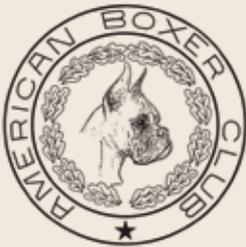
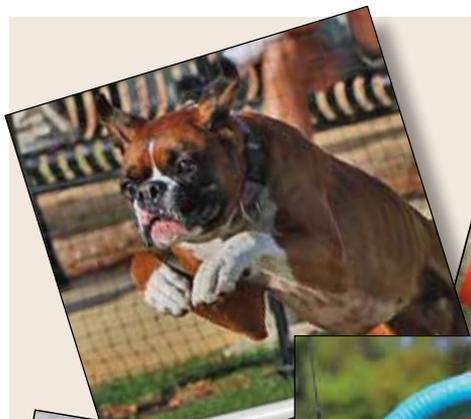




SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE
WORKING
BOXER



BOXER U



Special Thanks to Reegan Ray
and Orangeport Studios for the creation of this brochure
(www.orangeportstudios.com)

The Working Boxer

“Other breeds have pronounced specialized talents . . . hunting, herding, trailing, and so on . . . but for a combination of the outstanding virtues of many, with the faults of a few, our Boxer is the most gifted of canines.” – John Wagner, The Boxer

“THE WORKING BOXER” offers a guide to activities for you and your Boxer. The American Boxer Club (ABC) hopes that you have the opportunity to enjoy the deep bond created by training for and participating in showing, sport, or service with this unique working dog.

The Boxer was introduced in the United States in 1904, and in 1935 the American Boxer Club was formed to steward the preservation of this fine working dog. The Boxer’s popularity as a show dog has grown alongside the breed’s employment as a guard, therapy, drug detection, and service dog. The Boxer is also a versatile competition sport dog. There have been many Agility, Obedience, Tracking and Herding Champion Boxers.

An exciting breed to exhibit in conformation, the Boxer’s many achievements are listed on the Westminster Kennel Club’s (WKC) web site. At WKC since 1914, the Boxer is notable for:

“Most Group wins–24, Most consecutive Group wins – 5 (1954-1958, 2009-2013), Most Group placements – 53, Most consecutive Group placements – 19 (1940-1958)”

Further information about how to participate in each activity can be found at the bottom of each page of this booklet. Enjoy your versatile working breed!



Sgt. Juan Valdez and his service Boxer, Midas

CONFORMATION



Conformation

Showing dogs is a great sport where the thrill of competition is combined with the joy of seeing beautiful dogs! Whether you show your boxer yourself or your Boxer is shown by a handler or its breeder, being a part of the sport of dog showing is exciting! Watching Conformation shows is also a wonderful way to meet other people who love Boxers and to learn about the breed!

At a Conformation show, judges examine the dogs, then give awards according to how closely each dog compares to the judge's mental image of the "perfect" dog described in the breed's official standard. The "standard" describes the characteristics that allow the breed to perform the function for which it was bred. These standards include specifications for structure, temperament and movement.

To be eligible to compete in an AKC dog show, a dog must:

- Be individually registered with the American Kennel Club;
- Be 6 months of age or older;
- Meet eligibility requirements in the written standard.

Good structure is the basis for all working activities for our versatile breed! The Boxer has been a frequent winner at Westminster for many years and continues to delight and impress the dog-loving public in breed rings around the country. You will find a written standard for the breed by visiting the American Boxer Club Web site.

ABC: www.americanboxerclub.org/standard.html

AKC: www.akc.org

AGILITY



Agility Boxers

Dog agility is a competitive sport that tests one's skills in training and handling a dog over a timed obstacle course. Exhibitors race against the clock as they direct their dogs to jump hurdles, scale ramps, burst through tunnels, traverse a see-saw and weave through a line of poles in an obstacle course! With scoring based on faults similar to equestrian show jumping, dog agility has become an exciting spectator event.

Most dogs like to run and jump, but agility is more than that. It is the exhibition of a very strong and highly tuned relationship between the handler and his or her Boxer.

Any dog with good physical conformation and energy is a strong candidate for the sport of agility.

AGILITY ORGANIZATIONS

AKC - American Kennel Club: www.akc.org

NADAC - North American Dog Agility Council: www.nadac.com

USDAA - United States Dog Agility Association: www.usdaa.com

CPE - Canine Performance Events: www.k9cpe.com

UKC - United Kennel Club: www.ukcdogs.com

BARN HUNT



Barn Hunt Boxers

Barn Hunt is based on the traditional roles that many breeds played in ridding farms, barns, crop storage areas, and homes of destructive vermin. Some breeds were specifically created to fill this role, and for many of those breeds, Barn Hunt provides a real opportunity to test for these traits.

Barn Hunt is open to any dog of any breed or mix who wishes to play the game and can fit through an 18" wide by bale-height tall tunnel. Barn Hunt has titles, levels of increasing difficulty, and championships. Barn Hunt is an independent sport, but titles are recognized by both the American Kennel Club (AKC) and United Kennel Club (UKC).

Boxers LOVE to hunt and excel at this sport!

LEARN MORE:

Barn Hunt Association: www.barnhunt.com

AKC: www.akc.org

United Kennel Club: www.ukc.com

CARTING



Carting Boxers

“Drafting and carting are sports that are open to all breeds of dogs. Pulling carts to help transport items was a task that many dogs were — and still are — trained to do to help around farms. Dogs like to pull — and this gives them an acceptable way to exercise their right to do so!”

Jackie Phillips, AKC Canine Partners Newsletter

Carting is the perfect “job” for a working breed. With you at the helm, you exhibit your Boxer’s ability to pull a cart and exhibit proficiency at various maneuvering exercises.

Some of these exercises include showing turns, changes of direction, backing up, etc. and become increasingly difficult at the higher levels. You will demonstrate off lead heeling through serpentine courses and more! Eventually tasks are performed over and around obstacles — then weight is added! As part of a beginning drafting test, dogs are required to show basic obedience skills and stability. Your Boxer’s ability to perform the carting tasks in public parks on busy weekends, when these tests are commonly held, demonstrates his good temperament and joy for working!

For a working dog like the Boxer, this is a wonderful team-building activity that exhibits our breed performing a function for which it was once used!

LEARN MORE:

AKC: www.akc.org

DOCK DIVING



Dock Diving Boxers

Dock Diving or Dock Jumping is a canine aquatic sport that requires dogs to jump off a dock at the end of a pool, to catch and retrieve objects.

The dock is 40' long x 8' wide and 2' off the water. At the end of the dock is a large pool, 40' long x 20' wide x 4' deep.

The popular North America Diving Dogs organization, NADD, is the organization offering titles for which you can apply for recognition in AKC.

Titles are earned by accumulating five (5) qualifying jumps within one "Division." There are 5 Divisions requiring a certain set of skills! After the specific Division title is achieved, additional titles for Advanced and Excellent level skills, can be achieved by completing an additional 25 qualifying jumps per Division.

You can get started in Dock Diving by entering at event and signing your Boxer up for a practice jump!

LISTED BELOW ARE JUST A FEW OF THE DOCK JUMPING ORGANIZATIONS:

NADD/AKC: www.northamericadivingdogs.com

Dock Dogs: www.dockdogs.com

UAD: www.ultimateairdogs.com

UKC: www.ukcdogs.com

Splash Dogs: www.splashdogs.com

HERDING



Herding Boxers

For hundreds of years, people have used dogs to help them move and manage livestock. Herding competition is one of the most difficult, yet satisfying things you can do in partnership with your Boxer.

A dog needs no specific training to participate in an instinct test. The judge is looking for the dog's natural ability to move and control livestock. As you train your dog and enter into competition in the various trial programs, you then will demonstrate more advanced skills that allow you to showcase what a very intelligent and willing partner a Boxer can be. A herding Boxer must be a thinking partner in this sport.

The courses, like Agility trial courses, are usually known in advance and you are supplied with a map or description of where you must move the stock. A judge then scores your "run" according to how well you and your dog moved the stock through the obstacles the course presents.

There are several competition herding trial programs. The American Kennel Club, The American Herding Breed Association, The Canadian Kennel Club and the United States Border Collie Handlers Association. All offer ranch and arena courses to challenge you and your Boxer!

LEARN MORE:

www.akc.org

www.ahba-herding.org

www.ckc.ca

www.usbcha.com

LURE COURSING



Lure Coursing Boxers

Lure coursing is a system of mechanized lures and pulleys that simulate the unpredictability of chasing live prey. Dogs are evaluated for their ability to run with speed, agility, and endurance as they pursue an artificial lure zig-zagging across an open field.

In the Coursing Ability Test offered by AKC, dogs do not have to execute extreme turns, with no turn being more acute than 90 degrees.

The 600-yard course must be completed within 2 minutes and the 300-yard course within 1-1/2 minutes. Lure coursing often requires no training. Most Boxers see the lure move and immediately want to chase it!

To pass the Coursing Ability Test, your Boxer must qualify twice under two judges...but you can be sure your Boxer will want to keep chasing, and chasing, and chasing....

LEARN MORE:

www.akc.org

NOSE WORK



Nose Work Boxers

The activity and sport of Nose Work is designed to develop your dog's natural scenting abilities by using their love of food, toys and exercise.

The sport leverages every dog's amazing sense of smell and their love of performing a task.

Nose Work has found enthusiastic participants seeking a lower impact canine activity that offers great rewards for both handlers and their dogs. By utilizing basic search dog skills, the sport builds confidence, burns off mental and physical energy, and reinforces the bond between dog and owner.

There are various levels at which to title. Dogs are tested individually, which makes it a great sport for the Boxer that prefers his own company and that of his owners!

LEARN MORE:

The National Association of Canine Scent Work: www.nacsw.net
United Kennel Club: www.ukcdogs.com

OBEDIENCE & RALLY



Obedience & Rally Boxers

Developed in the 1930's, obedience is one of the AKC's oldest competition events. Obedience trials showcase dogs that have been trained and conditioned to behave well in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. Like all canine sports, they allow you to exhibit the relationship you have developed with your great Boxer!

There are many levels of obedience competition from which to choose!!! Entry level classes for the dog just getting started are performed on leash. The team will perform exercises such as heeling on leash, stand for exam, and recall.

Advanced levels are performed off leash and may include retrieving a dumbbell, out of sight sit and down stays, and scent discrimination.

Rally provides an excellent introduction to AKC Companion Events for new dogs and handlers. The team moves at their own pace, through 10-20 "stations". Each station has a sign with symbols representing an exercise to complete. These may include: sits, stands, downs or heeling moves. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. Rally is a fun event where the handler is encouraged to talk to his dog and work together as a team!

LEARN MORE:

AKC: www.akc.org

UKC: ukcdogs.com

AWDF: www.awdf.net

USABOX: www.usboxer.org

THERAPY BOXERS



Therapy Boxers

Therapy dogs and their owners work together as a team to improve the lives of others. Therapy dogs travel with their owners to schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. From working with a child who is learning to read, to visiting a senior in assisted living, a therapy dog provides a much needed service. You will encounter these wonderful animals in traditional settings such as those mentioned earlier, but you can also find a therapy dog calming someone facing difficult issues, or acting as a non judgmental “listener” to a child afraid to read aloud.

The therapeutic effect of animal companionship has been well documented. Boxers make excellent therapy dogs and there are opportunities to suit the individual personalities of every boxer and his owner!!!!

THE GROUPS THAT CERTIFY THERAPY DOGS INCLUDE:

Therapy Dogs International: www.tdi-dog.org

Delta Society: www.deltasociety.com.

Pets on Wheels: www.petsonwheels.org

It is not always necessary to join a specific organization, so check with facilities in your area to see what the requirements are for you and your Boxer to make visits.

TRACKING



Tracking Boxers

Boxers have an amazing sense of smell - 100,000 times stronger than humans - and a natural desire to hunt and do a job with you. Dogs are often used to find lost people and animals, drugs, avalanche and disaster victims, and even to detect cancer. Tracking is a canine sport that demonstrates a dog's natural ability to recognize and follow a scent. AKC tracking is the foundation of canine search and rescue work. There are several styles of tracking and organizations in which to exhibit this skill.

Tracking requires very little equipment. You just need a harness, a 20-to-40 foot lead, a few flags to mark your track and an open grassy area free of obstacles such as roads, ditches or woods.

The joy of tracking with your Boxer lies in the relationship you develop as you train your dog to follow human scent and learn to read his body language as he helps you follow him along a track. Besides being a very useful skill, it engages your Boxer in a challenging physical and mental activity.

Levels of titles vary per organization, but most begin with following human scent over flat terrain and encompassing some turns, then each level increases in difficulty culminating in following human scent up and down hills, through water, under cars, through buildings, along vegetation and hard surfaces, and more! Boxers love this sport!

TRACKING ORGANIZATIONS:

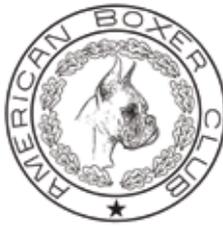
AKC: www.akc.org

CKC: www.ckc.ca

DVG: www.dvgamerica.org,

AWDF: www.awdf.net

Australian Shepherd Dog Club: www.ASCA.org



www.americanboxerclub.org

Introduction to the Boxer Standard

The ideal Boxer is a medium-sized, square-built dog of good substance with short back, strong limbs, and short, tight-fitting coat. His well-developed muscles are clean, hard, and appear smooth under taut skin. His movements denote energy. The gait is firm yet elastic, the stride free and ground-covering, the carriage proud.

Developed to serve as guard, working, and companion dog, he combines strength and agility with elegance and style. His expression is alert and his temperament steadfast and tractable. The chiseled head imparts to the Boxer a unique individual stamp. It must be in correct proportion to the body. The broad, blunt muzzle is the distinctive feature, and great value is placed upon its being of proper form and balance with the skull.

In judging the Boxer first consideration is given to general appearance and overall balance. Special attention is then devoted to the head, after which the individual body components are examined for their correct construction, and the gait evaluated for efficiency.

For the complete Boxer Standard visit:
www.americanboxerclub.org/standard.html

