

# *Congratulations on adding an* **Otterhound** *to your family!*

*The Otterhound Club of America (OHCA) has over 200 members who also adore this breed. We are here to help you learn about and enjoy your Otterhound to the fullest.*



## **History**

The Otterhound is an old British breed dating back to 1100s. The Otterhound is a large scent hound, unique among hounds because of its rough, double coat and with its substantial webbed feet it is the only scent hound bred to work the water.

Initially, Otterhounds were used in packs to hunt river otter, but today Otterhounds are excellent family companions with a great sense of humor and a friendly disposition. They excel in tracking and all activities involving their extraordinary sense of smell. They enjoy conformation, agility, rally and obedience and some are trained as Search & Rescue and Therapy dogs.

## **Life With An Otterhound**

A sense of humor is essential to live with an Otterhound. The Otterhound breed standard states these rare and special hounds are “amiable, boisterous and



even tempered,” and among their devotees, they are known as the “clown of hounds.” While Otterhounds are affectionate, they don’t demand constant attention—they’re quite masterful at entertaining themselves. However, such self-entertainment can be comical at best, and a bit messy at worst. Their impressively deep voices and melodic “a-rooos” will no doubt be memorable to both you and your neighbors. Otterhounds tend to get along well with children, other dogs, and all sorts of other pets.

## **Specific Health Concerns**

Like many large breeds, the Otterhound is susceptible to hip dysplasia and occasionally bloat. In addition, the Otterhound also can inherit a bleeding disorder called Glanzmann’s Thrombasthenia (GT) unless both parents have been cleared through a DNA test. Seizures are also a concern but no genetic test is available to date.

## **Exercise**

Otterhounds require a fair amount of exercise and although a large yard is not essential, a fenced area is a must. If your Otterhound will be living in a modest sized yard, you better like long walks or dog jogging!

It is important to remember that Otterhounds are not good candidates for walking off leash. As with many other scent hounds, the desire to follow an interesting smell may overcome the desire to obey their owner, with potentially dangerous consequences.

## **Grooming**

Despite their shaggy coat, Otterhounds do not shed much deeming them essentially a “wash and wear” breed requiring grooming as little as once a week. Besides routine grooming practices common to any breed, it is especially important to make sure the Otterhound’s long, floppy ears are kept clean.



## Breeding

Otterhound breeders are professionals who possess a wealth of experience and knowledge about Otterhound structure, movement, temperament and puppy development. As such, your breeder should be a life-time resource for all things Otterhound. Consult your breeder first with issues, questions and/or health concerns.

In the unlikely event that you cannot provide a safe, loving, and caring home for your Otterhound at any time during its life, your breeder is bound by the OHCA Code of Ethics to take ownership and responsibility for their pups, and they will do so willingly. Because Otterhound breeders are so invested in pups they have whelped, we are fortunate and proud that very few Otterhounds enter into OHCA Rescue.

If you are thinking of breeding, working with your pup's breeder would be advisable to help decide whether or not to breed or to collect valuable reproductive material for future breeding. Because the Otterhound is an endangered breed facing an uncertain future, discussing these options with your breeder helps ensure breed survival for many generations to come.

## Otterhound Resources

For more detailed information on Otterhounds, including general care, feeding and nutrition, health and veterinary care, sports and activities, and opportunities for networking with other Otterhound owners and enthusiasts, the following resources are recommended.

## Breed Resources

### **Books**

*Otterhound: A Complete Canine Compendium* by Juliet Cunliffe. © 2003 Interpret Publishing, United Kingdom.

*Otterhound: A Complete and Reliable Handbook* by Dr. Hugh H. Mouat, ed. Elizabeth K. Conway. © T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

## Online Resources

### **Websites**

The Otterhound Club of America (OHCA) website at  
[www.otterhound.org](http://www.otterhound.org)

Otterhound University at  
[www.otterhounduniversity.com](http://www.otterhounduniversity.com)

### **Facebook Pages & Discussion Groups**

*Otterhound Club of America OHCA & OHCA Member Relations* (FB pages)

*Otterhound Lovers, Otterhound, & Otterhound Health Forum* (Discussion groups)

## Join The Club



With fewer than 800 dogs worldwide, the Otterhound is considered one of the most endangered dog breeds in the world. The Otterhound Club of America, **OHCA**, exists to help the breed survive and thrive. We invite you to join in our mission to preserve the future of this precious breed!

Joining the club will also provide opportunities to be involved in all sorts of activities including canine sports as well as social events hosted by the club.

Membership in the OHCA is \$30/\$42 per year for an individual or couple respectively and includes a subscription to the OHCA newsletter *The Voice*. Please contact the club secretary at

[secretary@otterhound.org](mailto:secretary@otterhound.org)

or visit

[www.otterhound.org/OHCA\\_New\\_Membership.html](http://www.otterhound.org/OHCA_New_Membership.html)

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*The Otterhound Club of America recognizes and wishes to extend heartfelt appreciation to Janet Cain for supplying the artwork in this flyer.*