

# The ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG — *Congratulations on Your New Anatolian!*

## HISTORY

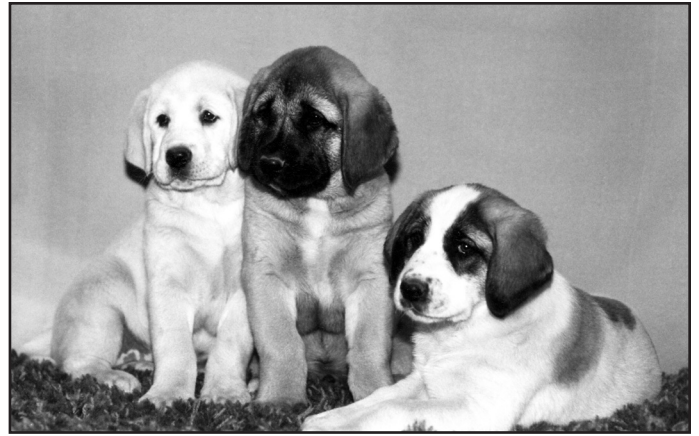
First entering the United States in the 1950's, the Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a livestock guardian breed with its origin in Turkey and Asia Minor. Quite probably over 6,000 years old, the breed is impressive in size, serving Turkish shepherds as front-line defense from predators.

## DESCRIPTION

Large, rugged, powerful and impressive, Anatolians possess great endurance and agility. Developed through a set of very demanding circumstances for a purely utilitarian purpose, he is a working guard dog without equal, with a unique ability to protect livestock. General impression is that he appears bold, but calm, unless challenged. Loyalty, independence, intelligence, and hardiness are just some of the factors appreciated by fanciers of the breed.

## CARE & HOUSING

Adding a large, protective dog to your life should be an earnest and thoughtful process, not an impulsive decision. Anatolians are guardians by instinct, not by training. Their basic personality is different from most breeds, since most breeds were bred to take commands from people. Anatolians, however, were created to make decisions on their own with little or no input from people. They have minds of their own and are not easily obedience trained. Things that you consider important may not be the same things your Anatolian considers important. Anatolians must be confined in a well-fenced area or they will exercise their powerful instinct to establish and patrol a large territory. Fences should be a minimum of 6 feet high, and gates must have adequate and secure locks. When outside of the fence, Anatolians must be kept on leash at all times. Underground or invisible fencing is not appropriate. Very often it will not keep them enclosed if they want out badly enough. The Anatolian is a guardian dog, and as such cannot be expected to welcome uninvited guests onto your property: however, a properly raised and socialized Anatolian should accept anyone whom you invite into your home who is introduced properly. It is an owner's obligation to maintain



an Anatolian so that his guarding instincts can be exercised in a responsible manner.

## HEALTH & FEEDING

Given proper care and nourishment, an Anatolian is a basically healthy dog. Life spans of twelve or more years are not uncommon. Feed a well balanced diet not too high in protein with a proper mineral, fat and calorie content. Clean, fresh water should be available at all times. Pups and grown dogs love to chew. They have strong jaws and you must be sure to only give them appropriate items to chew. The Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America (ASDCA) has a "Health Handbook" available which gives you information with regards to health issues for the ASD. The ASDCA is a Code of Ethics AKC Recognized Parent Breed Club. An ethical breeder will screen his breeding stock for specific diseases and freely furnish information regarding the health status of the parents of the puppies.

## GROOMING

A healthy Anatolian coat sheds dirt and does not require a great deal of maintenance. Bathing when needed, weekly brushing, and use of a slicker brush to help remove the undercoat during the shedding season is needed. Weekly toenail trimming and ear cleaning should also be part of your dog's grooming routine and should be started while your Anatolian is still a young puppy.

## TRAINING

Training an Anatolian puppy can be very different from other breeds. Their natural independence can cause them to be slower to respond to commands. Early socialization is extremely important with introductions to as many new experiences as possible. This will help produce a secure and confident adult. It must also be noted that socialization will not hinder your dog's natural working ability. A good



puppy kindergarten class is a must. Discipline must be firm, fair, consistent, and immediate. Remember this puppy cannot be allowed to hurt livestock in any way and it is the same with humans. It is up to you to be firm and consistent with him. No puppy should ever put his teeth on a human or livestock for any reason or be allowed to engage in rough games such as wrestling. His up bringing must be loving but firm and care must be taken never to punish an Anatolian unjustly. Contact your breeder if you have any problems.

## BREEDING & SPAY/NEUTER

Shelters destroy many pets every year. Most are from poorly planned or unwanted litters. Only those Anatolians closest to the ideal standard and who pass their recommended health tests should be bred. Breeding is serious and should not be a casual undertaking. A responsible breeder must make sure puppies are placed with loving, capable, and responsible owners. Protect your dog and the future of the breed by spaying or neutering your non breeding dogs.

## SAFETY

Help ensure your dog's safety by permanently identifying your dog with a microchip. See the AKC Companion Animal Recovery program (CAR). <http://www.akccar.org> or 1-800-252-7894.

## THE ANATOLIAN WORKING DOG

By nature, the Anatolian is semi-nocturnal. It has to be supervised as a young pup and occasionally corrected. It usually takes at least 18 months to become an effective livestock guardian dog. A quality of the Anatolian is the absolute intolerance of all predators (including strange dogs, animals and people), coupled with extraordinary patience and kindness to stock and the ability to work in many settings and under many circumstances.

## ACTIVITIES YOU AND YOUR ANATOLIAN CAN DO TOGETHER

Anatolians can compete in many events. Competition in the conformation breed ring can earn an AKC championship title. Performance events are open to all Anatolians, including those that have been spayed or neutered. Performance events include Rally, Obedience, Agility, Tracking and Carting. The breed is naturally intuitive to people's feelings and emotions and well socialized Anatolians often excel at visiting hospitals and nursing homes.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANATOLIANS

Please visit the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America (ASDCA) web site at [www.asdca.org](http://www.asdca.org). At our web site you can find more depth of information and other important breed resources for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog. You are also invited to become a member of ASDCA and a membership application is available for download. Additionally, you may call our Breed Information Contact at 715-443-3509 for more information.

