

Bloodhound



A dog of great size and imposing dignity, the Bloodhound must be recognised by even the least doggy people. His amazing ability to follow a human scent over all types of terrain after many hours has given him an almost super-canine reputation fostered by the writers of detective fiction.

The home country of the breed is Belgium and ancestry can be traced back to the monastery of St. Hubert. In Belgium the Bloodhound is known by his other name of St. Hubert Hound. It is most probable that this hound was one of those brought to England by the Normans in 1066.

The looseness of his skin, especially over the head, and his long pendulous ears are possibly the most characteristic features of the breed, but his powerful limbs and body make him a truly big dog, weighing up to 50 kilograms (110 pounds).

He is generally good-natured and affectionate, but can be surprisingly sensitive. He has the sort of voice which cannot be ignored. His short coat cleans up easily in spite of his tendency when on the trail to plough his way through ditches.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the Bloodhound?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Accredited Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.