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Living Large with **THE CANE CORSO**

By Yvonne Aleman Quevedo



coconuts to lap up the milk inside! This same dog's favorite Jedi mind trick is to stare at the ice dispenser, then stare at me, believing that he will telepathically will me into giving him ice!

Orso is coming 2 years of age this June and at an impressive 154 pounds, he is the kindest creature I have ever loved. He is constantly begging for a job or a simple task to perform and thrives off the accomplishment of delivering what I ask of him. He is a gentle giant and a true testament to the versatility of the Cane Corso breed. He knows when it's time to be serious in either the

Living large takes on a whole new meaning when there is a Cane Corso in the family. Everything is bigger in my house! Way bigger! Perhaps I am biased but the rewards that come with pet ownership are also amplified with this amazing breed. Someone very special in my life introduced me to the Cane Corso breed in 2009 and for this introduction, I am eternally grateful. Now I am formally a follower of the Corso Craze – you just can't stop at one!

An ideal family dog, the Cane Corso is loving and intelligent, easy to train, eager to please and always maintains a confident, watchful eye on its surroundings. They are protective, but not aggressive. My dogs don't have a mean bone in their bodies. Bred and raised properly, this breed is

intuitive enough to distinguish between a new friend and a true threat.

Particularly captivating about the Cane Corso is that it always wants to be with you, right next to you, at all times. This is not out of neediness or insecurity, but rather a desire to be an integral part of the family unit. Wherever I go, I can guarantee that one of my dogs is right there with me. They silently tailgate me around wanting to be involved in everything! They are human-like with their expressions. Their souls shine through their eyes; every single bit of emotion is clear in their faces! There is no mistaking its state of mind when you look at a Cane Corso's expression. Mine are resourcefully manipulative with the looks they give me, a function of their intelligence no doubt! The Cane Corso is highly clever! One of mine, Orso, opens

conformation or obedience show ring and when it's expected to be a complete goofball in the pool. He's also very sensitive and perceptive to the emotional needs of those around him. Every Wednesday, Orso and I visit South Miami Hospital to bring peace and comfort to patients, their families and hospital staff. Strangers pull on Orso's cheeks and kiss him on the head, as though they've known him for years, and every ounce of him accepts the contact graciously!

The Cane Corso flourishes in a home with a strong leader, where the hierarchy is clearly and consistently defined. Socialization with children, adults and other animals needs to be started as puppies. Obedience training is crucial. These dogs are strong, confident and assertive, making responsible ownership imperative! Most



Such human interaction extends into exercise and activity for this athletic breed. My dogs don't want to be outside unless I am there with them, tug in hand. They will go on for hours running around or swimming but want me involved in the activity. Fortunately, they are also content to lounge for hours with you and make great arm rests. Grooming is minimal with just one catch – the Cane Corso tends to drool, affectionately called Corso Art. It appears on clothing, walls, paintings, windows, small appliances; nothing is too out of reach for a Cane Corso's drool. I have an impressive collection of slobber rags yet confidently assure you that some Corso Art here and there is an easy trade for the fulfillment the Cane Corso breed brings to my life. ■



BIO

Yvonne Alemán Quevedo lives in South Florida and is the owner and co-founder of Costa Bel Cane Corso, loving home to International Multi-Champion Mar e Sol Orso di Costa Bel, CGC, TDI, RN; Champion

Impero Russo Cleo di Costa Bel; Champion Lionheart Buona Karma di Costa Bel; and Luna & Mouse, the Resident Rescues.

Yvonne is a Certified Public Accountant and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ with her own accounting and financial planning practice. She also owns Doral Wellness Studio, a boutique fitness and personal training studio.

notable is that the Cane Corso yearns to be a true member of the family, living among its loved ones. This isn't a breed you can bring home and forget about. A Cane Corso demands of its family a hands-on environment for the entirety of its life.