REAL TALK FAQ

Everything you wanted to know about living with a Beardie

- answered honestly and warmly.

So... what exactly is a Bearded Collie?

A Bearded Collie (or “Beardie”) is a joyful, bright, slightly comedic Scottish herding dog.

They’re known for their:

- Sparkly, intelligent eyes
- Flowing double coat
- Happy, bouncy movement
- Devoted, people-loving nature

They’re family dogs, working dogs, sports dogs and professional mood-boosters.

Are Beardies good family dogs?

Yes! Beardies adore being part of the family.

They’re usually fantastic with kids, love visitors, and want to be wherever the action is.

If your household is social and lively, a Beardie will be in heaven.

How much grooming are we really talking?

Let’s be honest, you’ll brush your Beardie.

Not constantly, but regularly.

- 2–3× a week normally
- Daily during the coat-change (6–18 months)
- A bath every 2 weeks
- Always brush on a damp or conditioned coat

Once you get the hang of it, grooming becomes relaxing... and they look stunning.

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Do they shed? Will my house be furry?

A little, but not constantly.
They shed the fluffy puppy coat quite heavily, then settle into a light, manageable adult shed.
Routine brushing is your best friend here.

Are they easy to train or a bit stubborn?

Both!
Beardies are *very* smart — but sensitive and easily bored.
They learn brilliantly with:

- Gentle guidance
- Rewards
- Variety
- Short, fun sessions

If training is playful and upbeat, they shine.

Do they cope well living indoors?

Yes. Beardies love being with their people.
Inside the home, they're surprisingly calm once exercised and mentally engaged. They do best in households where someone's around during the day or where alone-time is introduced thoughtfully.

How much exercise do they need?

Puppies: short, gentle outings — 5 minutes per month of age.
Adults: around 30 minutes daily, plus brain games.
They don't need hours of running, but they *do* need interaction and enrichment.

Do they get along with other dogs?

Generally yes, they tend to be friendly, social and playful.
Good early socialisation helps keep things smooth.

Will my Beardie calm down as they get older?

Yes... but slowly.
Beardies stay youthful and playful well into adulthood.

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Most settle beautifully by 2–3 years, especially with consistent routines.

Are Beardies clingy?

They are deeply people-oriented.
Most Beardies follow you from room to room, not anxiously, but out of love and curiosity.
They want to be involved but can learn independence with gentle practice.

How big do they get?

Medium-sized:

- Dogs: 53–56 cm
- Bitches: 51–53 cm

Weight usually falls between 18–27 kg.

Why do Beardie colours change so much?

Because they can!
Beardies are famous for dramatic colour shifts during their first two years. Puppies may lighten, darken, or soften into entirely different shades.

Baths — how often?

Every 1-2 weeks is ideal.
It keeps the coat healthy, prevents mats, and makes brushing *much* easier.
Forced-air (no heat) dryers work beautifully on Beardie coats.

Does my Beardie need a crate?

You don't *have* to, but it's extremely helpful.
Crates make travelling safer, settling easier, and vet/groomer visits smoother. When introduced positively, Beardies view it as a cosy den.

What should I feed my Beardie?

Paralax puppies begin on:

- Royal Canin Medium Puppy

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- Warm goat's milk (morning & night)
- Raw mince with yoghurt

Adults can remain on Royal Canin or transition to another quality, balanced diet.

Are Beardies hard to toilet train?

Usually not — they're smart and eager to please.
Consistency and crate training help enormously. Some are quick learners; some take a little longer to mature. Totally normal.

Are Bearded Collies healthy?

Generally yes — they are a robust, long-lived breed.
Responsible breeders complete:

- Hip scores
- Elbow scores
- Full DNA panels

Routine vet care, good grooming, and proper nutrition go a long way.

Are they hypoallergenic?

No, Beardies are not considered hypoallergenic.

Do Beardies enjoy travelling?

Most do! They're great travellers with:

- A crate or harness
- Regular breaks
- Comfortable temperature

They love caravans, camping, and holidays.

Can I show my Beardie?

Absolutely, Beardies are show stoppers.
Paralax owners receive guidance with grooming, handling, and ring preparation.

What are Beardies like as puppies?

Funny.
Curious.

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Busy.
A little mischievous.
And absolutely heart-melting.
They thrive with gentle structure and lots of positive experiences.

Are Beardies good with kids?

Yes, they're cheerful, gentle, and tolerant when raised respectfully. Supervision and teaching children good dog manners are always essential.

Do Beardies bark a lot?

They can be expressive.
Quick to alert, quick to "talk," and quick to join in the fun.
Early training keeps their voice polite and manageable.

Are Bearded Collies right for me?

A Beardie is perfect if you want a dog who is:

- Warm, loving, and funny
- Smart and trainable
- Social and people-focused
- Playful well into adulthood
- Beautiful to look at
- Joyful to live with

And if you don't mind brushing a gorgeous coat or regularly clipping them, you're going to adore a Bearded Collie.

More Conversational Beardie Questions

Do Beardies jump up a lot?

Yes — many Beardies greet people with enthusiasm (sometimes *a bit too much*!). They're not being rude; they're just excited. A bit of early training ("four feet on the floor") solves this beautifully.

Will my Beardie try to sit on my lap?

Almost certainly. They think they're lap-sized… whether they are or not. They love closeness and gentle contact.

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Do they sleep through the night?

Most puppies do within a few days of settling in. Consistent bedtime routines, a crate, and a short nighttime potty break help enormously.

Are Beardies sensitive?

Very. They feel your tone, your stress levels, and your energy. Gentle communication goes a long way. Harsh corrections shut them down.

Do they cope well with weather?

Yes, they were bred for Scottish farms. Their coat protects them from rain and cold, and they generally handle heat well with shade, water, and common-sense limits.

Can I keep a Beardie in an apartment?

Yes, if you're committed to:

- Daily walks
- Enrichment
- Training
- Regular grooming

They settle nicely inside as long as their mental and physical needs are met.

Do Beardies like toys?

Yes, many have hilarious "toy rituals."
They often carry one around, bring you one when you return home, or pile all their toys in one special spot.

Are Beardies really that silly?

Yes. They have a wonderful sense of humour — zoomies, bounces, dramatic spins, cheeky grins, the works. It's part of their charm.

Are they prone to chasing things?

They can be. They're herding dogs, after all. Many will watch (or try to round up) birds, bikes, kids, or anything that moves.
Early training helps shape this instinct politely.

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How are Beardies with cats?

Usually fine, especially if introduced young.
They may try to “herd” the cat, but most quickly learn respectful boundaries.

Can I leave a Beardie with a pet-sitter?

Yes, but choose someone who:

- Understands sensitive, people-focused dogs
- Will keep grooming routines
- Allows indoor companionship

Beardies bond deeply, so thoughtful planning helps.

Do Beardies like swimming?

Some adore it; others don’t see the point.
Start with gentle, positive introductions to water, many become confident swimmers.

Does their coat smell?

Not usually! Beardies have a surprisingly clean, low-odour coat when routinely bathed and brushed.

Do Beardies get the zoomies?

Yes, and they are spectacular. Expect joyful bursts of running and spinning, often after a bath or before bedtime.

Do Beardies need their eyes trimmed?

No, the natural fall of the coat protects their eyes.
Trimming often causes the hair to poke their eyes instead of shielding them. Proper grooming keeps the coat lying smoothly.

Can Beardies be clipped short?

Yes, absolutely. Beardies can look fantastic in a short “puppy clip,” and many families find this easier to maintain.
A few things to know:

- A puppy clip keeps the coat neat, healthy, and easy to manage.

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- It’s a great option for busy households or active, outdoorsy lifestyles.
- Puppy clips do not damage the coat when done correctly by a skilled groomer.
- The double coat still provides insulation and weather protection even when trimmed shorter.
- Routine brushing is still needed, but much quicker and simpler.

Many Paralax families choose a puppy clip for comfort and practicality, and their Beardies look adorable.

Are Beardies destructive when bored?

They can be. A bored Beardie may invent activities… such as “redecorating” the house.
Mental exercise (puzzles, training, sniff games) prevents this beautifully.

Can they handle stairs?

As adults, yes. For puppies, avoid repetitive stair-climbing to protect growing joints.

Why does my Beardie ‘talk’ to me?

Because they love communicating. Many Beardies make a hilarious range of sounds: grumbles, woo-woos, sighs, and gentle “conversations.”

Will my Beardie guard the house?

They’ll alert you, but they’re generally friendly. They’re much more likely to announce a visitor than to challenge one.

Do Beardies get along with visitors?

Yes, they’re social butterflies. After the initial excitement, they usually settle and enjoy the company.

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Are they good for first-time dog owners?

Yes, if you're committed to grooming, training, and including them in your life. They're loyal, intuitive, and wonderfully rewarding.

Are Beardies dramatic?

They can be! Many Beardies give Oscar-worthy performances when they want sympathy, attention, or snacks.

Do Beardies cuddle?

Yes, often more than people expect. They love leaning, nuzzling, resting their head on your lap, and being close.

How long do Beardies live?

Typically 12–14 years, with many enjoying 15–16+.

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