

Now you have done your research and decided an Airedale is the best dog for your circumstances you will need to consider the following additional information to assist you with your decision to adopt an adult Airedale terrier.

### **Fences**

It is your legal responsibility to keep the dog on your property, besides the anguish to come home and find your dog has escaped. Taking this into account, look critically at your fences. Some Airedales climb, jump, dig under fences or push through fences and gates. Are they really dog proof? – check for holes, broken palings, items leaning against a fence that may be able to be climbed on eg a kennel next to the gate.

### **Gates:**

Gates need to shut properly and securely (consider a bolt or padlock on a gate that only has a latch.)

### **Shelter/shade:**

Depending on weather conditions is there adequate shelter from heat, rain, cold or wind?

### **Hazards:**

Are there any obvious hazards in the yard that may cause injury eg timber with nails, poisonous plants, sharp edged materials at dog height, loose wire, other items that can be chewed, then break and swallowed etc.

### **Sleeping arrangements.**

Is the dog going to sleep inside or outside? If outside, a raised bed or hammock style dog bed needs to be protected from all weathers. If inside, consider flooring, and the impact the dog may have on that over time eg. muddy paws on a light carpet. Decide whether you want your Airedale to have free range of the house, be confined to a room eg laundry, or to sleep in a crate. Wherever your dog sleeps suitable bedding needs to be provided.

### **Diet**

An adult Airedale requires one meal a day. You may choose to feed morning or night. The diet needs to be well balanced consisting of good quality dry food, a raw diet, vegetables, cooked or combination of all. It is important you research the type of diet and what foods are not suitable to feed. **Most importantly do not allow your dog to be fat.** You should be able to feel your dog's ribs. A good diet will allow your Airedale to have a shiny coat, clean teeth and be full of energy. Clean accessible water should be available at all times.

### **Grooming**

An adult Airedale requires regular grooming. Between clipping by an Airedale knowledgeable person – about 3 times per year – you will need to comb your dog's coat, legs and beard weekly using a steel tooth comb. Hair between the pads will need trimming and cleaning regularly, the beard combed and cleaned as well. The bottom will need to be trimmed too. The Airedale Terrier Club conducts an annual grooming day where you can learn to clip your dog. At regular get togethers experienced Airedale people will advise you on care and maintenance. You are encouraged to research in books and on the web for articles about Airedale grooming.

## **Exercise**

The adult Airedale needs regular walks and games in the yard. You will need to teach your Airedale to walk calmly on a secure check chain leash (harnesses are NOT recommended). Your dog will require a collar and identification tag to be worn at all times.