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Animal Crackers

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Animal Crackers

Most Popular Breeds

There are over 50 million dogs in the United States. In 1992, 1,528,392 were registered by the American Kennel Club. Labrador retrievers were in first place for the second year.

Other sporting breeds high on the list were cocker spaniels in third place, golden retrievers sixth, and English springer spaniels 19th. Rottweilers, in second place, led the working breeds, followed by boxers in 17th and Siberian huskies in 18th and Doberman pinschers in 20th place.



Fourth in over-all standings were German shepherd dogs, a herding breed, while Shetland sheepdogs in this group were ninth. Of the non-sporting breeds, poodles led in fifth place, with chow chows in 10th and Dalmatians in 15th. Leading the hounds were beagles in seventh, closely followed by dachshunds in eighth. The most popular toy breed was the shih tzu in eleventh place, with Pomeranians 12th, Yorkshire terriers 14th and Chihuahuas 16th. The only terrier breed in the "Top 20" was miniature schnauzers in 13th place.

Chinese shar-pei received full recognition in 1992 and there were 90,081 registered. This total includes the incorporation of the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America's stud book into the AKC's stud book.

There were 1,155 all-breed dog shows in 1992 held under AKC rules. Too often, a breed becomes popular because of its winning record. Be sure you understand the care and grooming required to keep a dog looking like the ones you see at shows and in pictures.

Home video probably is responsible for the Dalmatians' popularity. Before you decide on any breed as a pet, be sure to investigate the training required to make "movie stars" what they are.

Bits and Pieces

A dog becomes geriatric at an age that is based on its size; giant breeds (over 90 lbs.) at about 7.5 years, large breeds (50 to 90 lbs.) at about 9 years, medium breeds (21 to 50 lbs.) at about 10 years and small breeds (under 20 lbs.) at about 11.5 years. There are many individual variations.

Cats can survive incredible falls, but most of the time they get hurt. Records show that a cat's chance of surviving a fall of seven to 32 stories are twice as good as its chances of surviving a fall of only two to six stories.

Monthly heartworm medications now control additional parasites. Dogs can be protected against hook worms, roundworms and whipworms. There are different prescription drugs available and they must be obtained on your veterinarian's prescriptions.

Paraplegia is a common problem in dogs. Small dogs quickly learn and adjust to the use of wheels instead of hind limbs and lead a good-quality life if given appropriate home care.

Rabies vaccination should always be up-to-date. Rabies in raccoons continues to spread and wild animals (raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes) account for most reported cases.

A report on a "Pet's Weight Watcher's Club" tells of a cat that went from 43 lbs. to 16 lbs. with the help of the program.

A published survey estimates that on December 31, 1991, 54.8 million households (57.9% of all U. S. households) owned a companion animal (dogs, cats, birds, horses and any of several other pets, such as hamsters, gerbils, fish and rabbits). Of these, 34.6 million households owned a dog, 29.2 million households owned a cat, 5.4 million households owned a bird and 1.9 million

households owned a horse.

Approximately 40.3% of dog owners also owned a cat. This survey estimates the cat population at 57 million and the dog population at 52.8 million.

Cat Scratch Disease in humans usually causes mild illness and there are an estimated 6,000 cases a year. There is no diagnostic test to determine if a cat is a carrier and the involved cat is invariably healthy. It is always advisable to wash any scratches or bites with soap and water and a cat should not be allowed to lick an open wound. Because of the growing popularity of cats and the increasing number of immunocompromised persons, research is needed on the disease.

The Australian shepherd (erroneously identified as Australian cattle dog in Bellwether 33) is the 135th breed recognized by the American Kennel Club and will be shown in the herding group. The Shiba Inu will be added to the non-sporting Group soon. There are varieties in nine breeds: cocker spaniels (black, part-color, ASCOB), beagles (under 13" and 13-15"), dachshunds (longhaired, smooth and wirehaired), collies (rough and smooth), bull terriers (colored and white), Manchester terriers (toy and standard), Chihuahuas (smooth coat and long coat) English toy spaniels (King Charles and Ruby, Blenheim and Prince Charles) and poodles (toy, miniature and standard).



Book Reviews

TEACH YOUR DOG TO BEHAVE:

Simple Solutions to Over 300 Common Dog Behavior Problems from A to Z, by Bashkim Dibra with Elizabeth Randolph (Dutton, 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY, \$21.00)

This book's A-to-Z format gives a diagnosis and treatment plan for most behavior problems. It gives the reader ideas for making their pets Canine Good Citizens.

In the beginning, there are descriptions of major canine attitudes which include aggressive dominant, fearful, friendly and playful. It helps with problem-solving if you can interpret your dog's body language, facial expressions and vocalizations.

On the problem of chewing objects or clothing, we read "Because chewing is an ingrained, normal habit of dogs, you shouldn't try to prevent your dog from chewing. You should redirect your dog's chewing instinct so it chews what you want it to."

Do dogs have ESP? "Dogs' 'ESP' is due to their exceptionally acute senses. They can hear, see and smell things we can't. This accounts for their ability to 'predict' meteorological events and home in on lost or buried people and far-away locations."

Jumping on people or other dogs is a problem to be cured right away. The treatment includes getting the dog's attention *before* it begins to jump, say "NO" and praise it lavishly when it remains by your side.

"Sympathy lameness" that can be turned on at will by the dog is usually exacerbated by an owner who responds just the way the dog wants. Be sure to get a veterinary assessment if this is not an obvious bid for attention.

Nail-clipping problems can upset the owner as well as the dog. To prevent this, make a point of touching and holding a puppy's paws and legs on a regular basis. "To make a dog's nails easier to clip, soak its feet in warm soapy water or salty water for a few minutes before you begin. This will soften the nails and will also act to desensitize the animal's feet."

"In order to teach a dog anything at all you have to learn to time your responses to concur exactly with the

action you want to praise or correct. You have to catch the dog *in the act* for your praise or correction to mean anything at all."

The book has many simple solutions for making the human-canine relationship work. ***

CANINE LEXICON by Andrew De Prisco and James B. Johnson (T.F.H. Publications, Inc., Third & Union Avenues, Neptune, NJ 07753, \$79.95).

With over 3,500 entries, alphabetically arranged, and over 1,300 full-color photographs, this book is a good reference source for much basic information about dogs.

Special Gifts

The following made a donation to the Friends of New Bolton Center in memory of Mr. Benjamin Welsh.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ray Taylor
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Ms. Regina Welsh
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Over 500 dog breeds are listed and their histories and characteristics are given. Unusual (rare) breeds include the Appenzeller, Boykin spaniel, Sloughi, and treeing Walker coonhound.

Anatomical characteristics include ear and tail types, as well as bite types (desired and undesired). Under nose types is a description of the most unique nose in dogdom - the Perdiguero Navarro of Spain, the only breed to require a split nose.

There are many other categories: breeding, veterinary medicine, showing and behavior.

The book seems to have an answer to most questions relating to dogs.

Following are gifts to the Friends of New Bolton Center in memory or in honor of the persons listed.

A gift in memory of Mr. John A. Ballard was given by Dr. and Mrs. James G. Logue;

A gift in memory of Mr. John A. Ballard was given by Ms. Camille M. Logue and Mr. Michael Hauazelet;

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A gift in memory of Ch. Kinvale Evergreen Destiny was given by Mr. Richie Pavlak and Ms. Meg Hennigan;

A gift in memory of FOXY J. G. was given by Dr. John W. Lee, Jr.;

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