



Welcome to your new

# Treeing Walker Coonhound



## A Few Words about Our History

Treeing Walker Coonhounds are one of the few truly American dogs. The breed was specifically developed for hunting conditions in America. In 1742, Dr. Thomas Walker, an American born British Gentleman, like many of his contemporaries, imported six or eight English Foxhounds. These dogs were not very suitable for hunting the heavily forested east coast, especially the Appalachian Mountains he explored. Eventually these dogs became the foundation stock for a breed that would be called the Treeing Walker Coonhound. Called "the people's choice" among all coonhound breeds, the energetic Treeing Walker is perfectly suited for the task for which it was bred—tracking and treeing wild raccoons in their natural haunts. The breed's competitive spirit makes it an ideal choice for competitive coonhound events where the breed excels. The Treeing Walker Coonhound is alert, intelligent, active, courteous, and courageous with extreme endurance and the desire to perform.

## Living with a Treeing Walker Coonhound

Basically a happy-go-lucky breed, they adapt easily to most situations. They are very people oriented and enjoy being with the family. They are very good with children and are seldom quarrelsome with other animals. They are playful but gentle despite their proportions. The breed is slow to mature and requires patience and a firm and loving hand. Independent by nature, do not expect exacting obedience from your Treeing Walker, rather compliance from a loving friend.

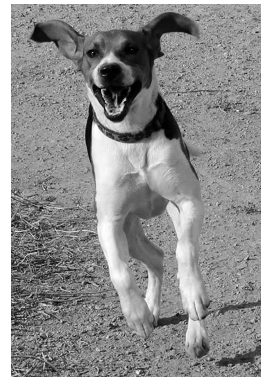
Treeing Walkers are medium-large dogs (65- 100 pounds). They thrive on human companionship and enjoy being part of their owner's life. Hunting isn't essential, but moderate exercise *is* essential. The average lifespan is 10-12 years. Early socialization is necessary for the puppy to grow up calm and confident. As house dogs, Treeing Walkers can be very laid back,



and they enjoy their creature comforts. If you are not willing to share your furniture with your hound, you may be fighting an uphill battle. Most Treeing Walkers are good travelers and enjoy car rides.

Most have a funny sense of humor. They tend to chase and tree small animals and your neighbors may object to their beautiful sing voices. A

secured area is essential unless you live on enough acreage for your Treeing Walker to exercise safely. In the field, Treeing Walker Coonhounds work their trail quickly with skill and determination, with nose to ground, giving voice the moment their quarry trail is struck and then treed. Though especially bred for coon, these dogs train well for the bear hunter, mountain "cat" hunter, right down to the squirrel hunting enthusiast without too much additional training.



Their short, dense coat makes them easy to groom and care for; a monthly bath, regular ear cleaning is a must on those long ears, and a quick brush with a hard hound brush.

## Training Your Treeing Walker

**Competition** comprises exercises that must be performed in order to be awarded the AKC obedience titles. If possible, visit obedience training classes in your area and observe the training methods. A Treeing Walker does not respond favorably to a heavy hand.

**Manners.** You may never consider competing in the obedience ring, but the difference between a well mannered dog and one that's not could be your sanity. The main idea is to have a dog you can live with. Teach the limits and restrictions early and consistently. Third, if you wish to hunt your Treeing Walker in the woods, a few commands may make quite a difference. Coming in when called, heeling, and command to stop barking (perhaps in the truck) will make your hunting trip more enjoyable.

Even the few exercises required in the show ring are a form of obedience. To stand still when examined and to gait properly demand training and practice. Whether you participate in hunting, showing, obedience or just want an enjoyable pet, exercise is very important! Run

that extra energy out before practicing, then again after; make it fun – let them look forward to these sessions with eagerness.

A lot of trainers report that their Treeing Walkers approach training in many different ways. Some will perform without a hitch, but with minimal amount of enthusiasm, while some enjoy every moment of practice, but tend to deviate from the exercises. These dogs like to practice “creative obedience” – adding their own touches to the commands. Perhaps you may be working too slowly, or training the exercises in the same order. Try to vary the order and/or add new ones. Above all, enjoy your dog. When you give him a job to do, he will be happy.

The tracking enthusiast will find it difficult to find a more eager trainee than our Treeing Walker Coonhounds – what better sport than tracking with a dog bred to use his nose!

## Before You Breed

If you plan to breed a litter, the first step is an honest comparison of your Treeing Walker Coonhound to the breed standard. Obtain a copy from the AKC ([www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)) or Treeing Walker Coonhound Club websites.



A responsible breeder plans each breeding with the goal of improving the breed, avoiding genetic defects and producing puppies that are not only better than their parents but one step closer to the ideal Treeing Walker Coonhound described in the breed standard.

## Health

The Treeing Walker Coonhound Parent Club supports the AKC Canine Health Foundation ([www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org)). While the Treeing Walker is not prone to the average canine disorders, some degree of hip dysplasia has been recorded. Many members have their breeding stock certified by the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA). Eyes are checked (CERF) for cataracts. Some thyroid issues have also been noted to occur. Ear problems can be a consideration, as with any pendulous ear type dog. However, with weekly ear checks and cleansing of the ear, there is little need to worry.

## Permanent Identification

Because our hounds may have a one-track mind and may lose us, it is important for your dog to have permanent identification and be enrolled in a recovery program. Microchipping by your veterinarian and



registration through programs such as the AKC Reunite, visit

[www.akcreunite.com](http://www.akcreunite.com)

The Program consists of an encapsulated microchip inserted under the skin at the back of the neck. The chip contains information used to identify your dog and you, the owner, plus a toll-free number to the AKC database. Nearly all animal shelters and veterinarians now have scanners to read these chips. The insertion procedure, available at most veterinary offices, is simple and painless.

## AKC Venues for You & Your Coonhound

There are many sports open to enjoy with your Treeing Walker Coonhound. They include Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Barn Hunts, Dock Diving, Scent Work, Tracking, Rally, Bench Shows and Night Hunts. Spayed and neutered dogs can participate in all of these, except Conformation – where breeding stock is compared to the breed standard – dogs are required to remain sexually unaltered.



## More information

For events, contact AKC at (919) 233-9767 or [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

National Treeing Walker Coonhound Association  
<https://sites.google.com/view/ntwca/home?authuser=0>

AKC Reunite at 800-252-7894  
[www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org)

AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) at 1-800-682-9696  
[www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org)

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) at (573) 442-0418  
[www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)

Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) at (765) 494-8179,  
[www.vet.purdue.edu/~yshen/cerf.html](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/~yshen/cerf.html)

