

# THE IRISH SETTER

## INDEPENDENT, LOVING, WITH A ROLLICKING PERSONALITY AND STRONG HUNTING INSTINCT

*The Irish Setter has been termed by artists to be the most beautiful of all dogs. With its flowing silky mahogany red coat, long ears, soft expression, and regal presence, this dog turns heads wherever it goes.*

### HISTORY

The origin of the Irish Setter is not known, however, it is very reasonable to believe, that it evolved from a combination of land spaniels. These land spaniels were imported to Ireland from Spain when the Spaniards helped the Irish in their rebellion against the British.

The breed, established as early as 1800 was not originally of solid color, but rather a combination of red and white. Through selective breeding, the rich mahogany red color was derived and the red and white became a breed unto themselves.

Irish Setters were used to “set” game, hence the name “setters.” They found upland game birds, and crouched down close to their find so that a hunter could advance and throw a net over both dog and bird. When firearms were introduced, the setter took on a more upright stance, and the breed became proficient in retrieving their game.

The Irish Setter today, with its keen nose and independent spirit, is the choice of many sportsmen who enjoy a good day of hunting with a solid and loyal companion. In AKC field trials both walking and off horseback and in AKC hunting tests their performance is admired by judges, and their temperament makes them eager to please, greatly assisting in trainability.

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Irish Setter is an active, aristocratic bird dog, rich mahogany in color, substantial yet elegant in build. Standing over two feet tall at the shoulder, the dog has a straight fine glossy coat, longer on ears, chest, tail and



back of legs. Afield he is a swift mover, at home, a loyal companion.

### TEMPERAMENT

The Irish Setter has a rollicking personality, which is an inherent part of his charm. While he outgrows puppy manners, he never is too old to be playful. Shyness, hostility or timidity are uncharacteristic of the breed. It should be remembered when acquiring an Irish, that they are high energy and require consistent regular exercise.

### GROOMING

It is essential that an Irish Setter receive basic grooming. His coat should be brushed regularly to keep it free from burrs, snarls and mats. Good brushing also stimulates the production of natural oils, and gives the coat that glorious mahogany gloss. If brushing is regular, it is not time consuming. Ears, eyes and feet are also an important part of regular care and add to the overall beauty and health of your dog.

### BREEDING

Most Irish Setter owners purchase puppies to be companions. Responsible breeders are happy to

sell puppies to loving homes and frequently sell them with restrictions on breeding to protect the breed. If the breeder considers the puppy to be “companion quality” (not to be shown or bred) AKC papers may be withheld or issued on an AKC Limited registration. Remember, these papers are part of your new Irish Setter’s history and are not for sale separately.

**PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION**

Protect your Irish Setter from loss or theft by always keeping the dog under control when outdoors. Permanent identification by means of a microchip or tattoo is the safest method of finding your dog should it be lost. AKC’s Reunite will register your dog’s number and there is a 24-hour toll-free hotline that helps reunite owners and dogs. For information call 800-252-7894.

**CARE OF THE NEW PUPPY**

Irish Setter puppies require love and firm, intelligent training. They must be persuaded to obey but never by force or abuse. Provide



a safe, enclosed area for daily exercise, or exercise them on a leash at regular intervals during the day.

Feed a nutritious, balanced diet. While your puppy is getting accustomed to its new home, follow the breeder’s recommendations for feeding.

Veterinary care should be a part of every dog’s annual routine. After bringing your new pup home, take it to a veterinarian of your choice to confirm that he/she is in

good health. Take the records of your puppy’s vaccination history and worming with you. Regular vaccines and examinations will help keep your puppy healthy and growing well.



**MY DOG CAN DO THAT**

The Irish Setter, like all other pointing breeds, was originally bred to find game both for sport and to put a meal on the table. For generations, careful breeders selected dogs for breeding that would continue to enhance the breeds’ natural ability to perform its tasks. The Irish Setter is a versatile breed and loves to take on any challenge.



AKC Events of interest to sporting breeds are growing annually and to date, the Irish Setter is typically seen in:

- *Conformation Breed Ring*
- *Field Trials*
- *Hunting Tests*
- *Obedience*
- *Rally*
- *Tracking*
- *Agility*
- *Junior Showmanship (upon maturity)*

