

The Afghan Hound



Congratulations on registering your Afghan Hound!!

This flier provides suggestions and cautions to facilitate daily life with your Afghan Hound. Eventually, your Afghan Hound will become sleek, kingly, graceful, and fast. More than likely your puppy is now fuzzy, a bit clumsy, and may look like a man in a dog costume. The period between these extremes is very important in developing a pet who is your best friend and not your worst nightmare!

It is very important that you socialize your puppy from an early age. Your breeder should have started that process, and it is now your responsibility to keep him exposed to the world and the people therein. By nature the Afghan Hound is a one family dog, devoted and emotionally attached to those they know, and wary or standoffish with those they don't.

Training

First of all, be consistent in all things so he learns what is acceptable and what is not. He should have a crate or pen somewhere in your house where he may sleep, or retire to be alone. It is very important that he is trained to stay in this area when you are not at home. This keeps him safe from harm and prevents him from destroying your home.

Afghan Hounds are extremely inquisitive and will chew on or chew up an amazing variety of items if given access. Most long time owners have stories of the time their beloved pet destroyed the sofa, the pillows, the false teeth! Don't become a victim. Provide him with a safe place and a variety of acceptable toys when you are not with him.

A crate is also a valuable housetraining tool. A dog's natural instinct is not to soil his bed so crating him at bedtime, after he relieves himself and is praised, then taking him out very early in the morning will help establish a routine. He also can be put in a crate for times when you can't be there to supervise. He should NOT be crated all day long. If you are at work, arrange to have someone let him out for a romp.

An indoor-outdoor arrangement is best in such a situation. Remember that a large-breed puppy has erratic bladder control and even after a long period of perfection, accidents will happen. Don't lose your cool. If you see an accident begin, loudly say "no" and put him out. If not, just clean up and look forward to the time when accidents no longer happen.

Afghan Hounds are stubborn and seem to only understand "no" when they feel like it. This stubbornness is often

confused with a lack of intelligence. Quite to the contrary; an Afghan Hound just knows that YOU will give up before he does!!! Modern obedience methods using lots of "treats" and lots of patience will produce a well-trained and happy dog. *Never train in anger, and don't lose your temper*—it is counterproductive!

Exercise

Remember that your dog is a sighthound who loves to run and sees things that you can only imagine. If they get loose—they are GONE!!! They are oblivious to traffic when running and tragedy can result. Only let them loose in a securely fenced yard. Your own yard should have a six foot fence because Afghan Hounds are also good jumpers. For your walks, a strong leash and a properly used choke chain are a must. If tired from a long walk with you, he will be less likely to be destructive.

Breeding

Breeding dogs is a great responsibility. Properly done, it requires a significant investment of both time and money. Breeders must be financially and emotionally prepared to house, feed, and socialize an ever growing brood of puppies for the time required to find and screen for proper homes.

Before even considering using your Afghan Hound for breeding, remember that no dog with genetic problems should be bred. He or she should be certified free of hip dysplasia by an X-ray sent to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). He or she should be certified free of genetic eye disease by an examination from a Veterinary Ophthalmologist that is sent to the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF). After health concerns are eliminated, the dog's quality should be assessed.

Over the years, a *Breed Standard* for Afghan Hounds has been developed. It is an approved, written description of how the Afghan Hound should look, move, and act. Conscientious and knowledgeable breeders only breed dogs deemed close to the ideal.

Having a litter of puppies is not beneficial to a female and can occasionally lead to problems. Spayed bitches are often healthier and live longer than intact bitches. Neutered males cannot develop testicular cancer and have a lower risk of developing prostate cancer. With proper feeding and exercise, neither will become overweight.

If you think you would like to breed dogs, take the time to really learn about the breed and find mentors to help you.

Grooming

No doubt one of the things that attracted you to the Afghan Hound was his beautiful coat. Taking care of his coat is a commitment and also a great responsibility. He should never be a “Prince in tatters.” To keep his coat looking beautiful requires several hours a week. You should begin the grooming while he is very small. You are bigger than he is at this point, and it will be easier to get him used to the grooming table and the dryer. A schedule that works well is:

3-6 months

Brushed quickly every day. Bathed and blown dry every 3 weeks.

6-12 months

Brushed every 3 days. Bathed and blown dry every 2 weeks.

12 months and older

Bathed and blown dry once a week. Some dogs will need a bit of extra brushing between baths to prevent tangles in areas such as the underarms.

“Bathed and blown dry” is understood to mean brushed and combed out thoroughly while the dog is drying. This is followed by a final and thorough combing with the same wide-toothed comb to be sure all tangles have been eliminated.

This grooming requires about 45 minutes for baby puppies and 2-1/2 hours (depending on equipment) for adults. Ears must be cleaned and nails may need trimming depending on the exercise surface and age of the dog.

Afghan Hounds are athletes with beautiful sleek lines and look fabulous when neatly clipped. “Neatly” means that a professional and skilled groomer clips the dog before it is matted. Mats are very painful—imagine how you would feel if your arms were connected by a tight web of hair!! If clipped 2 or 3 times a year, your Afghan Hound will look perpetually 8 months old and will be easier to care for. Whichever option you choose, do not let your Afghan Hound have painful mats.

Recommended Grooming Equipment

Grooming table: a must—approx. \$90

Grooming arm: a must—approx. \$18

Pin brush

Wide tooth comb

A soft slicker brush

Dryer: a professional stand dryer is suggested—cost \$250 to \$500. You will be grooming this dog for at least 10 years, so the cost is reasonable when figured annually.

Your breeder will no doubt make suggestions on products to use and of course trial and error will play a roll. Professional groomers charge at least \$50 to groom an Afghan Hound—mats cost more. Plan ahead, select the correct equipment and keep your hound mat free. Products such as *Advantage*, *Frontline* and *Program* can eliminate irritating fleas and ticks.

Veterinary Care

As veterinary medicine and its protocols are continually changing, it is suggested you seek a veterinarian who is familiar with sighthounds and their specific needs such as problems with anesthesia. Ask your breeder and other

sighthound owners for their recommendations and interview several. Asking questions and building a relationship with a vet before a need arises is the best approach. Do your homework!

Suggested Reading

Afghan Hound Review (published 6x yearly)

PO Box 30430, Santa Barbara, CA 93130 (805) 963-9419

email: info@afghanhoundreview.com

Our Afghans. Weddle Publications, 22235 Parthenia Street, Canoga Park, CA 91304. Published monthly since 1967.

email: oaruth@webtv.net

Afghans online website:

www.afghansonline.com

Introduction to the Afghan Hound; the Afghan Hound Club of America, An introduction to the selection, care and grooming of the Afghan Hound. Order from The Afghan Hound Club of America, Helen Stein, Librarian, PO Box 1177, Grants Pass, Oregon 97528. This booklet is out of print but a scanned copy is available on CD-ROM. \$5.00 includes Priority Mail postage; make check payable to AHCA.

This is the Afghan Hound by Joan McDonald Brearly.

Published by TFH Publications, 1965. Out of print but may be available from online sources.

Afghan Hounds by Caroline Coile. Published by Barrons Educational Publications, 1997. Out of print but may be available from online sources.

The Complete Afghan Hound by Constance O. Miller & Edward Gilbert, Jr. Published by Howell Book House.

The Afghan Hound: A DVD on the Standard Available from The American Kennel Club, 919-233-9767 or visit the website: **www.akc.org**

Additional information available

AHCA Regional Clubs

Sharon Pearce
13475SW 113 Kane
Dunnellon FL 34432
phone: 702-296-5612

AHCA Mentor Referral

Chris Pinkston
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Virginia Beach VA 23456
phone: 757-426-2018

Help

If you need help with your new responsibility, you should expect your breeder to assist. There are also breed clubs in most areas of the country. The Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. website can provide you with the names and location of these clubs as well as information on who to contact for information on lure coursing, obedience and agility. A list of books and videos is also available on the website. You will find most Afghan Hound owners are happy to assist and share their experience.

Once again — Congratulations!

www.clubs.akc.org/ahcar