



Rottweiler ©Pets by Paulette

MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club® is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC® and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

If you have questions on where to find a local dog club or need information on obtaining a purebred dog, please contact:

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100 • Raleigh, NC 27617
Customer Service: (919) 233-9767
e-mail: info@akc.org



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

The Right Dog For You



West Highland White Terrier ©Diane Lewis for AKC

The Right Dog For You • The Right Dog For You

FIND THE RIGHT BREED

Diverse, distinctive and devoted, AKC®-registrable purebred dogs offer a lifetime of companionship and fun. With an AKC-registrable purebred, you can predict a puppy's full-grown appearance, whether it will need special grooming, its energy level and exercise needs. Because characteristics vary greatly from breed to breed, it's important to choose a breed suited to your own personality, lifestyle and environment.

Choosing the right dog requires research. A good place to start is the American Kennel Club® website, www.akc.org. Also consider **visiting an all-breed dog show** and view firsthand virtually every breed recognized by the AKC (access a show schedule first so as not to miss the breeds that interest you). In addition to seeing a variety of dogs, you will have a chance to talk with responsible breeders, people concerned with the welfare and advancement of their chosen breed. To find out where a dog show will be held in your area, contact a local AKC-affiliated dog club. To find the club nearest you, visit the "Clubs" section of the AKC website. The AKC website also includes a list of AKC events held around the country, such as Conformation Shows, Obedience Trials, and Agility Trials. Please visit the "Events" section of the website to locate these and other events in your state. You can also e-mail the AKC at info@akc.org.

Local veterinarians and groomers can also be good resources. They may be familiar with many

different breeds and may answer questions you have regarding the suitability of a particular breed to your lifestyle and environment. Veterinarians should also be able to answer questions relating to health concerns of a particular breed you are considering.

Whenever a new pet comes into the home, it should be the *center of attention*. Make sure you and your family have the time and energy to help your new pet adapt to the changes in his life before buying. When you bring your new pet home, you will soon see how your hard work and research will reward you with companionship, love, and devotion... with the right dog for you.



Bernese Mountain Dog ©Mary Bloom ©AKC

www.akc.org

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

It's important to ask questions before you choose a dog. What kind of **temperament** is the dog likely to have? Temperament is a primary concern. Most breeds were developed with specific functions in mind, such as hunting at the side of their master or guarding sheep. The job your prospective pet was bred to perform may provide insight into how well it will accept visitors into your home or how it will behave around children. So be sure to find out all you can about your breed's origin.

What **size** will your dog be when it is full grown? Size is especially a concern if you live in an apartment or a planned community. How much exercise will your dog require?



Some dogs are very athletic by nature and require a good deal of exercise and plenty of room to run; some breeds are content with frequent walks.

How much **coat care** will your dog need? While all dogs need care, some breeds require frequent grooming to continue to look their best. Long-coated dogs are beautiful, but keeping their coats in good condition requires more attention or regular visits to a groomer. So make sure you know how much coat care your dog will need before you buy.

Will you have time for **training** your dog? Basic obedience training is essential for all dogs. While some breeds are better suited for more specific types of training, a well-mannered dog makes the best companion.

What **health** issues exist in the breed? What type of health screens have been developed to test for these problems? Like people, all animals need occasional healthcare. These are important considerations that must be resolved before choosing a breed.

Once you have identified the breed that best suits you and your lifestyle, review your choice. Make sure you have a clear sense of the responsibilities involved in owning a dog. Becoming a pet owner is a long-term commitment. Be certain your chosen breed will suit your environment and way of life for many years to come.



FIND THE RIGHT BREEDER

Start your search for a responsible breeder at www.akc.org, and use the AKC Breeder Referral Search. Breeder referral contacts designated by National Breed Parent Clubs will help you find responsible breeders of the breed of your choice located as near to you as possible.

While at the AKC website, also use the AKC Online Breeder Classifieds service. Search by breed and state or by breed and zip code to find and contact breeders in your area. Breeder profiles alongside each listing offer details about information such as AKC club affiliations, health screenings performed and health guarantees.

Before you buy a puppy, be sure you will receive one of the three following items:

A properly completed AKC registration application.

or

The pup's AKC registration certificate, properly completed, transferring ownership to you.

or

If the AKC registration application is not available, but the seller states AKC papers will be available at a later date, be sure to get a bill of sale listing the sire and dam of your puppy and their AKC registration numbers, the date the puppy was born, the puppy's sex and color, the name and address of the breeder, and the name and address of the buyer.

If the seller cannot furnish the properly completed AKC forms or a bill of sale, don't buy the dog.

Be sure your dog is registered with the AKC. Your dog's registration supports invaluable canine health research that helps dogs live longer, healthier lives. It promotes responsible dog ownership and programs that make communities better places for dogs, their owners and neighbors. When you register your purebred dog with the not-for-profit AKC, you permanently record your dog in purebred dog history. And you give your dog – and yourself – the chance to participate in exciting events such as agility, obedience, retrieving trials, dogs shows and more. Contact AKC to find out more about how to register your dog.