not want to be the centre of attention, and the 30-60 second delay in response time is true for him as well. If a houseguest is calm and patient and respectful of his space, he will show affection by sniffing them and gentle licking their toes or fingers. That’s it.

The synonym for aloof in this case is "not needy." If you want a dog who is not constantly demanding attention and is independent, then consider a Jindo! Like a cat, they have 'their people' and they are loyal to their people. They are very self-entertaining and have wonderful handler recognition - given that you take some time to understand their thinking and psyche. You do have to watch out for their prey drive: squirrels, chipmunks, etc, especially if you live in the Midwest and squirrels abound!

Tai and Lucy are definitely not needy either. They are always nearby and we certainly pet them at every opportunity, but they have their own minds about when to actually approach us for affection. LOL! Very different than the dogs we’ve had before - golden retrievers and a lab/border collie mix - needy! But we loved them, of course.

Mellow, aloof, loyal, sweet. Tai and Lucy like to be near us even though not cuddly. They are friendly with the neighborhood dogs we meet whilst walking. Oddly, neither of them has ever jumped on a bed or a couch. They were probably outside dogs in their former lives but are definitely house dogs now. We wouldn’t have it any other way. Love our “kids” even though they are getting a tad older, particularly Lucy.

Given Gracie is a mix though carries a lot of Jindo traits. One thing I have to say is how fiercely loyal she is once she locked into me as her owner. Example, if other dogs are chasing one another in a park she comes and sits by me thinking she’s protecting me from what she perceived as a pack in pursuit. She only barks when someone is at the door and doesn’t give a warm fuzzy welcome, though she won’t hurt someone. She’s not affectionate in the way a golden retriever is. She doesn’t care for people petting her but doesn’t show disdain either thankfully. Picky eater, sensitive stomach, and for me I think a big part of having a mentally healthy Jindo is exercise and stimulation, without it I could see Gracie become even more internal/aloof, and forget all the hard work it took in keeping her socialized.

When we first met Chai Bear, the jindo had \*no\* interest in me whatsoever (read: aloof, and eyes only for his amazing foster papa). That was almost a deal breaker for me in the adoption process... Fast forward to almost a decade later), Chai is my soul bear. Our bond is ubear special, and I always tell him how we will be connected forever . He is definitely discerning with other people, but we respect that about him. Early on, I also started telling house guests that they needed to ignore him and give him time and space upon first meeting, then he would play and cuddle on his terms (and boy does he love when house guests throw his toys, over and over and over...it is like he thinks they are here for him ). One of his favorite family members ever is my brother-in-law, who did not grow up with pets, so upon first arriving to our home, greeted the jindo with a low-key “hey Chai” and then kept it moving This breed is a true treasure and every, single, day we count our lucky stars that someone gave Chai up and we had the good fortune for this sweet boy to be a part of our lives.

Warm blankets around my heart, smart loyal kind and pain in butt.

Cat in a dog body is perfect. Loves you on their terms. Licks mean everything. Will work for food. Jagiya in Korean. Ku'uoipo in Hawaiian. Sweethearts.

Fern's version of cuddling does not look like other breeds' cuddling. You really have to recognize their cues for affection. If I'm on the sofa and she comes and lies down in front of where I'm sitting - well, I consider that cuddling. She would NEVER jump on the sofa (a la Rudyard). I've tried many times to coax her. She just looks at me like I'm crazy. Her biggest sign of affection is her wagging tail (even if she's laying down) when I enter the room she's in or when I say her name.

My Jindo-Husky rescue from Korea, she won't allow strangers to touch her and I love that about her. She is truly loyal to the core. Anyone who comes over to our place is a different story. She'll be the most gracious host, bringing you all her toys, gifting you with kisses. She will put her butt up in the air, letting everyone know that she's ready to play. She always know very clearly who our welcomed guests are, versus maintenance personnel or someone who I'm not a fan of. And she knows when I have that dreaded bath scheduled for her as she is equipped with ESP like most Jindos.

She is the most amazing living being ever created. I am grateful every single day, for this gift that came in the shape of a Jindo-Husky dog.

Not everyone deserves to have a Jindo in their lives. They command respect physically, and verbally. Those who don't understand or fear the superior intellect of a Jindo would do best with the average dog, which exists in more than plenty.

I always say that my dog is discriminating, as she should be. Not everyone that wants to pet her has clean hands!

When I started the process of adopting through TDF, I was describing to a friend the characteristics of Jindo that I like - loyal, aloof or disinterested in strangers, cautious with people, rather observe than be in the scrum - and she replied "Oh, so basically you want a dog version of yourself." So yeah, I love Jindo and Asian breeds.