

# The Long & Short of It

## Benefits of Owning Large vs. Small Dogs

WRITTEN BY SAM SCHUNK  
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

**D**ogs, whether they are big or small, can be wonderful, loving companions. When selecting a pet, it is important to understand whether a large or small breed is the best fit for your family, as each have their distinct advantages and disadvantages.



**Impressions count.** Most people are comfortable approaching smaller dogs, as they are less intimidating than their bigger brethren. This approachability can make it easier initially for children and others to bond with their petite pups. Creating close connections with a giant canine may take more time but, with patience and the proper care, they will happen. Some owners, especially those who prefer their privacy, may find a pooch that others are less likely to approach to be a huge plus.

**Child-friendly.** Young children can play rougher with a bigger dog than they can with a miniature one, which could be more easily injured during serious horseplay. Large breeds like Australian shepherds, Labrador retrievers, and whippets are not as easily provoked by children as smaller pups, which tend to be more defensive and sensitive to children's quick movements and noises. With the proper training for Rex and children in the household, all can get along harmoniously, regardless of the dog's size.

**Safety first.** Even though plus-sized pooches may be gentle giants, they can provide families with an added sense of security, as unwelcome guests may find them to be more intimidating and they have greater strength than smaller dogs. With their barking, however, petite pups can still make their owners aware of any visitors to the home.

**Tinkle, tinkle little dog.** As the internal organs of canines are proportionally sized, larger dogs tend to have better control over their natural biological urges and can be potty trained

more quickly. Petite pooches, however, may need more frequent potty breaks throughout the day, lest Cuddles makes a puddle.

**Keeping it clean.** Responsible dog ownership means certain duties, some of which may be more pleasant than others. Smaller dogs generally are easier to bathe and shed less than larger ones. Also, a pup's stature will influence the size of the doggie deposits it leaves behind.

**Have dog, will travel.** Smaller dogs seem to have the advantage in this category, as these pups can go almost anywhere with their owners. Diminutive doggies can go on planes, trains, or automobiles, stay at hotels or motels, and are welcome at some restaurants. Larger canines can travel but, because of weight restrictions and other concerns at various establishments, they are not as freely accommodated. For outdoor enthusiasts, a larger dog may be preferable, as it usually will keep up better while hiking than toy breeds. Some owners choose to carry their tiny dogs, with carriers, backpacks, and even purses being popular transport options. Since small dogs take up less space and require smaller amounts of food, they are generally less expensive to board.

**Keeping fit.** Larger dogs will require more exercise than their smaller counterparts. For an owner who enjoys getting out or who wants to kick-start an exercise routine, a bigger dog may be a great fit, as these breeds need to be walked several times a day. With their more compact size, a little activity goes a long way with smaller dogs, since they tend to tire



more easily on walks. On the plus side, these pups may still be light enough to carry home.

**Expenses.** Another important truth is that the larger the dog, the bigger its appetite will be. While a Chihuahua may be happy with a handful of kibble, a Great Dane will need four to six cups of food a day. Larger sized supplies, such as beds, collars, leashes, and crates, will also come with a slightly more expensive price tag as well. Overall, smaller dogs tend to put less strain on their owners' wallets.

**Life and health.** Larger breeds have shorter life expectancies, such as the Irish wolfhound which on average only lives 6 to 8 years. Little dogs have higher life expectancies, usually averaging between 12 to 14 years. The tradeoff, however, is that larger dogs may tend to be healthier for the duration of their lifespan than smaller breeds, although the big dogs can have joint problems. Although massive dogs may get sick, tinier dogs tend to be more significantly affected by any illnesses they contract. Given their size, larger dogs are less likely to be stepped on than smaller ones that may more easily get underfoot and be hurt, which is why it is so critical to keep an eye on petite pups. Also, tinier dogs may be more fragile, as jumping off a couch may cause an injury for breeds like the miniature dachshund.

**Real estate.** Small dogs require less living space, which makes them ideal for owners with more modest digs, like apartments or condominiums. Big breeds would be a better fit for owners with more spacious living arrangements.

*If you are considering getting a pup, these general guidelines may give you a sense of whether you want to run with the big dogs or stick with a petite pooch. Our features on the Irish wolfhound & Chihuahua continue on page 57 to explore this topic further.*

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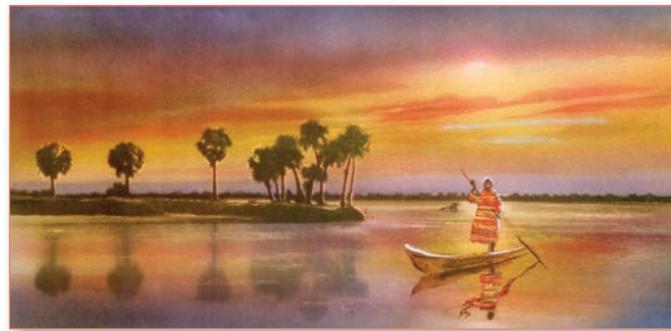


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# Coloring His World: The Art of E. G. Barnhill

WRITTEN BY SAM SCHUNK  
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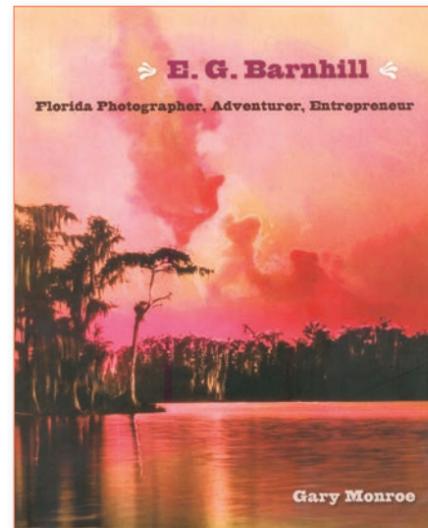
A book that truly immerses the reader into the oeuvre of its central subject, *E. G. Barnhill: Florida Photographer, Adventurer, Entrepreneur* by Gary Monroe is a sensory treat that you'll want to savor. Showcasing multiple images of the artist's work, it invites you to step back in time and to experience an idealized world of richly color-infused sunsets, shimmering water views, and glowing evening skies.

Professor of fine arts and photography at Daytona State College Gary Monroe gives insight into photographer E. G. Barnhill, a lesser-known artist whose innovative techniques are worthy additions to the history of American photography. At the turn of the 20th century—a time of railroads and steamships, frontier Florida and the early 1900s tourism boom—E. G.

"Provides a wonderful insight into the world of Florida's tourism industry through the eyes of E. G. Barnhill as an unsung character of hand-colored photography."  
— R. Lynn Whitelaw, founding director and curator, Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art

arrived and set up shop in the young city of St. Petersburg.

Since visitors to the state sought out one-of-a-kind artworks as mementos to capture their Florida experience, he hand-colored black-and-white snapshots taken either by himself or his customers, which he sold as postcards or home décor. E. G.'s work stood out for its rich, intense use of color, particularly



since other period artists tended toward more airbrushed, ethereal landscapes. His experiments in gold toning and uranium dyes resulted in vivid, incredible hues, accented further by his decision to use matte print paper, which absorbed and showed off the vibrant shades to remarkable effect. By creatively coloring photographic images of the day, his work paradoxically captured both the reality and the romanticism that appealed to countless visitors to the state.

Curl up on the couch with this book, view its richly hued images, and embark upon a fascinating visual journey into Florida's past.

University Press of Florida  
ISBN 978-0-8130-6277-8 • \$34.95



## The Lucky Irish Wolfhound

The tallest of all dog breeds, the Irish wolfhound is noted for its great size and commanding appearance. These gentle giants have a large, muscular greyhound-like shape and, with height that ranges in size from 30 to 34 inches tall at the shoulder, are the tallest of dogs, but not the heaviest. With their larger size, these dogs will require significant room, greater exercise, and a bigger car. Coats of Irish wolfhound come in a variety of colors, such as gray, brindle, red, black, pure white, and fawn, among others, and the harsh natural condition of its coat will necessitate regular brushing.



## The Playful Chihuahua

One of the tinier breeds, the sassy, graceful, and alert Chihuahua derives its name from the Mexican state where the earliest examples of the breed were found. These intelligent little dogs can be a great fit with families, provided the children are gentle and patient with them. Because of their small size, Chihuahuas only require minimal exercise and are good city dogs, as they can go nearly everywhere with their owners. For these reasons, these petite pooches have become popular as "purse dogs," such as Bruiser, the cute canine featured in the movie *Legally Blonde*. Depending upon the length of the pup's coat, Chihuahuas will need very little to minimal grooming.

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