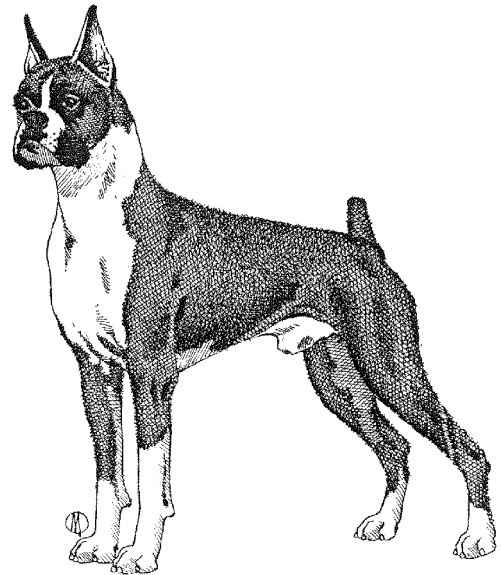
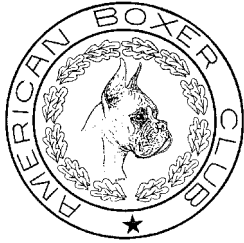


Congratulations on Your New Boxer!



An Introduction to the Boxer

Congratulations! You are now sharing your life with a Boxer—he wouldn't have it any other way! The Boxer's most notable characteristic is his desire for human affection. Though his spirited bearing, square jaw, and cleanly muscled body suggest the well-conditioned middleweight athlete of dogdom, the Boxer is happiest when he is with people—especially children. He is truly a "dog for all seasons," suiting the need for household guardian, attractive companion, playmate, and loyal friend.

History

The Boxer's origins are ancient, dating back as far as 2500 BC. But it was Germany in the 19th century that refined and developed the breed as we know it today. The Boxer was used on the ducal estates to run down and hold large, fierce game—wild boar, bear and bison - until the human hunter could approach and dispatch the quarry. To that end, the Boxer was bred to be a powerful, muscular dog with the wide undershot jaw for maximum holding power. Though he is not used any longer for such pursuits, the Boxer of today should be able to perform the duties for which he was bred.

Beauty and Brains

The Boxer is a hearing guard dog, ever alert to protect his family but tolerant of any stranger once he knows there is no danger. He is a happy, exuberant dog who delights in children and is eager to play long after he has left puppyhood behind. The mood-mirroring quality of his expression and his overall sweet nature have endeared him to generations of Boxer owners. He is a natural show-off, and many Boxers excel at Conformation, Agility, and Obedience events held in conjunction with AKC shows. The well trained Boxer is a glorious sight to behold.



The Boxer is a medium sized dog ranging from 21½" in height for a smaller female to 25" and sometimes more for a taller male. Adult weight may reach 65-80 lbs. in the male with the females about 15 lbs. less. There are no giant or miniature varieties. The short, close-lying coat comes in two equally acceptable colors—fawn and brindle. The fawn may vary from a tawny tan to a stag red. The brindle ranges from sparse, but clearly defined black stripes on a fawn background to such a heavy concentration of black striping that the essential fawn background color barely, although clearly, shows through—creating the appearance of "reverse" brindling. White markings should be of such distribution to enhance the dog's appearance, but may not exceed 1/3 of the entire coat. It is not uncommon to have an entirely white Boxer born in a litter, or one with predominately white background known as a "check." In order to retain the beauty of the fawn and brindle colors, the American Boxer Club members are pledged not to use these "whites" for breeding. They may not compete in Conformation classes but are eligible for Performance events.

Care of Your Boxer

The Boxer requires relatively little grooming, but ownership of any dog is a definite responsibility. HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO RUN LOOSE. Exercise within a fenced area or on a leash will be adequate. Death from automobiles, poisons, or other hazards await the Boxer who is allowed to roam. While he is learning to be a responsible member of the household, especially while still a puppy, a crate is very advisable. It will protect him from household temptations and dangers while you are away. In addition, it is a great aid in housebreaking—your Boxer will rarely soil his crate. Be sure to use a collar with care. They can and do snag on the most unlikely objects with tragic consequences. Your Boxer should not be left alone with a collar around his neck—or while playing with canine friends. The Boxer has a natural tendency to keep himself clean, but it is the owner's responsibility to keep his nails trimmed to a reasonable length, and to keep his teeth clean as he ages. An occasional bath and/or currycombing should be all that he requires.

You should feed your Boxer a good quality (usually kibbled) dog food. These are often found at feed or specialty stores. Most breeders recommend soaking the food in warm water as opposed to feeding it dry. Mixing it with a small amount of canned food is always enjoyable to your dog. Remember that the Boxer is a relatively fast-growing dog, and should not need supplementation with vitamins or calcium as he grows. Over supplementation can cause bone and joint problems. Always speak to your veterinarian if in doubt.



Shall I Breed My Boxer?

While it may seem appealing to contemplate a cute litter of puppies, you should realize that breeding your Boxer is an unremitting commitment of time, money, and emotion. Maintaining contact with your Boxer's breeder over the years, and asking his advice, will prove immensely helpful when making a decision to breed. For the majority of pet owners, spaying the female Boxer is to be preferred. This operation will also lessen the risk in later life of mammary tumors and other reproductive diseases. The male Boxer may also benefit from being neutered, and this procedure will cool his desire for any neighborhood female dog in heat. Spayed and neutered animals are not eligible to compete in AKC Conformation classes, but may still participate in Obedience, Agility and Tracking events.

Exhibiting the Boxer

Many Boxer owners become involved in the world of showing dogs and enjoy a lifelong passion for this sport. Showing may involve Conformation, Agility, Tracking, and/or Obedience pursuits. The Boxer has proven to be a great success in all avenues of formal exhibition. The bond that develops when the owner trains his dog in these disciplines only adds to the mutual love and respect of man and canine. The American Kennel Club or the American Boxer Club will prove helpful in giving you advice and guidance in these pursuits.

Cautions

The Boxer is not overly tolerant of extreme conditions of either heat or cold. He should definitely be kept in the house as a beloved member of the family, and enjoy safe climatic conditions. Never leave him in a closed car in hot weather, or even with the windows slightly open—the temperature may reach dangerous and even deadly levels in a very few minutes.

Occasionally, Boxers are especially sensitive to certain forms of both local and general anesthesia. Certain tranquilizers are contraindicated. Always discuss anesthesia protocols thoroughly with your veterinarian. The breed is relatively tolerant of mild discomfort, and most Boxers can have common skin tumors, should they develop, removed using local anesthesia alone.

Especially as he ages, some Boxers may fall victim to cancers in various forms, as well as to heart disease. The Boxer who faints or seems unsteady on his feet should see a competent veterinarian immediately, as these symptoms are often warnings of cardiac arrhythmias. Hopefully, with competent veterinary care and immunizations according to current protocols from the AVMA (American Veterinary Medicine Association), your loving, devoted Boxer will live a rich and full life.

The American Boxer Club

This is the national parent club dedicated to the well-being of the Boxer breed. The Club is also responsible for the written Breed Standard—a description of the ideal Boxer. The American Boxer Club was founded in 1935 and now has over 900 members in 50 states. The ABC encourages interested Boxer lovers to join any of its more than 50 member clubs throughout the country. For information, or a copy of the Breed Standard, contact:

Mrs. Sandy Orr, Secretary
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Please visit us online at the American Boxer Club Web site:

www.americanboxerclub.org

Recommended Reading

A New Owner's Guide to Boxers
Richard Tomita

The Boxer - An Owner's Guide to a Happy, Healthy Pet
Stephanie Abraham

The Boxer - Family Favorite
Stephanie Abraham

The Everything Boxer Book
Karla Spitzer

The New Boxer
Billie McFadden

World of the Boxer
Richard Tomita

