

Toy Group



The diminutive size and winsome expressions of Toy dogs illustrate the main function of this Group: to embody sheer delight. Don't let their tiny stature fool you. Many are tough as nails. If you haven't experienced the barking of an angry Chihuahua, for example, well, just wait. Toy dogs will always be popular with city dwellers & people without much living space. They make ideal apartment dogs & terrific lap warmers. Incidentally, small breeds may be found in every Group, not just the Toy Group. Some will advise to consider getting a small breed, to minimize some of the problems inherent in canines such as shedding, creating messes & cost of care. Training aside, it's still easier to control a ten-pound dog than it is one ten times that size.

Affenpinscher
Brussels Griffon
Chihuahua
Chinese Crested
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
English Toy Spaniel
Italian Greyhound
Japanese Chin
Maltese
Manchester Terrier
Miniature Pinscher
Papillon
Pekingese
Pomeranian
Poodle
Pug
Shih Tzu
Silky Terrier
Yorkshire Terrier

Herding Group



The Herding Group, created in 1983, is the newest AKC classification; its members were formerly members of the Working Group. All breeds share the fabulous ability to control the movement of other animals. A remarkable example is the low-set Corgi, perhaps one foot tall at the shoulders, that can drive a herd of cows many times its size to pasture by leaping and nipping at their heels. The vast majority of Herding dogs, as household pets, never cross paths with a farm animal. Nevertheless, pure instinct prompts many of these dogs to gently herd their owners, especially the children of the family. In general, these intelligent dogs make excellent companions and respond beautifully to training exercises.

Australian Cattle Dog
Australian Shepherd
Bearded Collie
Belgian Malinois
Belgian Sheepdog
Belgian Tervuren
Border Collie
Bouvier Des Flandres
Briard
Canaan Dog
Collie
German Shepherd Dog
Old English Sheepdog
Puli
Shetland Sheepdog
Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)
Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)

Working Group



Dogs of the Working Group were bred to perform such jobs as guarding property, pulling sleds and performing water rescues. They have been invaluable assets to man throughout the ages. The Doberman Pinscher, Siberian Husky and Great Dane are included in this Group, to name just a few. Quick to learn, these intelligent, capable animals make solid companions. Their considerable dimensions and strength alone, however, make many working dogs unsuitable as pets for average families. And again, by virtue of their size alone, these dogs must be properly trained.

Akita
Alaskan Malamute
Bernese Mountain Dog
Boxer
Bullmastiff
Doberman Pinscher
Giant Schnauzer
Great Dane
Great Pyrenees
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
Komondor
Kuvasz
Mastiff
Newfoundland
Portuguese Water Dog
Rottweiler
Saint Bernard
Samoyed
Siberian Husky
Standard Schnauzer

Miscellaneous Class

Authorities acknowledge that in total throughout the world there are several hundred distinct breeds of purebred dog. Those officially recognized for registration in the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club. The AKC, however, provides for a regular method of development for a new breed which may result in that breed's full recognition. Briefly stated, the requirement for admission to the Stud Book is clear and categorical proof that a substantial, sustained nationwide interest and activity in the breed exists. This includes an active parent club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area. Breeds in the Miscellaneous Class may compete in AKC obedience trials and earn obedience titles. They may also compete at conformation shows, but here are limited to competition in the Miscellaneous Class and are not eligible for championship points.

Dogs currently in the Miscellaneous Class include:

Anatolian Shepherd
Havanese
Jack Russell Terrier
Lowchen
Spinone Italiano

MIXED BREEDS

Although organized dog clubs generally focus on the maintenance of recognized "pure breeds," most dogs in the world today are mongrels. Purebred dogs constitute a category that has been created through human intervention by the selective breeding of dogs with very similar characteristics. Crossbred dogs result when two dogs of different pedigree mate and produce offspring.

In theory, any domestic dog, and many wild dogs, can interbreed with one another, though physical size and geographic range may limit this possibility. Sometimes, purebred dogs are deliberately outcrossed with other breeds to add stability, strength or variety to the existing breed.

Mongrel offspring combine the traits of both

parents and may be created deliberately to produce dogs with mixed skills or physical attributes. Since mongrels combine a more varied mix of genetic traits, they generally do not suffer from purebred ailments. Since interbreeding can lead to a variety of breed-specific weaknesses and diseases, mixed breeds are often more hearty and healthy.

Nearly every breed has been created by combining dogs and fostering a new line, meaning that even pedigreed dogs began their evolutionary journeys as mongrels. Today, a new breed can become a recognized group if the repeatability of the genetic line is established and it is proven that inbred weaknesses have been eliminated or diminished.

