



Portuguese Water Dogs in Canada

The Portuguese Water Dog Club of Canada

www.pwdcc.org



The PWDCC is the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC, see www.ckc.ca) sanctioned National Breed Club. Our responsibilities include the breed standard, qualifying to provide CKC events, rescue and re-homing and much more. It's a club across Canada that sponsors events that are fun and informative, including seminars on the many activities you can enjoy with our breed, and on health and training issues also. See our web site www.pwdcc.org events section for a sched-

ule of upcoming events and read about past events. Our web site has general information and a protected section for member that includes a club directory, discussion forums and past issues of the club newsletter, The Waterlog.

The Waterlog, our quarterly newsletter, is available to members only and is distributed on the web site and by mail. It reports on events, current issues and showcases our members and their dogs.



With its sense of humor it will invariably compete for centre stage. In its role as a watchdog, the PWD is alert and protective rather than aggressive. It is cautious and sensible with strangers. Its attractive, playful appearance often belies its true character. It remains a true working dog, tough and independent at times, not a dog for everybody. The Portuguese Water Dog is a complex canine that wants love and trust.

The life expectancy of the average Portuguese Water Dog is 12 to 15 years. They tend to mature slowly and remain active well into their senior years. Daily exercise is a must or the PWD will provide its own exuberant exercise indoors. PWDs require an owner as active, involved and intelligent as they are or they will soon be running the household and getting into mischief.

These dogs enjoy structured activity to channel their energy and intelligence; Agility, Flyball, Obedience, Rally-O and Water Work are all great outlets and help develop the special bond to his people that the PWD needs to thrive.

Rare is a Portuguese Water Dog that doesn't like to be in the water. Where access to water is possible, they enjoy playing and working in the water. They can, however, survive perfectly well in areas where swimming is not possible.

The PWD is not happy as a kennel dog. It is people-oriented and requires prolonged daily human interaction for proper personality development and it does not have an insulating undercoat to survive in an unheated kennel in winter.



About the PWD

The Portuguese Water Dog is a strong, robust, medium-sized, agile dog with the stamina and endurance to do a full day's work. The breed is a loyal, affectionate, energetic, intelligent family companion and watchdog and it thrives on and demands human attention. It needs people, bonds readily and is loyal to its "Crew Mates". It gets on well with children and other pets.

A Non-Allergic Dog?

The Portuguese Water Dog's non-shedding coat makes it easier for people with allergies to tolerate. If allergies are a factor in your family, it is hoped that you have spent several hours in close contact with adult PWDs. Although you may have no reaction to the dander or coat of a PWD, you may still be sensitive to the dog's saliva. You also may have some reaction to a puppy but not an adult.

Grooming

The Portuguese Water Dog has a non-shedding coat that left on its own will continue to grow. It has no undercoat. The coat can be curly or wavy. Although the coat does not shed, it must be combed or brushed thoroughly several times a week to prevent matting and tangling, and to remove broken hairs and debris from the coat. Frequent baths and regular hair cuts are required to maintain the health of the hair and skin as well as the appearance of the dog. In addition, the Water Dog's ears and teeth should be cleaned weekly. You can learn to bath and groom your PWD yourself or have it done by a professional groomer. The coat should be clipped in either of the two acceptable clips. In the Retriever Clip, the entire coat is scissored or clipped to a length of one inch in appearance except at the end of the tail that is left long. In the Lion Clip, which is the traditional clip, the hindquarters as well as the muzzle are clipped short, the end of the tail and the balance of the coat are left long to resemble a lion's mane.

Training

Basic obedience training must start from the moment you bring your puppy home. The training and socialization of the puppy actually starts in the whelping box with its dam and siblings. In general, puppies should not be removed from their



littermates until they are at least 8 weeks old. They should also have significant human contact during this time for proper socialization. A foundation that includes the proper training and socialization of the puppy and adolescent PWD will result in a wonderful adult companion.

The PWD is extremely intelligent and is easily trained. It is important

to remember that this breed is not just a pretty face; the PWD was developed to work. It is essential that basic obedience lessons begin early in the dog's life. There are many schools that provide puppy classes for dogs as young as 8 weeks. Just make sure that these classes and other classes you attend are based on positive reinforcement and that your pup is in a group of similar age and size.

The retriever qualities inherent in this breed result in the PWD being "mouthy", not intentionally destructive. In a growing puppy and adolescent dog this mouthiness may result in unintentional destructiveness and "nipping". Proper supervision, numerous toys, confinement in a safe comfortable area such as a dog crate when not under supervision and proper training will



help channel and control destructive behaviours. As an adult, it enjoys carrying things around and usually has a favourite fuzzy toy in its mouth or nearby.

House training is not difficult provided you set aside the required time and are consistent with your training. Consult the breeder of the puppy for recommended techniques.

Your Breeder

Just as you are looking for the right dog, breeders are looking for the right owners for their puppies and dogs. Breeders should be open and responsive to your questions and should be willing to be a resource for your questions as your pup grows. You should turn to your breeder as your first line of support with health or behaviour issues.



Any Canadian-bred Portuguese Water Dog you purchase must be eligible for registration in the Canadian Kennel Club or it cannot be sold as a purebred dog. It is the responsibility of the breeder to complete the necessary paperwork for registration and the registration certificate must eventually be given to you.

The PWDC New Puppy Program is open to puppies produced by our member breeders. If you purchase an American-bred pup or a pup from a Canadian breeder who is not a member of



our club, you will have to purchase a regular club membership. To join please go to the club web site for membership forms and please spend some time reading to learn more about responsible PWD ownership.

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) Breed Standard for The Portuguese Water Dog



Origin and Purpose

For centuries, this seafaring breed existed everywhere along the coast of Portugal and is considered a purely Portuguese breed. Owing to modifications in the fishing systems used, the breed has become restricted to the province of Algarve which should be considered its home. It was prized by fishermen for its spirited yet obedient nature and a robust, medium build that allowed for a full day's work in and out of the water. The Portuguese Water Dog is an athletic swimmer and diver of exceptional ability and stamina. He aided his master at sea by retrieving gear and broken nets, herding schools of fish and carrying messages between boats and to shore. He is a loyal companion and an alert guard.

General Appearance

The Portuguese Water Dog is defined by his job. He has a hard, penetrating and attentive expression, splendid sight and a fair nose. Slightly longer than tall, he is a medium sized, sturdy, athletic, swimming dog with webbed feet, short neck and a wavy or curly coat to protect him from the elements, whether in the water or on land. From his impressive head with piercing gaze through a rugged body to his powerful tail carried up in a ring with its characteristic flowing flag, he presents an indelible impression of strength, spirit and soundness.

Temperament

An animal of spirited disposition, he is self-willed, brave and very resistant to fatigue. Exceptionally intelligent and a loyal companion, he does his job with facility and obvious pleasure.

Head

Well proportioned and massive.

Skull Seen in profile it is slightly longer than the muzzle, its curvature more accentuated at the back than in front and it possesses a well defined occiput. From the front the parietal bones are seen to be dome-shaped and to have a slight depression in the middle. The forehead has a central furrow for two thirds of the length of the parietals and the frontal bones are prominent.

Muzzle Is narrower at the nose than at its base. The stop, which is well defined, is slightly further back than the inner corner of the eyes.

Nose Wide. Nostrils well open and finely pigmented. Black, in animals with black, black and white or white coats. In browns the nose is of the same colour as the coat.

Lips Thick, especially in front. Inner corner of lips not apparent. Mucous membrane (roof of mouth, under the tongue and gums) well ticked with black or quite black.

Jaws Strong and neither over nor undershot.

Teeth Not apparent. Canines strongly developed.

Eyes Medium sized, set well apart and a bit obliquely, roundish and neither prominent nor sunken. Brown or black in colour. The eyelids, which are of fine texture have black edges. No haw.

Ears

Leather heart-shaped, thin in texture and set well above the line of the eyes. Except for a small opening at the back, the ears are held nicely against the head. The tips should not reach below the beginning of the neck.

Neck

Straight, short, nicely rounded and held high. Strongly muscled. No mane and no dewlap.

Brisket

Wide and deep, reaching down to the elbow. Ribs long and well sprung.

Withers Wide and not prominent.

Back Short and nicely joined to the croup.

Abdomen Held well up in a graceful line.

Croup Well formed and only slightly inclined with hips hardly apparent.

Tail

Not docked, thick at the base and tapering; medium setting. It should not reach down below the hock. When the dog is attentive the tail should be held in a ring, the front of which should not reach beyond the line of the kidneys. The tail is of great help when swimming and diving.

Forelegs

Strong and straight.

Shoulder Well inclined and very strongly muscled.

Upper Arm Strong and of regular length, parallel to the medial body line.

Forearm Long and strongly muscled.

Knee Heavy boned, wider in front than at the side.

Pastern Long and strong.

Fore Feet

Round and rather flat. Toes not too knuckled up and not too long. The membrane between the toes, which reaches the tip of these, is of soft skin, well covered with hair. Black nails are preferred but whites, browns and striped are allowed according to the colour of the coat. Nails held up slightly off the ground. Central pad very thick, others normal.

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC)

Breed Standard for

The Portuguese Water Dog/p2



Hind Legs

Straight and very strongly muscled.

Thigh Strong and of regular length. Very strongly muscled. Thigh bone parallel to the medial body line.

Second Thigh Long and strongly muscled, parallel to the medial body line. Decidedly inclined from front to back.

All the tendons well developed.

Buttocks Long and well curved.

Hock

Strong

Metatarsus

Long. No dewclaws.

Hind Feet

Similar, in all respects, to the fore feet

Position of Legs

Regular. It is admissible for the front legs to be held so that feet are slightly in front of the perpendicular and the back legs, from the hock downwards, also a bit forward.

Gait

First and foremost a working dog, the Portuguese Water Dog's trotting gait should be effortless, balanced and sound. He should display a proud carriage and a light, happy attitude with the tail carried high in a ring over the back. He should be gaited at a moderate speed. There should be good reach and strong drive with a level topline. At increased speed there will be a tendency to converge. Movement from front and rear will be clean and true. The walking gait is light with short steps and the gallop energetic.

Coat and Colour

Coat

Profuse coat, of strong hair, covering the whole body evenly, except for the under-arms and groin where it is thinner.

There are two varieties of coat

1. The hair is fairly long, wavy, rather loose with a slight sheen. The hair on the top of the head is upright and that on the ears decidedly longer than the leather.
2. The hair is shorter, forms compact cylindrical curls, thickly planted and somewhat lusterless. On the top of the head the hair is similar to that of the rest of the coat, whereas that on the ears is sometimes wavy. Colours are black, white and various tones of brown; also combinations of black, or brown with

white. A white coat does not imply albinism provided nose, mouth and eyelids are black. In animals with black, white, or black and white coats, the skin is decidedly bluish. There is no undercoat.

Colour

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Lion Clip

The middle part and hindquarters, as well as the muzzle, must be clipped. The rest of the coat is left long. The hair on the end of the tail is left at full length.

Retriever Clip

The entire coat is scissored or clipped to follow the outline of the dog, leaving a short blanket of coat appearing no more than one inch in length. The hair on the end of the tail is left at full length. Hair on the ears is trimmed to the leathers.

No discrimination will be made against the correct presentation of a dog in either Lion Clip or Retriever Clip.

Size

Height

Males between 19.5" and 22.5" (50-57 cm) the ideal being 21.5" (54 cm)

Females between 16.5" and 20.5" (43-52 cm) the ideal being 18" (46 cm)

Weight

Males between 42 and 60 pounds (19-25k)

Females between 35 and 50 pounds (16-22k)

Faults

Any deviation from the described ideal is a fault. Major Faults are those deviations that interfere with the performance of the dog's traditional job and which therefore cannot be overlooked.

Disqualifications

- Colour other than those mentioned
- Coat other than those mentioned
- Over or undershot jaws
- Over or under height
- Flesh-coloured or discoloured noses