

Texter Airedale Personalities

Ruth- She is the mother of Sarge and Gunnie, and David's favorite dog. She has an extraordinary sense of humor, but is very different from Sarge (see below). She is polite, attentive, extraordinarily intelligent and easily trained. She is a very mouthy dog, loves to fetch, and loves carrying stuffed toys. She is trained in both obedience and agility and the kids love to run her through agility equipment at every opportunity. Taunting housecats and laughing about it is a favorite hobby. She is always aware of what is going on, but is unlikely to actually be in the trouble herself. More likely, she is waiting for David to arrive, so she can go up to him as say, "See, I am not like those others, I would never....."

Tango- This is Laura's favorite and she has a number of unique personality traits and many have proved to be genetic. She is fundamentally very sweet and quiet. Not to say she doesn't have opinions. When petted she talks! Grumbles, mumbles. Sounds like growling, and has causes some unsuspecting humans to jump when she has done this, but that just adds to the fun. And talking is genetic, many of her descendants do it as well. She also will turn somersaults in your lap when you are sitting on the floor. She sort of dives into your lap and rolls over. More petting please. This is a genetic behavior! Her descendants often do this as well. She is also a smiler. She lifts her lips in what looks like a snarl, but is just a polite hello. She is very selective with this behavior. For a long time, David was the only one she ever smiled for. In the morning, she would want to get things going, so she would jump up with her front feet on Laura's side of the bed for petting, and stretch toward David, lifting her lips in a big grin! She knew the formula, disturb Laura to get David to take her out. For a long time, Laura never saw the smile part, and even was annoyed that "her" dog never smiled at her. Tango seemed to specialize in giving David secret smiles, often crooked and one sided, when only he could see her. Eventually, Tango's smiling became more overt, but she is always selective. This behavior is known to be genetic, and we have other dogs that do it. Not all are related to Tango.

Dixie- She is just too smart! Really! And she is an athlete, extraordinare. She is easily trained, but left on her own, she is quite willful. And what she wants is to find where we are. If left in the kennel, she is coming out! Over the 6 foot fence? No problem! Under it? No problem. Through it? OK, whatever! In the kennel apartment? Here I come! She got to where she could scale two 6 foot

fences faster than David could go through the gates. She is extremely driven and very intense. There reached a point that she simply could not be confined. Luckily, we were able to find a home for her where the owner was as intense as she is, and they are constant companions. Finally, a system that works for Dixie. This high drive intensity and the escapism both proved genetic. Consequently, Dixie has not had as big an impact on our breeding program that her beauty would justify.

Chi-Chi – David first saw Chi at the national specialty with owner-breeder, Barbara Brown and thought she was extraordinary. Laura later saw her at another major show and came to the same conclusion independently. One thing led to another, and we were offered the pick pup from an upcoming litter. That pup was Luke, see below. Later, Barbara was unable to keep Chi, and she was offered to us. We jumped at the chance! At first she was kind of stand-offish, but polite. She was an older dog being added to an established pack, and she had to figure out her place in the order, plus there were new humans to deal with. As time passed, she began to welcome interactions with David as he did the kennel work. With the other dogs, she is intense and dominant. Indoors with people, she is calm and relaxed. Coming to us as an older dog and being reserved, we early developed some misconceptions about her. We mistakenly thought she was a beauty queen without much brains or trainability. This turned out to be incorrect. When we began temperament testing dogs as a routine part of our evaluations, we half heartedly thought we should give Chi a try. Turns out she was one of the most quickly trained dogs we have. Brains and beauty, and she passes it on!

Gunnie – She was never a dominant personality. She always had her obnoxious and demanding brother, Sarge in her life. She was content to be polite and reserved. She was a great mom, like most of our girls, and took the business of taking care of pups seriously. She was a tremendous contributor to our breeding program and the current generation of females are largely her daughters.

Luke - He has the closest to what we consider the ideal temperament of all our dogs. He is highly intelligent and easily trained. When he came back from the show circuit, we took him to an Airedale event for fun that involved the opportunity for Canine Good Citizen certification. This requires knowing how to sit, stay, be polite with strangers, and a few other tasks. He had never done any of it before. In less than ten minutes, he mastered all the necessary

training to be certified. Plus he is bold, unshakably confident, and generally calm (for an Airedale).

Sarge – He is unique!! He is very dominant, pushy, opinionated, obnoxious, and a softy all rolled into one. He demands to be the constant center of attention, and on his terms! And he is LOUD! He easily has the biggest bark of all our dogs, and he never barks softly, everything is FULL volume. It is not possible to walk across the yard and not get bumped by him, if you don't pay attention to him. It is all about him! He does have quite a sense of humor, particularly if the joke is on you! His level of narcissistic behavior has not been matched by his offspring. It is just Sarge! By the way, on a scale of trainability, he scores pretty well, when properly motivated. Surprise, surprise!

Chip – He is Tango's grandson, and has a lot of her personality traits. He talks, does somersaults in your lap, and generally has a bit of her demeanor. He is also an unexpected tough guy toward other dogs. He is not the type to start fights, but once it is on, most dogs come out second best.

Ted – He is a Sarge and Dixie son. And it shows! Luckily, he has none of their worst habits. He has an intense affection for David, wants to always be with him, and pays constant attention, very similar to mom. We thought this would make him highly trainable, but his Sarge side comes out, if the training activity is not on his agenda. He can be a bit stubborn, like dad. He has littermates that have excelled at training.

Moonie and Foggie - These are Chip and Gunnie daughters and they show it. They are polite like mom, but have that comical aspect that comes from Tango, through Chip. They both do somersaults and occasionally talk. Moonie is a smiler. Foggie is in my office as I write this, resting calmly and politely. Periodically, she gets up and rests her head heavily on my arm in a request for attention.

Junie B. - This is a Ted daughter, and the Dixie intensity and high drive is there in spades. Luckily, the escapism is not. She is a very pay attention personality like dad and always wants to know what David is doing around the kennel. While pregnant with her first litter, we x-rayed her to get an estimate on pup numbers and discovered she had a large rock in her stomach. We

couldn't do anything about it since she was VERY pregnant and after the litter, she had lots of work to do and no time for surgery to remove foreign objects. Several months later, when she could work it into her schedule, we removed the rock. In the entire time, (from when the rock was discovered through surgery and beyond) she was never nauseated, never missed a meal, and never missed a beat. And we have no idea how long the rock was there before the discovery!