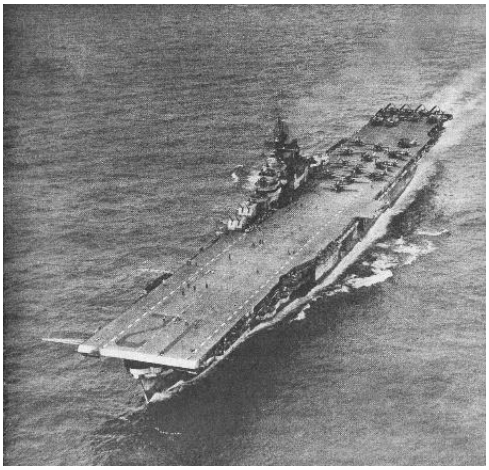
Fun Facts about the USS Hornet (CV-12)

By Toni M.



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In anticipation of GSRNC's 25th Anniversary celebration to be held October 3, 2026 aboard the decorated WWII aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet (CV-12), we are running a series of articles about this impressive ship. The focus of this article is to take a lighthearted look at the USS Hornet vs. the average German Shepherd Dog.

If you were told that the USS Hornet has a displacement of (i.e. weighs) 36,380 tons, fully loaded, what would that number mean to you? Could you picture it? Well, let's put that in a way that makes sense to the average GSD owner. If you consider that the average German Shepherd male weighs 77.5 pounds, that would mean that the Hornet's weight is equivalent to that of 938,839 male German Shepherds.

Similarly, if the average GSD is 41 inches long, just over 255 Shepherds could stand nose to tail on the length of the Hornet's flight deck (which is 872 feet long). The Hornet's widest point (beam) is about 147 feet, so 43 Shepherds could stand nose to tail across the ship.

An average Shepherd can go zero to Mach 3 for a treat in 10 seconds, while the Hornet can only reach 38 mph after a lengthy start up.

The Hornet can carry a crew complement of 2600 officers and enlisted while the average Shepherd takes pest preventatives in order to avoid passengers! The Hornet has approximately 90 guns of various types. In comparison, a German Shepherd has 42 very sharp teeth with an average bite strength of 238 pounds per square inch!

The Hornet was commissioned in 1943, which equates to it being 581 dog years old. The oldest German Shepherd on record is an unnamed female that lived to 29 years and 5 months, although the average lifespan is 9 to 13 years.

The German Shepherd comes in eight popular coat colors - black, gray, sable, black and tan, blue, red and black, black and silver, tan (brown). A mix is often observed, with black and tan being the most common. The USS Hornet only comes in one color…gray.

The USS Hornet is famous for its stealth and effectiveness in combat while German Shepherds are known for their intelligence, strength, agility, and excellent sense of smell.

The Hornet has been featured in various films and documentaries, highlighting its legendary past. German Shepherds have been represented in TV and movies by Rin Tin Tin, Strongheart, Bullet, Krypto, Rex, Ace, Sam, Jerry Lee, Max, Duke, Argos, Butch, Chief, Thor, Sultan, Rolf & Kaleb to name just a few.

There are approximately 10 million German Shepherds worldwide while there is only one USS Hornet.

