

Congratulations on your new Weimaraner

The Weimaraner Club of America would like to provide you with information that will help you understand the breed and enjoy your new dog.

Website: weimaranerclubofamerica.org

Grand Duke Karl August and the Nobles of the Court at Weimar, Germany developed the Weimaraner in the late 18th century. They required a dog with exceptional tracking ability, speed and courage. Following the breakup of large land holdings and big game preserves, it was necessary to refine and emphasize the pointing and retrieving abilities of the dogs. The Weimaraner of today is a gifted personal hunting companion as well as a wonderful family pet.



Character

Weimaraners are highly intelligent, sensitive and unsurpassed in devotion to their family. They consider themselves a member of the family and are not a dog that is content to go lay in the corner; instead, they want to be your constant companion. A “velcro dog” is a good description. They deserve to be owned by people who are loving and appreciate their unquestioning loyalty and intelligence.

Description

A well-angulated, medium-size gray dog with fine aristocratic features. He should present a picture of grace, speed, stamina, alertness and balance. Above all, his conformation must indicate the ability to work with great speed and endurance in the field. Height for dogs is 25-27 inches and bitches 23-25 inches.

Disqualifications: A distinctly black or blue coat, a distinctly long coat or deviation in height of more than one inch from the standard.



Health

VACCINE REACTIONS—A small percentage of puppies have a genetic predisposition to overreacting to vaccines. A complete explanation and **vaccine protocol for puppies** can be found on the WCA Web site: weimaranerclubofamerica.org.

HIP DYSPLASIA—Hip Dysplasia does occur in the breed, but the incidence is quite low due to responsible breeders screening and only breeding dogs free of HD.

BLOAT—This can occur in adult dogs and is a life-threatening emergency. Symptoms include distended abdomen, unproductive vomiting and distress.

Training

It is important that your puppy be well socialized and learns to interact with other dogs and people. **PUPPY KINDERGARTEN** is highly recommended as most classes combine fun activities as well as basic obedience training. It is important to remember that a young puppy’s attention span is limited.

When your puppy reaches 5-6 months of age, **BASIC OBEDIENCE** can be started. Not only will your puppy learn, but you will learn how to train your puppy. To locate local training facilities, see the AKC Web site or contact your veterinarian who usually has a list of these facilities.

CRATE TRAINING—A crate must never be used to punish a dog; it is a safe place for a puppy when you are away from home as well as an aid in housebreaking. Give your puppy a treat every time you put him in the crate.

Activities

Several fun and challenging activities for you and your Weimaraner include **AGILITY, OBEDIENCE, TRACKING and RALLY**. Tracking is an outdoor field activity in which Weimaraners excel. Rally is a new dog sport designed with the traditional pet owner in mind, but it can still be very challenging for those who enjoy higher levels of competition. Rally offers both you and your dog an experience that is fun and energizing. The members-only **WCA FUTURITY PROGRAM** created in 1956 rewards breeders and owners of Futurity nominated dogs at regional show and field events. It serves to promote conformation to the breed’s standard and intent. Information on the program is available on the WCA’s website.

Most communities have local training classes for these and other companion sports activities for you and your Weimaraner. Visit www.akc.org or your veterinarian may be able to provide a list of local training clubs.

HUNT TESTS AND FIELD TRIALS are sporting breed sports. There are 39 local Weimaraner clubs who sponsor many of these activities specifically for pointing breeds. The WCA Web site lists these clubs. Joining one of the local Weimaraner clubs is a good place to meet other Weimaraner owners and a resource for any questions you may have.

Breeding

Breeding a litter is a major responsibility. You should think very carefully before considering breeding. It is important to remember that a responsible breeder has a lifelong commitment to the puppies they produce. This means that they are available to answer any questions and help solve any problems with a dog. It also means that if for any reason the owner of a puppy can not keep the dog, the breeder should be responsible for taking the dog back.

Many owners who do not plan to breed have their female dog spayed to avoid the annoyance of coming into heat. It is also in the best interests of the dog's health to have her spayed. Spaying eliminates the possibility of pyometra, an infection of the uterus, as well as mammary tumors.

Developing a Lifelong Relationship

Weimaraners are extremely intelligent and manipulative. They are also very sensitive. It is important that you establish yourself as the boss. It is also important that you establish a routine and spend quality time with your puppy. There are several books that are very helpful when trying to solve a problem with your puppy.

Identification

Microchips are a means of permanent identification that can be registered for lifetime, for a nominal fee, with AKC's Companion Animal Recovery. A 24-hour hotline locates owners of microchipped found dogs. For information call 800-252-7894.

Resources

Your new Weimaraner will have more energy than you can imagine. The best way to avoid behavior problems is to keep your new dog busy—exercise and training are essential. This selection of books and videos has proven helpful to many other Weimaraner owners. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are suggested basic choices. How far you advance is up to you and your dog. Enjoy and be proud of your well-behaved and well-trained Weimaraner!

New Puppy Owner

- *How To Raise a Puppy You Can Live With**, Rutherford and Neil
- *How to be the Leader of the Pack**, Patricia McConnell
- *Sirius Puppy Training**, Dr. Ian Dunbar (VHS tape)
- *Way To Go*, Patricia McConnell (housebreaking)
- *I'll Be Back Soon*, Patricia McConnell
- *The Culture Clash*, Jean Donaldson

New Weimaraner Owner

- *The Weimaraner Manual**, DC Weimaraner Club¹
- *A New Owners Guide to the Weimaraner*, Judythe Coffman
- *Weimaraner Ways*, Virginia Alexander

Obedience Training

- *Family Friendly Dog Training**, Patricia McConnell
- *Building Blocks for Performance**, Bobbie Anderson and Tracy Libby
- *Successful Obedience Handling*, Barbara Handler
- *Clicker Training for Obedience*, Morgan Spector
- *Choose to Heel*, Dawn Jecs
- *Obedience without Conflict*, Ivan Balabanov, DVD/Video
- *Connie Cleveland Competitive Obedience DVD/Video set*

Field Training

- *How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves**, Joan Bailey
- *The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog*, Sigbot Winterhelt and Edward D. Bailey
- *Speed Train Your Own Retriever*, Larry Mueller
- *Qualify!* Mark Powell (currently out of print)
- *Wing and Shot*, Robert Wehle
- *Retriever Training Drills for Marking*, James Spencer (advanced)
- *Retriever Training Drills for Blind Retrieves*, James Spencer (advanced)

Tracking Training

- *Try Tracking**, Carolyn Krause
- *Bring Your Nose Over Here*, Wentworth Brown (currently out of print)³
- *Mastering Variable Surface Tracking*, Ed Presnall (advanced)

Conformation Training

- *Raising a Champion: A Beginner's Guide To Showing Dogs**, Meredith John and Carole Richards
- *Show Me!** Carolyn Coile

¹ <http://www.dcweimclub.org/manual.html>

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Contact information

For information about the Weimaraner Club of America or local area clubs visit our Web site, www.weimaranerclubofamerica.org or contact the Executive Secretary: Ellen Dodge
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