Pointer

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Also known as the English Pointer, the Pointer is a large sporting dog that hunts by scent. Powerful yet aristocratic, the Pointer has an alert, intelligent expression and is full of energy. The Pointer is an ideal hunting dog, and his even temperament makes him a great companion dog in the field. He is a congenial housedog as well. To locate game, the pointer stands rigid with his nose pointing in the direction of the prey and his tall tail held high and straight above his body.

History

The breed is thought by some to have originated in Spain, but the first reliable records on Pointers are from 17th century Britain. The English Pointer is believed to have been established by crossing a number of different hounds and possibly a spaniel breed.

Living with a Pointer

A Pointer needs room to run and might not make an ideal apartment dog. The breed tends to be a bit reserved with strangers, but within the family is calm and adaptable. The Pointer is very active outdoors and hunting instincts develop very early, with some puppies showing pointing behavior as young as 6-7 weeks of age. The Pointer is usually good with other pets. The short, smooth coat of the Pointer is groomed easily, but can still have skin problems. Start getting a pup used to being examined and groomed early on. According to the AKC, the Pointer's "every movement shows him to be a wide-awake, hard-driving hunting dog possessing stamina, courage, and the desire to go. And in his expression are the loyalty and devotion of a true friend of man."

Interesting Breed Facts:

Popularity: 111th in 2008; with 369 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC).

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First recognized as a breed:	At least as far back as the 17th century in Britain. The AKC first recognized the breed in the late 19th century.
AKC Grouping:	Sporting.
Size:	Height between 23-28 inches at the shoulder, weight range is 44-75 lbs.
Appearance:	The Pointer's medium-width skull has a slight furrow between the eyes. The nasal bone is formed so that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than at the start of the muzzle. Drop ears are set at eye level and should reach just below the lower jaw. The coat is short and dense with a smooth sheen. Acceptable colors are liver, lemon, black, or orange, either combined with white or solid. An immediate impression of power and agility and an alert, intelligent expression are all features of the ideal Pointer.
#1 preventable health problem:	Skin conditions that can be controlled with observation and a regular grooming program.
Preferences:	Being out in the field working with his master.
Best features:	Even temperament and good sense.
Biggest challenge to owners:	Keeping that restless energy in check. Lots of vigorous exercise and field training will help.

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