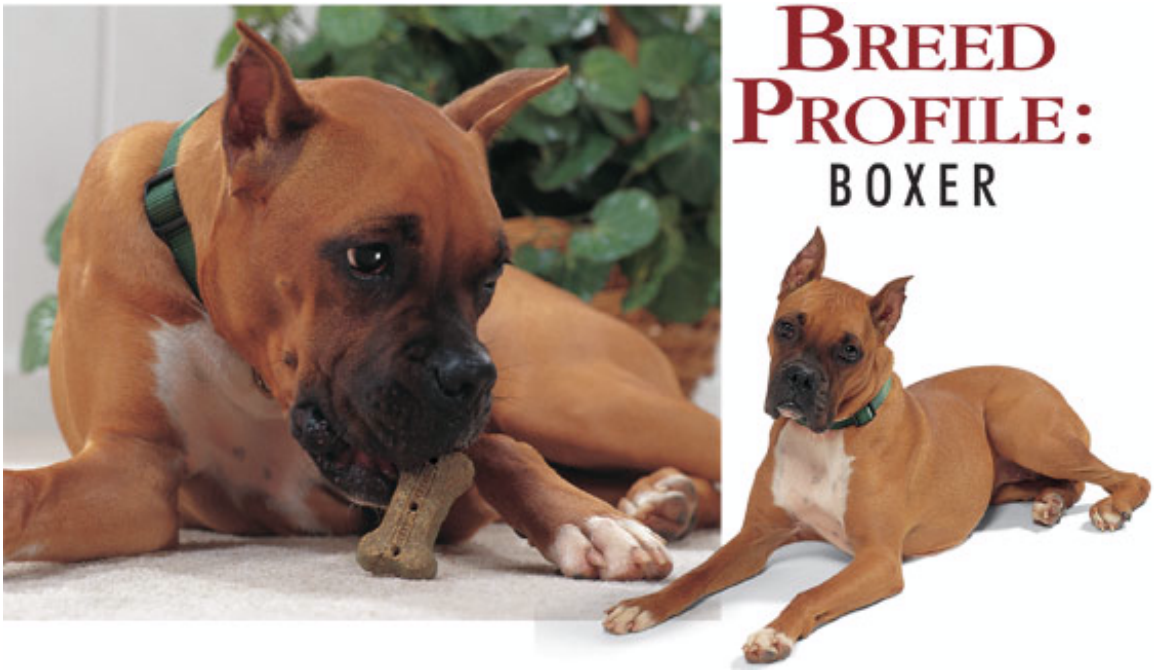
# Boxer

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*




The Boxer is a breed with both beauty and strength. A fun-loving dog, the Boxer makes a very good family pet, as well as a watchdog. The Boxer's inquisitive eyes and affectionate personality have made it one of the most popular breeds in the country.

| Interesting Breed Facts: | |
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| **Popularity:** | Ranked 6th in 2008 with the American Kennel Club (AKC). |
| **First recognized as a breed:** | The Boxer bloodline can be traced back to the early 1600s. However, it was not until 1850 that the modern Boxer was first bred in Germany. They were first accepted by the AKC in 1904. The current breed standard was approved on February 11, 2005. |
| **AKC Grouping:** | Working. |
| **Size:** | Males measures between 22-1/2" to 25" high at the shoulders and females measures between 21"-23-1/2" high. Both sexes weigh between 55-70 lbs. |



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| **Appearance:** | The Boxer is a solid-built medium-sized dog. The head is clean and wrinkles appear on the forehead when her ears are erect. She has a blunt muzzle and alert expression according to the breed standard. The eyes are dark brown and the nose is upturned and black. The ears are set high on the head and may be cropped or left natural. The neck is muscular with tight skin. The body is fairly wide and muscular. The tail is usually set high on the body, docked, and carried upward. The legs are long, straight, and well muscled, and the feet are compact. The coat is short and shiny, and lays smooth and tight to the body. The coat can be either fawn or brindle. The fawn coloring varies from light to dark. The brindle markings can be thin to very substantial, giving the impression of reverse brindling (when the coat appears to be dark colored with light colored brindle markings). White markings may also be present, but not usually on more than 1/3 of the body. Predominately white boxers are disqualified from the show ring but make excellent pets and performance dogs (agility, obedience). |
| **#1 preventable health problem:** | Some Boxers are prone to certain heart diseases, a nervous system disease called degenerative myelopathy, hip dysplasia, and some cancer. If getting a puppy, check that the parents or grandparents have not been diagnosed with these diseases. Regular veterinarian check-ups, a strict diet, and suitable exercise are essential to encourage a healthy, active life. |
| **Preferences:** | The Boxer has a high amount of energy and needs to be exercised daily with walks or jogs. A Boxer is able to live in urban areas and will do best in a fenced yard since she may like to wander. A Boxer is very intolerant of the heat and only slightly more tolerant of cold. She is not well suited for outdoor living and does best if she can be indoors with her family. |
| **Best features:** | The loyal Boxer is typically good with family and friends and tends to be particularly patient with children. However, Boxers may be slightly aggressive towards strange dogs and other pets and a bit wary of strangers. Once acquainted, however, a Boxer can be your family's best friend. They also have a life expectancy of about 10 years. |



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| **Biggest challenge to owners:** | Training is necessary for a Boxer, but can be accomplished fairly easily even though she may have the tendency to be stubborn. The Boxer is very playful and because of this and her amount of energy, she requires a large amount of attention. The Boxer is low maintenance as far as grooming is concerned. Brushing will only need to be occasionally performed. |



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