

Congratulations

on your new

Pointer!

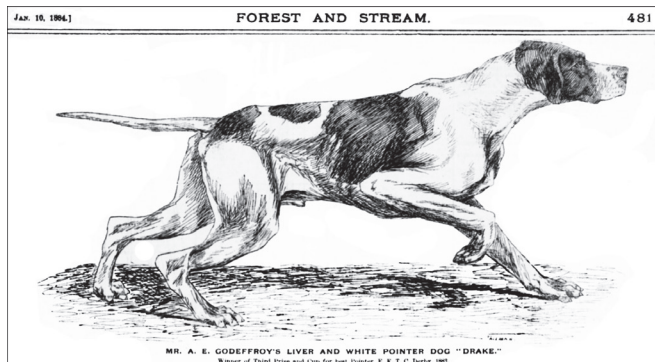


You are now the caretaker of centuries of bloodlines crafted into this wonderful package of genuine versatility.

Welcome to our world!

History

The Pointer was one of eight breeds originally registered in the United States in 1878 and recognized when the American Kennel Club was founded in 1884. Their history goes back centuries across the European Continent, arriving in England around 1650. Pointers came to the perfection we know today during the mid-1800s as shown below in an 1884 engraving.



In 1859, only Pointers and Setters competed in the very first dog show at Newcastle upon Tyne—a Pointer won. The first field trial was held in 1865—and a Pointer won that as well.

Pointers in America can be traced to pre-Civil War years when they were brought as sporting companions from the British Isles. The first American dog shows and organized field trials were held in 1874. Pointers were well represented in those early competitions and have been ever since. The famous Westminster Kennel Club was formed to perfect the Pointer and held its first bench show in 1877. The English import "Sensation" is still featured on the club's logo.

Description

Appearance & Characteristics

The Pointer is bred primarily for sport afield; he should unmistakably look and act the part! The ideal specimen gives the immediate impression of compact power and agile grace; the head noble, proudly carried, the

expression intelligent and alert; the muscular body bespeaking both staying power and dash. Here is an individual whose every movement shows him to be a wide awake, hard driving hunting dog possessing stamina, courage, and the desire to go. And in his expression are the loyalty and devotion of a true friend of man.

Pointers have great endurance, intelligence and powers of smell. They are often considered the "Cadillac" of bird dogs! They find game birds by catching scent in the air, rather than the ground, but do not flush or kill their quarry. They stand frozen on point until the hunter approaches, the birds rise and are shot on the wing. Many Pointers are also taught to retrieve the birds after they are shot and fall to the ground and deliver them kindly to hand.



Pointers make very desirable companions! Along with their affectionate dispositions, they are most eager to please. They thrive in comfortable living accommodations inside the home with both adults and children.

Always busy, Pointers need to have supervised play, plenty of exercise and a fenced yard to safely run to keep their minds positively directed. Basic manners should be taught as early as possible, remembering that kindness, patience and firmness applied consistently are not mutually exclusive when training such a clever (and sometimes stubborn) companion. While not a guard dog, they are extremely alert and protective of their domain and will bark to announce

the presence of anyone or thing they hear or see that they consider out of the ordinary.

Care

Health & Well-Being

The years ahead can be especially rewarding for both of you when attention is paid to your Pointer's health and well-being. Pointers are generally healthy, with a life expectancy between 10-14 years.

As with any breed, there are a few known health concerns, such as epilepsy, hip dysplasia, eye and autoimmune disorders (skin allergies, hypothyroidism, etc). Even though parents have been x-rayed and cleared of genetic disorders, they can still carry the genes for them. It is always recommended that health tests be performed before you consider breeding your dog in order to decrease the odds of passing on harmful genes.

It is very important to find a veterinarian that you are comfortable with and have confidence in to care for your Pointer. All dogs should have an annual exam and be up-to-date on shots until a more serious need might arise. Feed a high-quality, nutritious, well-balanced commercial diet and always provide plenty of fresh, clean water.

Pointers are easy to groom and maintain—simply an occasional bath when needed, brushing with a soft/medium bristle brush or your hands to remove dead hair, regular nail trimming and gentle ear cleaning.

Brushing your Pointer's teeth is also most beneficial. Your vet can show you how and provide you with proper supplies.



Activities

Training & Events

The Pointer is built to do just about anything! Besides joining you on the sofa, the Pointer also excels in field trials, hunting tests, conformation competition, obedience, tracking, agility and rally events. Check out www.akc.org,

and particularly www.americanpointerclub.org, to learn about where to find, train and participate in the many available AKC events. Even if you do not choose to pursue one of these activities at the moment, getting together with other Pointer enthusiasts is a sport in itself.

If your Pointer is to be a house pet, it is highly recommended that it be given some sort of obedience training. Not only will your puppy learn to mind its manners, but it will learn proper socialization as well.



Breed

Or Spay & Neuter?

Before you consider using your Pointer as a stud dog or brood bitch, remember that dogs with genetic defects should NOT be bred.

Breeding is a tremendous responsibility. Think carefully about the considerable time and financial investment you will shoulder to properly raise a litter. Ethically you will be responsible for the rest of their lives. Unless your Pointer is an exceptional representative of the breed, (not just in your opinion), active consideration should be given to the option of spaying or neutering (castration).

Spayed or neutered Pointers may participate in all AKC events (including Junior Showmanship) except conformation, and will generally enjoy a healthier life because of the greatly reduced chance of contracting uterine cancer or breast cancer in bitches and prostate cancer and the elimination of testicular cancer in males. Speak with your vet about other health and behavioral advantages to having your Pointer spayed or neutered.

Find Out More

As a member of the American Kennel Club, the American Pointer Club, Inc. is the guardian of the breed and determines the official standard for conformation. To learn more about our club and its objectives, please visit our Web site at

www.americanpointerclub.org

and feel free to explore the information provided about the breed, news about upcoming events and the possibility of becoming a member.

