

# The Joys and Advantages of Owning an **AKC®-Registered** **Purebred Dog**



German Shepherd Dog - Diane Lewis



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

# *The Joys and Advantages of Owning*

Golden Retriever ©AKC



*You may want a dog for many different reasons. Perhaps you're looking for a jogging companion. Maybe you'd like a therapy dog to join you in visits to hospitals and nursing homes. You may want to participate in the AKC dog show world or enjoy the challenges of other AKC events such as Obedience or Agility. Whatever the reason, your decision to bring a dog into your life is an important*

*one. You are choosing your best friend — a cherished companion, roommate and family member.*

*Any dog you bring into your home will be an individual who needs socialization, training, love and attention. But when deciding what kind of dog you want as a daily companion for years to come, the advantages of choosing purebred dogs are compelling and conclusive.*



Labrador Retriever Bonnie Nance

# an AKC-Registered Purebred Dog

## PREDICTABILITY

### ■ *Distinct heritage: certain and verifiable ancestry*

When you buy a purebred dog, you get invaluable insight beyond that irresistible fuzzy puppy licking your face. With a purebred, you know what to expect regarding the full-grown size, body type, ear shape, tail style, coat and temperament. You can predict that dog's appearance, whether it will need special grooming, its energy level and exercise needs.

### ■ *Specific traits common to their breeds*

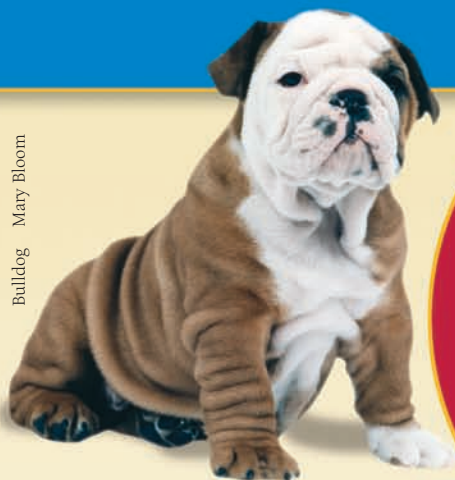
Most breeds were developed with certain functions in mind. Some were bred to hunt beside their masters, while others were bred to guard sheep or serve as loyal companions. The job your prospective pet was bred to perform will provide insight into its behavior, for instance how well your dog may accept visitors into your home or how it may act around children. Put knowledge about your dog's breed to use when training for and participating in diverse, fun and exciting AKC events. With your AKC-Registered dog, you may compete alongside your dog in Agility, Obedience, Tracking, Field Trials, Dog Shows, Junior Showmanship and many other AKC events.

The AKC recognizes more than 150 breeds of purebred dogs. Purebreds are the result of carefully selected, researched and documented breedings. Some breeds originated relatively recently, while others have existed since civilization began.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel | Isabelle Francais for AKC



Pembroke Welsh Corgi | Steve Surfman



## FINDING A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER

Start your search for a responsible breeder at [www.akc.org](http://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.

## LIFELONG RESOURCES AND RELATIONSHIPS

### ■ *Dog Clubs: Active, knowledgeable, experienced resources*

Every breed recognized by the AKC has a National Breed Club or Parent Club that was formed for that breed. The Parent Club is responsible for the preservation, protection and welfare of that particular breed and serves as the best contact for breed information for anyone looking to buy a puppy. Parent clubs often have strong, strictly enforced codes of ethics regarding breeding. The Parent Club can direct you to local breed clubs and breeders of the individual breed in your state or region. Visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) to find the Parent Club for your breed as well as local AKC dog clubs.

As the owner of a purebred dog that may be registered with the AKC, you can join a local AKC-affiliated breed club and enjoy meeting other owners of your breed. You'll learn about AKC events to participate in with your dog and will benefit from club members' experience and knowledge of your breed.

### ■ *Responsible breeders: Invaluable friends and advisors*

Responsible breeders strive to breed healthy dogs with the appropriate temperament for their breeds. The purebred dog breeder should be a resource for the life of your dog, someone you can go to for advice about raising your dog and someone with whom you can share and exchange information and treasured stories about your dogs.





Samoyed ©AKC

## HEALTH

### ■ **Breeders:** *The key to a healthy dog bred to the highest standards.*

Responsible purebred dog breeders take advantage of and invest in an increasing variety of pre-breeding genetic tests that reveal essential characteristics about their dogs and help them carefully select the best sires and dams for breeding.

### ■ **Health Screening Results**

No cause is more highly regarded by the American Kennel Club® than maintaining the heritage and future of purebred dogs. The AKC is the only dog registry that automatically incorporates health screening results into its permanent dog records. Dogs certified to be free of hip or elbow dysplasia through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and dogs certified to be free of eye disease through the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) have their clearance numbers printed on AKC-certified pedigrees and registration documents. The AKC tracks more than 350,000 DNA profiles in the AKC database. Every dog owner should know their pet's history. The AKC ensures that history stays with us for future generations.



Labrador Retriever AKC Photo Files

Australian Shepherd ©AKC



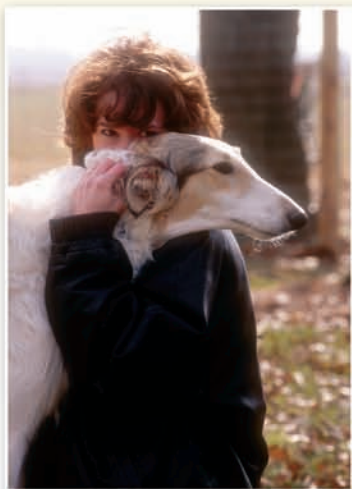
Dachshund Bonnie Nance

## COSTS

The costs of purchasing purebred puppies vary, but this is not the time to hunt for the cheapest dog you can find. Your new puppy will be a member of your family for its lifetime, and you'll want to make a wise investment. Too frequently, common sense goes out the window when it comes to buying a puppy. Be a wise consumer. The more you know before you buy, the better off you will be. This advice applies to all aspects of buying your dog, from selecting the breed to deciding where to obtain the puppy. Spend time investigating and researching before buying. Consider that the purchase price is a one-time up-front investment in your dog. And to help offset some of the other costs of dog ownership, AKC provides a complimentary

first veterinarian office visit certificate, dog.com certificate (limited time offer), and 60 days of complimentary trial healthcare insurance to new registrants.

Borzoi Bonnie Nance



Chihuahua ©AKC

Bichon Frise ©AKC



Yorkshire Terrier ©AKC

## *So, what's your name?*

A name can say a lot. When you write the name you've chosen for your newest best friend on your dog's AKC registration application and send it to the not-for-profit American Kennel Club, you make a statement. You show you care. Your dog's AKC registration supports invaluable canine health research that helps dogs live longer, healthier lives.

It promotes responsible dog ownership and training and backs programs that make communities across the country better places for dogs, their owners and neighbors. And, when you register your purebred dog with the AKC, you give your dog—and yourself—the chance to participate in exciting events such as Agility, Obedience, Retrieving Trials and Dog Shows. Sending your dog's completed individual dog registration form to the AKC also gives your best friend a permanent place in purebred dog history. Like a family tree, the 100-plus-year-old AKC registry allows the AKC to trace the exact ancestry or "pedigree" of every AKC-Registered purebred dog. So, when you register your dog with the AKC, you not only select just the right name for your companion, you join millions of other dog owners in supporting invaluable programs working for the best for all dogs. To find out more about how to register your dog with the AKC, call (919) 233-9767 or visit:

[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

## How to Register Your Dog with AKC

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A purebred dog is eligible for AKC registration if its litter has been registered with AKC.

When you purchase a dog said to be AKC-registrable, you should receive an individual Dog Registration Application from the seller. Once the application has been completed (by both you and the seller), submit it to the AKC with the proper fee. You can also register a dog online. Within three weeks, you will receive your dog's AKC Registration Certificate.

If you've waited a long time or misplaced your dog's registration application form before you could complete it and send it to AKC, you may still be able to register your dog with the AKC.

And, if you have a purebred dog of a breed recognized by the AKC but you never received an individual Dog Registration Application, we have a special program for you and your dog called the Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP) program that can allow your dog to participate in exciting AKC events.

Contact us! We want to welcome you and your dog to the wonderful world of AKC and purebred dogs.

## Mission Statement

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*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.*



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