

The Right Dog For You



Rotweiler ©Pets by Palette

STATEMENT

American Kennel Club® is committed to promoting the integrity of the sport of dog breeding for purebred dogs. Founded in 1884, AKC is a national organization of breeders and owners of purebred dogs. We advance canine health and welfare through our work to protect the interests of dog owners and the public through responsible dog ownership.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

For more information on dog ownership, please contact:

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akc.org

The Right Dog For You • The Right Breed

FIND THE RIGHT BREED

Diverse, distinctive and devoted, AKC®-registered purebred dogs offer a lifetime of companionship and fun. With an AKC-registered 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 you have regarding particular breed to environment. Veterinarians answer questions related to a particular breed.

Whenever a new pet should be the center of your family, help your new pet live his life before buying. new pet home, you will hard work and research companionship, love, the right dog for you.



Bernese Mountain Dog ©AKC Mary Bloom

www.akc.org

QUESTIONS

questions before you buy. A dog's **temperament** is a result of its genetics and the environment it was raised in. Temperament is a set of characteristics that were developed in a breed's mind, such as hunting or guarding sheep. Some breeds have been bred to be good at their job, whether it be hunting or guarding your home or how it interacts with other people. So be sure to find out the breed's origin.

Some breeds can be very energetic when it is full of energy, while others are a concern if you live in an apartment or a planned community. Think about how your dog will behave in your dog require?



Foto: Mary Bloom ©AKC

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.



Foto: Mary Bloom ©AKC

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 dog, make sure you receive one of the following:

A properly completed application.

The pup's AKC registration papers, if completed, transferred to you.

If the AKC registration papers are available, but the seller does not have them, get a bill of sale listing your puppy and the date of birth, the date of the puppy's sex and color, and the names of the breeder, and the buyer.

If the seller cannot furnish AKC forms or a bill of sale, you should not purchase the dog.

Be sure to register your dog with the AKC. You will receive valuable support that helps dogs live longer, healthier lives. It promotes responsible programs that make a difference for dogs, their owners, and the breed. Register your purebred dog with the AKC, you permanent record of your dog's bred history. At the same time, you will protect yourself – the chance to participate in events such as agility trials, dogs show trials, AKC to find your dog to register.