



The Scottish Deerhound

The Scottish Deerhound Club of America congratulates you on your new puppy! You have carefully selected the Scottish Deerhound so we would like to provide you with resources to ensure you enjoy this magnificent and ancient breed.

History of the Deerhound

Often referred to in historical texts as variations of a Greyhound or Wolfdog, the Scottish Deerhound's origin dates as far back as the third century. Originally used to course the Red Deer or Highland Stag, the Scottish Deerhound's stature, keen sight, speed and power made it a formidable asset in the pursuit and killing of the wild stag. This sighthound's coursing and deer-stalking traits, along with beauty, grace and elegance, were carefully nurtured as its importance waned with the advent of the rifle. By the end of the 19th century, great efforts in breeding secured the Deerhound's historic authenticity. For more in-depth reading please see the Resources section and the SDCA website, www.deerhound.org

Breed Characteristics

The Scottish Deerhound is an athletic and well-muscled sighthound with a jovial zest for life. It is a breed that requires sufficient exercise, preferably in large, open spaces and safely fenced areas. While Deerhounds are sweet and gentle, often seen lounging on the couch, they are playful, agile and quick-witted athletes whose play style emulates their hunting prowess and often seems more rough than other breeds. Deerhounds love companionship and will return your affection and care beyond measure. Mostly great travelers, Scottish Deerhounds are adaptable and easy-going. It is no wonder Sir Walter Scott called the Scottish Deerhound "the most perfect creatures of heaven."

Puppy Care Guide

Your new puppy has arrived and we couldn't be happier for you! The SDCA has mentors to guide you, but it is your puppy's breeder who can provide invaluable answers to your questions. As new owners, confirm whether your pup has been positively identified via tattoo or microchip. Registration is critical in reuniting owners and their pets. Proper nutrition, socialization, exercise and stimulation are important for your puppy.

Sleeping and playing are essential activities for your Deerhound. With any luck your puppy is sleeping at your feet right now. Make no mistake however, your sweet Deerhound is probably dreaming of unattended food on the counter and shoes by your bedside. Your pup needs plenty of stimulation with exercise, toys, and interactions with your family, or another canine friend. Safely fenced property is necessary for all sighthounds. Early, consistent grooming should be high on your agenda. The SDCA recommends weekly brushing and nail trimming even if just to help your pup feel comfortable with these tasks.



Your puppy will thrive on a quality diet. Become familiar with health traits associated with this large breed. Attention paid to your pup's pedigree and guidance from your breeder and veterinarian will enhance quality and quantity of life. Deerhounds mature slowly and reach full maturity between 3-4 years of age.

Health

The health of your Scottish Deerhound has as much to do with its pedigree as the care you provide. Special attention should be paid to heart health, Factor VII, Osteosarcoma, Bloat and Cystinuria. Speak with your veterinarian regarding anesthesia protocols. Your breeder should identify health traits that may exist in your puppy's pedigree, going back at least five generations. To prevent accidental or unwanted

breedings, you should consult with your breeder and veterinarian regarding safe and proper spay/neuter options. In-depth research results, current protocols and discussion group information is available on the SDCA website, www.deerhound.org.

Activities and Training

Whether you pursue ribbons, titles, accolades or the pure joy of fellow enthusiasts, Deerhounds have excelled in many activities and competitions. Training and repetition combined with fun are key components to success. Though seemingly indifferent, Deerhounds have excelled in Obedience and Conformation. Some have thrilled audiences with their Agility skills, though due to size may lack a winning speed through tight obstacles compared to low to the ground breeds. Deerhounds with keen prey drive can be exceptional Lure Coursers and Racers. Some have warmed the hearts of many as Therapy dogs. No matter what your desire, consistency in training, patience and attentiveness to your specific dog's triggers are important. Most of all, participants should have fun. You will find that some sighthounds enjoy Conformation and some do not. Embrace your moments of fun no matter what activity you choose.

Breeding

Breeders play an essential role in the preservation and success of the Scottish Deerhound. If you are interested in breeding your carefully selected Scottish Deerhound puppy when it is a mature adult, do your research. It is only through responsible breeding and care in the genetic selection of traits true to the history and health of this majestic hound that we have a sound breed today consistent with the breed standard. The SDCA has guidelines for responsible breeding and encourages specific health testing criteria with attention paid to pedigree, temperament, performance,

and excellent record keeping. Faithful adherence to upholding the breed standard is of utmost importance should you decide to breed some day. It is important for you to keep up on health issues and partner with the SDCA as it continues in its pursuit of healthy breeding by advocating genetic research with ever-increasing advanced testing methods. Consider becoming involved with the SDCA.

Resources

The Scottish Deerhound Club of America has existed for more than 110 years. Copies of the Breed Standard, Reference Guides and membership application forms are available at www.deerhound.org. The SDCA Secretary is Laura Studer, lauras@hcc.net.

Reading List

The Scottish Deerhound, E. Weston Bell. (1892).
Reprint available from Hoflin Publishing.

Scotch Deer Hounds and Their Masters, George Cupples (1894). Reprint available from Amazon.com.

The Scottish Deerhound: An Overview of its Care and Requirements, Miranda Levin.
Available at www.deerhound.org.

The Deerhound, A.N. Hartley.
Available from Amazon.

Living With Deerhounds, Kay Barret.
Available from Amazon UK or email Kay to arrange PayPal (mail@stranwith.co.uk).

Your Scottish Deerhound Primer, Barbara Heidenreich.
Available from Barbara at www.deerhound.org.

Scottish Deerhound (Comprehensive Owners Guide), Juliette Cunliffe. Available from Amazon.

Scottish Deerhound Annuals.
Available from Hoflin Publishing.

SDCA Membership

The SDCA strives to advance, support and nurture the welfare of the Scottish Deerhound. If you are not a member, please consider subscribing to *The Claymore* first. *The Claymore* is a wonderfully produced, color publication, published six times per year. It is chock full of information from various regions of North America, including storytelling, both anecdotal and scientific, to news from the more detailed competition and health research results. It's a great resource to become acquainted with the Scottish Deerhound!



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