



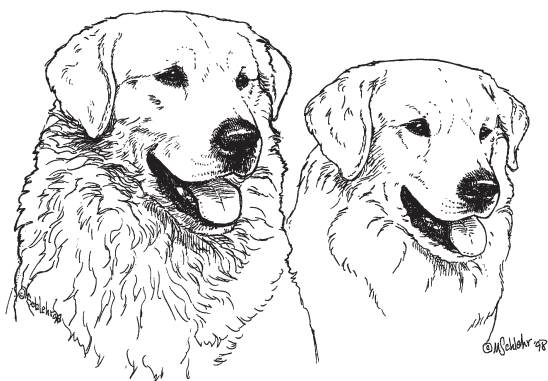
Welcome

Congratulations on your recent acquisition of a Kuvasz!

The Kuvasz Club of America is here to assist you in raising a happy, healthy, well socialized Kuvasz and has compiled this brochure to help you do so.

DESCRIPTION

The Kuvasz is a large and agile dog of great facial beauty, luxurious white coat, dark skin and pleasing body proportions. The appearance of a Kuvasz is that of a naturally developed breed with no part of the dog, neither head nor body, exaggerated. Tough and resilient, the Kuvasz will guard all that he considers his own: territory, people, and animals. The strong will and intelligence of the Kuvasz make him an exciting and sometimes challenging companion.



HISTORY

The earliest history of the Kuvasz is unclear. What is known is that circa 955AD this ancient livestock-guardian breed was brought by the Magyar people into what would become present day Hungary. Over the centuries, the Kuvasz adapted to a variety of working environments, guarding homes and businesses as well as flocks and herds. Hungarian kings circa 1000-1300 AD used the Kuvasz as guardian, hunting dog, drover and banquet hand towel, wiping greasy hands onto the dog's coat! King Matthias Corvinus of Hungary (1443-1490) famously developed a Kuvasz breeding program in order to surround himself with these loyal guardians whom he trusted more than the people of his court. The Kuvasz was central to the agricultural and wool industries of Hungary. The first exhibitions of Kuvasz were at shows held in Hamburg Germany in 1863 and in Hungary in 1865. Through the tireless efforts of Ms. Mabel E. Marsh, Romance Kennel in New Jersey, the Kuvasz was first recognized by the AKC in 1935.

TEMPERAMENT

The Kuvasz is a dog of unusual temperament, in many ways a study in contradictions. Depending on the situation, he can be friendly or aloof, a serious guard or a clown like playmate. Although known to function without human supervision



in his guarding capacity, a Kuvasz needs to be among his pack, human or animal for his emotional wellbeing. The happiest and best adjusted Kuvasz are those who have a central place in their human families' lives both at home and in the larger world. The mature Kuvasz, often quiet and still in his house or on his property, can become animated and alert in an instant when a change is perceived. It is entirely possible to have a well socialized Kuvasz who is friendly in most situations, but who will defend you with rigor should the need arise. A well socialized, experienced Kuvasz will recognize a genuine threat when it occurs. An inexperienced, unsocialized Kuvasz may react to everything and everyone, yet may lack the confidence to handle a genuinely threatening situation.

TRAINING

A young Kuvasz puppy is silly and full of fun. A slow maturing breed, he may resemble an adult yet still remain a juvenile until two or three years of age. The best time to begin training and socializing is immediately in a good puppy kindergarten class with a trainer familiar with many breeds. Regardless, get your puppy out into the world, teaching him basic commands by relying on positive reinforcement techniques learned from classes, books, and tapes. The Kuvasz is known to be independent, sometimes to the point of stubbornness. Yet, the young puppy must learn early to understand that the owner is the leader and that commands mean what they say. Heavy handed training does not suit the nature of this breed. Consistent short lessons with praise and treats, time outs for overwrought behavior and an age appropriate exercise program whether walks or fun play are the tools with which to train your Kuvasz. Remember a young Kuvasz is just that. Do not expect your baby to behave like a mature dignified dog. Extremely intelligent and sensitive, the Kuvasz is molded by the environment in which he is raised. Care should be taken to never punish a Kuvasz unjustly, as they may shut down. The 12-18 month old "teenage" Kuvasz will often test disciplinary structure, but a loving, predictable, firm owner who invests in socialization and training will be rewarded with a secure, confident, adult dog. Your breeder and club members are here to help you benefit from their collective training wisdom. Please, use them as a reference. The Kuvasz, one of several European Livestock Guarding Breeds, is a capable companion. Familiarize yourself with the unique working style of these breeds that were called upon to make instant decisions on their own.



HEALTH

The Kuvasz is a rugged, healthy breed with few health issues. Like many large breeds, they can suffer from hip dysplasia and other joint problems. Thyroid disease and PRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy) are two other conditions of concern in our breed. The long term health of the breed is important. That is why health testing is critical. The Kuvasz Club of America participates in the CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) program sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The recommended tests for Kuvasz are: hips, elbows, and thyroid. Other tests such as eyes, patellae, and heart are recommended but not required. For more information visit the website of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, www.offa.org.

GROOMING

Care of the double coated Kuvasz is relatively easy. Frequent bathing is unnecessary. A healthy coat tends to shed dirt. However, with increased pollution, with showing in obedience and conformation, a washed, groomed Kuvasz coat is appropriate. The coat is best kept in good condition by weekly grooming with a long pin brush, rake, or comb. The area behind the ears must be checked frequently, as fine hairs there mat easily and should be combed often. A weekly or biweekly nail grooming—clipping and/or grinding—keeps nails at a good short length, the better to prevent any splaying of the toes. In many Kuvasz, the hair between the footpads must be trimmed. Different patterns of shedding will be seen in various climates, but for many Kuvasz there are two major shedding seasons per year with some ongoing shedding all year. A grooming table can make these chores easier for you and your Kuvasz. To train your young puppy or adult dog to the joys of grooming, start with short sessions, rewarding good behavior. You'll soon create a mutually positive time for dog and owner.

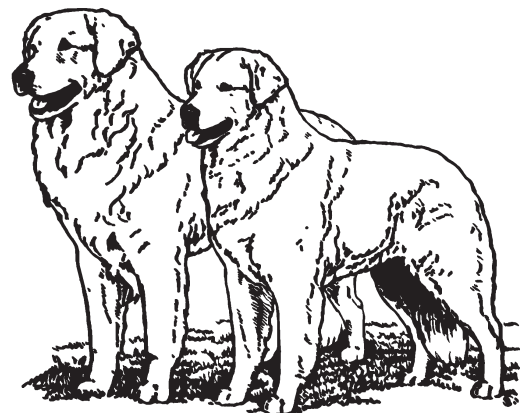
THE RESPONSIBLE OWNER

Your Kuvasz, with care and training, can be a source of love, pleasure, and companionship, but with the fun of ownership comes responsibility. Pet owners must first be good neighbors sensitive to the needs of the surrounding community. A Kuvasz needs a secure enclosure (most recommend a fence height of 6 feet with self locking gates) and must never be allowed to run loose. Remember, always clean up after your dog and appropriately dispose of waste.

Breeding is a serious enterprise and should only be undertaken by the most experienced, informed, owners. Only those Kuvasz who conform to the AKC breed standard and have undergone all recommended health tests should be bred. An equally important obligation of a responsible breeder is to assure that every puppy is placed with responsible, loving owners committed to the lifetime care of the Kuvasz. If you are thinking about becoming a Kuvasz breeder, even for only a single litter, please consider becoming a member of the **Kuvasz Club of America** and learning the parameters for responsible breeding.

ACTIVITIES

Kuvasz compete in many dog events. Competition in the breed ring, for intact dogs, can earn an AKC championship title. Your local dog club may have show handling classes, to help you learn the skills and routines surrounding conformation shows. Performance events are open to all Kuvasz including those neutered or spayed. Performance events include: Rally, Obedience, Agility, Tracking, and Carting. Your local dog club may offer classes in some or all of these activities, though books, tapes and online information can help you learn the needed skills. With training and socialization, many Kuvasz make excellent Therapy Dogs. The breed is naturally intuitive and often excels at visiting people in hospitals and nursing homes. Contact your local kennel club for information and guidance. You and your Kuvasz deserve the best outcome. Training will help you achieve that ideal of Kuvasz as man's and woman's best friend.



Applications for club membership, detailed information on the breed standard, and further information are available from the Kuvasz Club of America at www.kuvasz.com.