

So, you want to buy a Fila. You have heard all the fantastic stories of their fierce loyalty and protectiveness of their owners. You have seen the photos of their awesome size, the expressive eyes, the unique “look” of the breed.

Take a moment to honestly evaluate your lifestyle, expectations, and commitment and make sure this is the breed for you.

The following are questions that can help you decide if the characteristics of the Fila make it the right breed for you.

What will be the dog’s living situation?

Do you have the emotional stability, consistency, and tenacity to be a responsible owner for your dogs lifetime? With a Fila this could be a span of time from 10-15 years.

Do you have a fenced yard? A Fila in good health can jump 6 foot high from a stand still.

Do you have enough space to house the dog properly? Although some Filas can do well in apartment/condo/duplex living situations....it is NOT recommended.

How will you keep your dog under control? This breed is marked by confidence often translating into a strong will and requires much obedience.

Do you rent? If so, you must make sure that your landlord is willing to allow a protective dog on his property. A pre-signed release and/or agreement is recommended.

Do you have the time to socialize and train your Fila?

Do you have time to socialize your Fila? The Fila requires early exposure to different people and dogs so that he will have knowledge of what is acceptable/normal experiences later in life.

How will you teach your Fila the rules of the house? Chewing, barking, digging, house soiling are normal puppy behaviors. Can you and your family accept this and be patient, kind, and consistent?

Are you a member of a breed club which can assist you in your ownership/education?

Can you afford a Dog?

Have you considered the costs involved in caring for a dog?

Will your budget allow for the cost of food and veterinary care?

Will you be a responsible dog owner and set aside an “account” or fund for any emergency veterinary care which may arise?

Will you be a responsible dog owner and provide vaccinations, hip/elbow evaluations, and spay/neuter (as necessary) ?

Will a Fila fit into your lifestyle?

Do you have enough time for daily activities?

Will it be difficult to spend time and money to train and exercise?

Will the dog fit into your routine or will it become an burden?

Who will be responsible for walking, feeding, cleaning, training, and playing with the dog? Be realistic...this is a job for adults or older children.

Can you teach your children to be respectful of the new puppy?

How many hours a day will your Fila be left alone?

What are your expectations and Goals for your Fila puppy?

Why are you interested in the Fila Brasileiro as a breed?

What are you looking for in a dog?

Are you looking for a dog of certain size, conformation, and markings?

Do you have a sexual preference for your puppy?

Are you interested in breeding Fila Brasileiros?

Why type of personality are you looking for in a Fila?

When do you plan to begin obedience training?

Are you planning to attend a puppy kindergarten class with your puppy for socializing?