

Congratulations on choosing a Portuguese Water Dog Puppy!

You are now a member of the growing community of owners dedicated to a working breed that was a vital part of the Portuguese life. We hope the following information will be useful as you get acquainted with your new companion.

National Breed Club

The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc. (PWDCA) the national breed club, was founded in 1972. Its By-laws include a mission of encouraging and promoting healthy dogs with sound temperaments.



Breed Standard

A breed standard is written for every AKC recognized purebred dog breed. Ours was originally developed in the 1930's under the auspices of Dr. Bensaude in Portugal. His Algarbiorum line had the earliest Portuguese Water Dogs registered with Clube Português De Canicultura, which is Portugal's kennel club. The original Portuguese standard was



translated and minimally revised for the United States so that it still defines the breed's conformation and temperament based on the work for which they were bred.

The Portuguese Water Dog was a loyal companion that accompanied the fisherman on their boats. The dog was required to spend long hours working in the sea and on boats taking out nets and lines, placing and retrieving traps, and acting as couriers to other boats or to shore. Portuguese Water Dogs also acted as guardians of the boats and the day's catch.

Responsible Breeding

The PWDCA protects and maintains the good health of the breed by establishing ethical breeding practices and promoting participation in a variety of health programs.



Breeding dogs sound in mind and body that conform to the breed standard is a basic responsibility of PWDCA members.

The Portuguese Water Dog Today

In the 1970's, our breed was quite rare. In 2014, over 1500 dogs were registered with AKC.



Portuguese Water Dogs In and Out of the Water

The breed standard describes PWDs: "This highly intelligent utilitarian breed is distinguished by two coat types, either curly or wavy; an impressive head of considerable breadth and a well-proportioned mass; a ruggedly built, well-knit body; and a powerful, thickly based tail carried gallantly or used purposefully as a rudder. The



Portuguese Water Dog provides an indelible impression of strength, spirit and soundness."

The AKC provides us with a number of ways to work with and expand our bond with these wonderful companions. Conformation, obedience, agility, rally, tracking, nosework, barn hunt, Coursing Ability Test, and therapy are all ways to earn titles or just have fun with our Portuguese Water Dogs.



Courier

The *Courier* is the PWDCA breed club magazine. The *Courier* was the winner of The Dog Writers Association of America "Best Breed Club Magazine" award nine

times. The magazine is available to all members of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America.

Helpful Hints

Crate Train Your Dog: A crate will aid in housebreaking as well as provide a safe space for a puppy to be when you are not home or unable to supervise. When traveling with your puppy in the car the crate provides a secure area in which the puppy is able to settle down.

Puppy Socialization: Portuguese Water Dog puppies need training and socialization and to experience the benefit from play with other young dogs. Ask your veterinarian, local boarding kennels, or other dog owners in your area about local obedience clubs that use positive reinforcement training methods. Some of the best facilities use clicker training.

The PWDCA on the Internet: The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America website is a resource we are very proud of and has a wealth of information. The following categories can be accessed at

www.pwdca.org

Breed Information, About PWDCA, Health, Activities, and Resources.

Publications

The Portuguese Water Dog: A Guide for The New Owner by Verne K. Foster

The New Complete Portuguese Water Dog by Kathryn Braund

The Portuguese Water Dog by Carla Molinari