



# Dog Facts: Dog Breeds & Groups

A **breed** is a relatively homogeneous group of animals within a species, developed and maintained by man. All dogs, impure as well as pure-bred, and several wild cousins such as wolves and foxes, are one family. Each breed was created by man, using selective breeding to get desired qualities. The result is an almost unbelievable diversity of purebred dogs which will, when bred to others of their breed produce their own kind. Through the ages, man designed dogs that could hunt, guard, or herd according to his needs.

The following is the listing of the 7 American Kennel Club Groups in which similar breeds are organized. There are other dog registries, such as the United Kennel Club (known as the UKC) that lists these and many other breeds of dogs not recognized by the AKC at present.

## Sporting Group



Naturally active and alert, Sporting dogs make likeable, well rounded companions. Members of the Group include pointers, retrievers, setters and spaniels. Remarkable for their instincts in water and woods, many of these breeds actively continue to participate in hunting and other field activities. Potential owners of Sporting dogs need to realize that most require regular, invigorating exercise.

American Water Spaniel  
Brittany  
Chesapeake Bay Retriever  
Clumber Spaniel  
Cocker Spaniel  
Curly-Coated Retriever  
English Cocker Spaniel  
English Springer Spaniel  
English Setter  
Field Spaniel  
Flat-Coated Retriever  
German Shorthaired Pointer  
German Wirehaired Pointer  
Golden Retriever  
Gordon Setter  
Irish Setter  
Irish Water Spaniel  
Labrador Retriever  
Pointer  
Sussex Spaniel  
Vizsla  
Weimaraner  
Welsh Springer Spaniel  
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

## Non-Sporting Group



Non-sporting dogs are a diverse group. Here are sturdy animals with as different personalities and appearances as the Chow Chow, Dalmatian, French Bulldog, and Keeshond. Talk about differences in size, coat, and visage! Some, like the Schipperke and Tibetan Spaniel are uncommon sights in the average neighborhood. Others, however, like the Poodle and Lhasa Apso, have quite a large following. The breeds in the Non-Sporting Group are a varied collection in terms of size, coat, personality and overall appearance.

American Eskimo Dog  
Bichon Frise  
Boston Terrier  
Bulldog  
Chinese Sharpei  
Chow Chow  
Dalmatian  
Finnish Spitz  
French Bulldog  
Keeshond  
Lhasa Apso  
Poodle  
Schipperke  
Shiba Inu  
Tibetan Spaniel

## Terrier Group



People familiar with this Group invariably comment on the distinctive terrier personality. These are feisty, energetic dogs whose sizes range from fairly small, as in the Norfolk, Cairn or West Highland White Terrier, to the grand Airedale Terrier. Terriers typically have little tolerance for other animals, including other dogs. Their ancestors were bred to hunt and kill vermin. Many continue to project the attitude that they're always eager for a spirited argument. Most terriers have wiry coats that require special care known as stripping in order to maintain a characteristic appearance. In general, they make engaging pets, but require owners with the determination to match their dogs' lively characters.

Airedale Terrier  
American Staffordshire Terrier  
Australian Terrier  
Bedlington Terrier  
Border Terrier  
Bull Terrier  
Cairn Terrier  
Dandie Dinmont Terrier  
Fox Terrier (Smooth)  
Fox Terrier (Wire)  
Irish Terrier  
Kerry Blue Terrier  
Lakeland Terrier  
Manchester Terrier  
Miniature Bull Terrier  
Miniature Schnauzer  
Norfolk Terrier  
Norwich Terrier  
Scottish Terrier  
Sealyham Terrier  
Skye Terrier  
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier  
Staffordshire Bull Terrier  
Welsh Terrier  
West Highland White Terrier

## Hound Group



Most hounds share the common ancestral trait of being used for hunting. Some use acute scenting powers to follow a trail. Others demonstrate a phenomenal gift of stamina as they relentlessly run down quarry. Beyond this, however, generalizations about hounds are hard to come by, since the Group encompasses quite a diverse lot. There are Pharaoh Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Afghans and Beagles, among others. Some hounds share the distinct ability to produce a unique sound known as baying.

Afghan Hound  
Basenji  
Basset Hound  
Beagle  
Black and Tan Coonhound  
Bloodhound  
Borzo  
Dachshund  
Foxhound (American)  
Foxhound (English)  
Greyhound  
Harrier  
Ibizan Hound  
Irish wolfhound  
Norwegian Elkhound  
Otterhound  
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen  
Pharaoh Hound  
Rhodesian Ridgeback  
Saluki  
Scottish Deerhound  
Whippet