



# CANAAN DOG

## DESIGNED BY NATURE



If you are in the market for a **Canaan Dog** puppy, you've come to the right place. The Canaan Dog Club of America, Inc. (CDCA) provides this information packet to help you determine if the Canaan Dog is the right breed for you.

We highly recommend that you meet adult dogs of any breed you may be interested in before you make your final decision. All puppies are cute, but it is the adult dog that you will be sharing your home and life with for a long time. If you are truly interested in a Canaan Dog, you will probably have to travel to see one. If there are no breeders within a reasonable distance, your best bet is to contact those breeders closest to you to find out if they are entering a conformation show or performance trial (obedience/tracking/agility/herding...) that is close to you and make arrangements to meet with them. There is also a Meet and Greet listing on the CDCA website with people willing to introduce you to their Canaan Dogs. Any of the breeders or "meet & greeters" on the list will be happy to answer any of your questions or to make arrangements for you meet their Canaan Dogs.



We are fortunate to have a small group of dedicated breeders who work together for the betterment of the breed. Because of this deep commitment, prospective buyers may find that purchasing a Canaan Dog is not as simple as purchasing a dog of a more common breed. To give you perspective: AKC registration statistics for 2012 show 68,831 Labrador Retrievers, the most popular breed, but only 70 Canaan Dogs. Because of these low numbers, Canaan Dog breeders tend to be highly selective and maintain a lengthy evaluation process to help protect the breed's future. We believe that we have a duty to place puppies so they have the chance to live up to their best potential, whether as a companion or as a show, breeding or performance prospect. Therefore, it is not uncommon to wait six months or longer for the right puppy, nor is it uncommon for the breeder to choose your puppy based on his understanding of your needs in a companion dog. It is also recommended that you visit the breeder(s) that you are considering getting a puppy from and meet the dam or, if possible, the sire and the dam of the puppies. Price will vary from breeder to breeder and region to region and should be considered as only a portion of the cost of dog ownership over the life time of the dog. A current list of breeders is available on the CDCA web site (<http://cdca.org>). Check the web site for updates on puppy availability.



Known as a "natural dog," the Canaan Dog has had little human influence. Its physical appearance (medium size, prick ears, and bushy tail curled over the back) is a basic canine type, one that all dogs revert to after a few generations of interbreeding without human management. These common characteristics often cause people to mistake a mixed breed or mongrel for a Canaan Dog. However, while it is possible that a purebred Canaan Dog or a

true Canaan Dog mix might be found in a shelter, the interconnectedness of the Canaan Dog community and the sheer low population of dogs in North America (estimated to be between 500-800), makes this a very slim possibility. CDCA affiliated breeders carefully plan each litter and follow the CDCA recommendation to have pet quality puppies altered. The CDCA also encourages breeders to take back any unwanted dogs of their breeding and endorses the Canaan Dog Rescue Network (CDRN) as the official Canaan Dog rescue for North America. If you are interested in rescuing a purebred Canaan Dog, the CDRN will be an invaluable resource, but don't be surprised if, happily, they do not currently have any dogs to place. The CDRN's web site is <http://www.canaandogrescue.com/>.

## History of the Breed



Now known as the national dog of Israel, the Canaan Dog existed for thousands of years in the Land of Canaan where scholars believe the breed originated. Drawings on the tombs at Ben-Hassan (2200-2000 BC) depict dogs with an unmistakable resemblance to the Canaan Dogs of today.

The breed was plentiful in the region until the dispersion of the Israelites by the Romans more than two thousand years ago. As the Hebrew population dropped so did the number of "Kelev Kanaani," (Canaan Dogs), and the majority of dogs sought refuge in the Negev Desert, then a natural reservoir for Israeli wildlife.

Avoiding extinction through war and famine, the desert dogs became mostly untamed. However, some of the dogs retained a form of domesticity by living with the Bedouin and herding or guarding their herds and camps just as their ancestors had done. Others guarded the Druze people on Mt. Carmel.

The Canaan Dog thus survived in remote parts of the country until the arrival of Drs. Rudolf and Rudolphina Menzel, the founders of the modern Canaan Dog breed, in 1934. The Menzel's dual mission was to create a service dog station and to observe the pariah dogs in the area "before it was too late." The Menzels recognized the value of these natural dogs, and their breeding choices preserved the dogs' hardiness, frugality, adaptability, acute senses, intelligence and nobility of character and form.



Dugma, first redomesticated Canaan Dog c. 1938

Recognizing that the breed was more likely to thrive in the United States than in the tiny country of Israel, the Menzels sent the first four Canaan Dogs to this country on September 7, 1965, and a few dedicated people accepted the challenge to preserve and promote the breed. On August 12, 1997, the American Kennel Club fully accepted the Canaan Dog into its Studbook.

In keeping with their versatile make-up, Canaan Dogs participate in conformation competition at all-breed and specialty dog shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, herding trials, agility, and lure coursing. They serve as therapy dogs and make ideal family companions.





## General Characteristics

Canaan Dogs have well balanced, medium sized, square proportioned bodies and an accompanying brisk, graceful and natural trot. These characteristics and their refined heads, ultra-awareness of their environment, double coats, and brush tails confidently curled over their backs expand their chances of survival through resulting endurance, agility, intelligence and ability to subsist in harsh climates. These traits contribute to the service of man as the dogs herd sheep and goats and watch camp settlements, and easily adapt to activities such as running an obstacle course, tracking, carting, lure coursing, competing in obedience or working as therapy dogs or medical assistance dogs.

Dogs stand between 20" and 24" at the shoulder and weigh between 45 and 55 pounds. Bitches stand between 19" and 23" and weigh between 35 and 45 pounds. They have a medium length, flat lying double coat. Color patterns can be solid or pied. Colors range from cream to sandy or reddish brown, white and black; with or without a mask. If present, the mask should be basically symmetrical.



Wonderfully sensitive, affectionate and responsive, Canaan Dogs are highly intelligent, loyal and devoted family companions with extremely keen senses of hearing, smell and sight. Because of their natural drive for self-preservation and their well developed sense of territoriality, they tend to be mistrustful of strangers and new environments.

Canaan Dogs are a natural "watchdog", they are not a guard dog. As sentry dogs, Canaan Dogs announce changes to their environment—meaning, they bark. Their bark often belies their size.

Digging is often a passion of Canaan Dogs. Given the chance, the Canaan Dog will dig! The holes can vary from slight impressions to lay in to caves typically dug by bitches in expectation of a litter. Managing this tendency by allowing the Canaan Dog an approved digging area means that landscaping and a Canaan Dog can co-exist.

## Grooming and Care

Because they tend to stay clean, Canaan Dogs normally require less frequent baths than other moderately active breeds. A good brushing a couple of times a week should handle the daily shedding. Brushing once or even twice a day when blowing their coat will keep them in good condition. They will typically blow their coat twice a year. Toenails require trimming at regular intervals. Some Canaan Dogs can object quite vocally to getting their nails trimmed and therefore the routine should be established early on in puppyhood.



Results from grooming during coat blowing.

## Health Testing

To help assure the breeding of healthy puppies, reputable breeders listed with the CDCA use health screening testing results to guide their choice of parents. The CDCA recommends that the following tests be performed on age-appropriate dogs: Hip Dysplasia (OFA/OVC/Pennhip), Elbow Dysplasia (OFA/OVC), manual patella exam by a vet, eye examination by a

board certified Ophthalmologist (CERF/OFA) and an autoimmune thyroditis (OFA evaluation by an approved lab). Other health tests are optional. It is recommended that the Canaan Dog have a permanent identification (microchip or tattoo), and most breeders will do this prior to sending the puppy home. Getting a DNA profile is also recommended.

## Socialization and Training

Canaan Dogs can make wonderful family companion dogs; but they are NOT the dog for everyone. They require a tremendous amount of careful early socialization. The ideal Canaan



Dog owner is one who commits to continuing the socialization started by the breeder and adds training for good manners in public and private to the dog's daily routine. Canaan Dogs are extremely intelligent and learn quickly. However, because of their independent nature, they can be a challenge to train and do not do well with repetition.

To the question "Will Canaan Dogs reliably perform a command after they have learned it"? our answer is "Maybe". It depends on the circumstances, how much training the dog has had, and the dog's general disposition. Canaan Dogs develop a very close working relationship with their owners and will obey out of respect for the pack leaders. They require an owner that is willing to find out what motivates the dog, to develop a "team" attitude with the dog, and to earn and keep the respect of the dog. Many Canaan Dogs will continue to challenge their standing in the pack, and demand consistency and strength from their pack leader. If the pack leader lets them down, they may contest their position within the pack.

Are Canaan Dogs willing to please? Yes, but not like Golden Retrievers or Border Collies. Canaan Dogs seem to evaluate each and every command by asking themselves the question, "What's in it for me?" In high intensity training such as agility and herding the answer



seems to be that they genuinely enjoy it, and the job is its own reward. But in less strenuous training, such as conformation and obedience, the Canaan Dog can become easily bored, especially by repetition. Excessive repetition of a learned command in a given training session can often cause a Canaan to stop performing the command. Short, upbeat training sessions work best for this breed.

## A Word About Aggressiveness

At the age of around two, the maturing adult might become more territorial of his home turf. Home turf for a Canaan Dog means anything he considers "his" - which could include your local dog park (if you visit often enough), the family car, or other frequently visited places. A Canaan Dog will attempt to keep interlopers from invading his space unless he has been raised to regard the owner's opinion over his own.

Canaan Dogs (adults and pups) tend to be the dominant sort and will often be the "bully" or top dog. To people with breeds less wanting to lead, this can appear as aggression.

As an adult the types of aggression that need the owner's management the most would be same-sex, territorial, and prey-drive behaviors.

- Same-Sex Aggression - Adult Canaan Dogs generally do not immediately welcome same-sex playmates unless there is a definite delineation in status, such as one is neutered

and one is not, or a significant age difference.

- Territorial - Unless welcomed by his owner and introduced properly, an adult Canaan Dog will aggressively run a strange dog off his territory. This is why it is important to have a securely fenced yard. Ideally, introduction of dogs should be done on neutral territory.
- Prey Drive - In some breeds, certain portions of the prey drive have been bred for and against. The Border Collie's chasing and stalking portion of the prey drive has been enhanced, but the catching and killing portions have minimized. A Canaan Dog has an intact prey drive. This means, he will quite naturally exhibit the entire prey behavior sequence of stalking, chasing, killing, and sometimes consuming small prey. This may include squirrels and rodents, or even the family pocket pet (if not properly secured).

All of these forms of aggression are manageable in a well-trained and socialized Canaan Dog. But the question a prospective owner must ask him or herself is: **do you want to be a manager?**

If you wish to speak to a CDCA representative, please contact Cynthia Grupp 707-226-3353 or Sally Armstrong 775-475-0715. Please be courteous of time differences to the west coast when calling.

To receive a hardcopy of this package, please send a self-addressed stamped #10 business envelope to:

CDCA Breeder Referral  
2300 Crossover Road  
Reno NV 89510-9354 USA

CDCA Board of Directors



## Herding Group Canaan Dogs: Temperament

By Donna L. Dodson

Reprinted from March 1998 AKC Gazette with Authors permission

(Despite this article's age, it still applies to today's Canaan Dogs)

The words "pariah" and "feral" have been used to describe the **Canaan Dog**. Although they apply to the breed in general, they do not apply to the dog seen in today's show rings. The most descriptive word today is "cultivated"; breeders present cultivated dogs to the AKC. In the late 1960's and 70's judges and fanciers alike were often exposed to Canaan Dogs of unstable temperament; but today we show a much different dog of a much more agreeable nature.

Breeders have been aware since the influx of the early imports to America that temperament would be the fulcrum of success or failure of the breed as a socially acceptable dog. Many who came to the breed early in the 70's were frustrated in their attempts to match the epitome of type with those social graces that would make the breed an ideal companion and an able competitor in the show or events ring. How well we remember Dr. Rudolphina Menzel's descriptive term "highly reactive" as an appropriate characteristic of the breed, indicative of highly tuned instincts. Her analysis asked whether the dog is totally aware of its surroundings, but still able to maintain the stability to deal intelligently with the environmental intrusions into its life. Although the gene pool for this degree of courage was small, astute breeders were able to find it without losing the essence of the breed: the drive for self-preservation.

What can be expected of temperament today? First, as in any breed, there is a basic characteristic of temperament. In the Canaan Dog it is territoriality, or possessiveness, if you wish. There is also a basic aloofness with strangers, seen in the ring as failing to show expression or avoiding the fronting posture. In the home, territorial awareness is seen as a characteristic of a watchdog; not an attack dog, but an informer about things that are happening in its territory.

In large part, but not totally, the degree of these characteristics depends on the degree of socialization of the particular dog. Breeders strongly emphasize to buyers the need for continued socialization beyond puppyhood, into the third or fourth year if necessary. But even the most intense socialization will not alter the suspiciousness of some dogs, particularly adolescents, and informed judges will bear in mind the breed's beginnings. Of course, any dog that shows aggression, vocally or by body language, must be excused from the ring.

There are three basic personality types of Canaan Dogs:

1. The sweet, submissive dog that says in essence, "I won't hurt you, you won't hurt me" and greets people with a bark and a wagging tail. This basic personality type is usually placed in a pet home to be appreciated for its qualities.
2. The dominant but non-aggressive dog that says in every bark and by its body language "I'm not afraid of you: I'm bigger than you", whether it is or not. This dog is the best prospect for conformation, obedience and performance events.
3. The neophobe, afraid of all strange intrusions into its life. This is perhaps the most difficult type to deal with, for in extreme cases it may express fear as aggression, although it will more likely take flight. This sort of unstable temperament is most often culled from breeding programs after attempts to modify the behaviors have failed.

Our breed retains its ancestral legacy of vigilance and dog aggression, a marvelously equipped survivor of a feral world, a living fossil of nature that is evidence of "survival of the fittest".

## Canaani and Herding: Herding With the Canaan Dog

Written by Joan Capiau Greene

Published as part of the Canaan Dog Club of America's Information Package.

The Canaan Dog shows definite talent as a stock dog and is able to compete in herding events. However, they do not perform as does a Border Collie or Kelpie, with that degree of 'eye'.

Canaani can be distracted by the environment, and may run off to check on the neighboring sheep, horses or cattle to see whether they can be brought into the flock. This awareness of surroundings would be very useful in their native land — vast desert where any strangers could be enemies — or where stock has strayed from the Canaan Dog's own herd. For trial purposes this can be difficult to control, but control usually comes with time and patience. The greater quantity of stock, the more a dog will show interest. This breed works with 200-300 or more head in the Negev and elsewhere in the Middle East as is the case with the German Shepherd in its native land.

A working dog, especially a 'green' or relatively untrained one, may stop to watch the scenery, eat sheep droppings or do other 'lovely things'. It will still be watching the flock, though an inexperienced handler might not think so. A dog may seem totally focused on its handler, for example, asking for praise, then without warning leave to stop members of the flock from escaping. Once the miscreant sheep are returned, the dog will go back to its handler for more petting and praise — all this with no commands. Canaan Dogs think, and are very sensible in their approach to stock. A Canaan Dog may suddenly realize that sheep, ducks or chickens have escaped their pens, gather them quickly together and herd them back through the escape route, then quit and go back to their previous activities. They watch the pen casually, and if an animal attempts to leave again, it is turned back.

This breed does best when a Standing Stop is used; a Whoa, Stop or Stay command should usually halt the dog on its feet rather than dropping it to the ground. Down is best used only at the beginning of a work session, and only if the dog is thoroughly obedience trained already (CD level or better). Far preferable is using a Stop only when the dog is very enthused in its work (after quite a few lessons), and waiting for a Down until almost at the Started level, or later. Down is a dominance-oriented command, and avid beginner dogs will probably ignore its use. If forced to Down rather than perform a Standing Stop, many dogs will obey the command — and quit exhibiting any herding instinct. Better a Whoa or No command, than to discipline for disobedience and destroy a dog's interest in true work. Remember that Canaani are sensitive to handler emotions, positive and negative, and do not forgive harsh corrections easily. As with other types of work, these dogs need to trust their handlers before obeying commands they do not think are necessary.

Working style in the Canaan Dog is mostly fetching behavior, often featuring close work without causing excessive fear in the stock. There is usually little gripping at the start of training, though dogs with more interest may develop a 'taste' for wool as time passes. Canaani are usually silent, and have a 'force growl' or 'snap' more than a 'force bark' in most dogs.



A Canaan Dog may become bored if repetitive trial course training is the bulk of its work. The dog may quit working entirely if the handler does not vary the routine with useful jobs to perform (as determined by the dog's experience and ability). There is also the possibility that the dog will become creative in order to liven up its time with the livestock. A wise trainer will attempt to mentally challenge a Canaan Dog with positive, varied experiences whenever possible. This does not mean Canaani cannot be used under 'everyday farm conditions'. Rather, to these dogs as to many other herding breeds, 'real life herding' is much more interesting than any trial.

This article was first published by *Clean Run – The Magazine for Dog Agility Enthusiasts*

Dear Sallie Sports Vet,

Soon I will be picking up my next performance puppy. He will be only eight weeks old. The breeder wants me to bring the puppy to my agility classes and trials to socialize him. My veterinarian wants me to wait to attend classes until my pup is fully vaccinated to lower the risk of exposure to parvovirus. Should I believe the breeder or the veterinarian?

Signed, Confused

Dear Confused,

This is a tough decision. You have to weigh the importance of exposing your puppy to new sights, sounds and smells against the risk of exposing him to a fatal infectious diseases. Talk about the proverbial rock and a hard place!

Let's look at this issue first from the breeder's point of view. She wants you to have the best puppy possible. If your puppy turns out to be everything you wanted, she will be happy because a) she has found an excellent home for that puppy; b) you are happy; and c) you will probably recommend her puppies to others. She knows that during his lifetime your dog is going to travel to many different shows, meet many different dogs, and perform under many different circumstances. She knows that the period between 8 weeks and 4 months of age is crucial for your puppy's socialization. Because, like all good breeders, she works in rescue, she has seen first-hand the devastating effects of poor socialization. She is convinced of the importance of taking advantage of those few early weeks in a puppy's life, particularly for the future canine athlete.

Now let's look at the issue from the veterinarian's point of view. During the years she has been in practice, she has seen dozens of dogs die of parvovirus infection. It has been one of the most frustrating experiences of her veterinary career and she knows first-hand that she is helpless to fight against viral infection. She knows dogs can shed parvovirus though they don't show any signs of illness and that there are still many unvaccinated dogs out there in parks, school yards and on the street. She hates to think of your cute little companion suffering needlessly, and she knows that vaccination has been effective in reducing the incidence of parvovirus in young dogs.

As both a canine sports competitor and veterinarian, I have struggled with these two seemingly opposing points of view. About ten years ago, a true story about parvovirus infection helped me make my decision. There is an island in Lake Michigan called Isle Royale. About 40 years ago, during a severe winter, some moose from the mainland crossed the ice to Isle Royale, followed by some wolves. The ice melted and the moose and wolves have been trapped there ever since. During the subsequent decades, biologists have counted the populations of moose and wolves from the air. They learned that when there are many moose, the wolves have lots to eat, so they produce more puppies. The larger population of wolves kills more moose and eventually there is not enough food, so the wolves go hungry and produce fewer pups. This moose-wolf cycle continued for decades. Then, in the 1990's, the wolf population plummeted, though there were plenty of moose. Eventually only three wolves remained although the island had previously supported between 20 and 30 wolves. The biologists tested dead wolves, and learned that parvovirus was the killer.

How were the wolves exposed? The virus, which is very hardy and can remain viable in the envi-

ronment for long periods, is thought to have been brought to Isle Royale on the feet of biologists and other visitors. The wolves' immune systems had never been exposed to parvo (which emerged in the dog population after the wolves had migrated to Isle Royale) and they quickly succumbed.

Perhaps this story has persuaded you to take draconian measures to avoid exposing your dog to parvovirus. But, it had the opposite effect on me. If the wolves on Isle Royale could be exposed to parvovirus, then some exposure to this virus is inevitable for dogs who live in more populated areas. In fact, my dog doesn't even need to sniff the feces of an infected dog. I can bring this hardy virus home on my shoes. Or, my puppy can be exposed on the sidewalk in front of my house. Since hiding on an island won't guarantee that my dog isn't exposed to parvovirus, there is nothing I can do except be reasonably careful.

So here is my program:

I bring my new teammate to agility trials starting a few days after I bring him home. I let people pet and feed my pup treats, and I let vaccinated and friendly dogs sniff my puppy. My new canine companion gets to hear the cheers of the crowd and the banging of equipment, smell the mixture of human and canine stress and excitement, and see the colorful movements of people, dogs and objects. Until my pup's second set of vaccinations, I don't let him run all over the grounds sniffing other dogs' poop; and I watch him carefully, but he does get abundant socialization.

During those early weeks, I am cautious about letting my puppy run free in places where many dogs congregate, such as dog parks. I take my pup for rides in the car whenever possible. I let him meet kids, people of varying ethnicities, men wearing hats, and women with billowing raincoats. And most important, if my pup becomes frightened of something, I don't cuddle him and tell him it's all right — that would just tell him that he will be rewarded for feeling stressed. Instead, I wait until the pup recovers and then praise the heck out of him! If he seems slow in recovering, I move the stimulus further away and then go wild when he relaxes.

There may come a day when one of my pups contracts a fatal infection. But I won't blame my socialization policy. It will just be bad luck. In my sadness, I will think of all my other dogs that have had happy, healthy lives with a minimum of stress because of my efforts when they were young.

*Editor's Note: When socializing your puppy, please be aware that dogs under six months of age are not allowed at AKC events.*

Sallie

Sallie Sports Vet is a pseudonym of M. Christine Zink DVM, PhD. Dr. Zink is a consultant on canine sports medicine and author of *Peak Performance: Coaching the Canine Athlete* and *Dog Health and Dog Health and Nutrition for Dummies* and co-author of *Jumping from A to Z*. She currently runs a Golden Retriever and a Border Collie in agility. She can be reached at [www.caninesports.com](http://www.caninesports.com).

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## Reining In An Obedient Dog: What We Can Learn from Horse Trainers

BY Sarah A. Ferrell

Imagine a basic obedience class: Study the hands, voices, movements, and training styles of each student, and picture the trainer whose leash is neatly bundled, not flapping in her dog's keen peripheral vision, the trainer who gives a command *once* and then carefully shows the dog the desired position, waits for her dog to give his attention, never begging the dog to 'watch'. That is the picture of a horse-trainer turned dog-trainer.

Horse trainers possess iron will gloved in patient, determined hands. They forge a training relationship built on human insight into the mind of the animal. They understand that when an animal submits to perform tasks set by a human, that human must completely dedicate herself to properly schooling the trainee. Horse trainers studiously search their bag of training tricks to apply the perfect teaching method for each individual animal. They remind us that every dog we train has different needs and aptitudes.

Horse trainers understand that the trainee must be *shown*, not merely told, the position or task that the trainer is teaching. They never waste words. They don't give commands until the animal develops a physical understanding of the task and a correct performance response. Every early approximation of a desired skill is reinforced. A great trainer does not *make* the trainee respond, she trains the animal to *offer* the behavior that is commanded. Horse trainers comprehend the need for patience: Training takes as long as it takes. This is true for dogs, as well.

Nagging, yelling or ignoring a misbehaving horse will result in the horse learning nothing—and perhaps causing physical danger to the human trainer. The more the trainer talks, the more apt is the animal to tune out the trainer's yammering. Horse trainers learn that both they and the horse must pay undivided attention to the task being taught. The more the trainer is distracted by outside stimulation, the less the animal pays attention to her. Sloppy trainer attention instills sloppy animal attention—whether the animal trainee is equine or canine.

Horse trainers excel at breaking down behavior problems and goals into tiny increments of behavior. They teach skills bit by bit—no pun intended—to build a foundation for success. Exceptional trainers understand that a great horse, or dog, can be created only when the animal has confidence that he can please his trainer. Confident, energetic, feely given performances are built on days, months, even years of partnership in training.

When faced with a problem behavior, horse trainers ask, *Why* does my animal do this? Before they ask, *How* do I correct this problem? Great trainers analyze every factor related to the animal's action or reaction before they begin steps to retrain a behavior.

After years of training horses, dressage competition trainer Ann deMatteo, of Woodbridge, VA, has learned several lessons she has applied to dog training. "Horses are big and unpredictable. Even though dogs are smaller and not as erratic, if you treat them as if they were bigger and dumber, you won't go wrong. For example, you teach a horse early on not to get in your space, for safety's sake. That works well for dogs, too"

DeMatteo goes on to note that horses don't learn the way dogs do. "Horses don't understand the concept of trying to please the handler! With horses, you set the horse up so the easiest choice he can make is the right one. Setting a dog up so he can't fail is a really good training tool".

When asked for the most helpful tip she can give dog trainers, deMatteo urges, "Praise, praise, praise! Horses command respect from their handlers by virtue of their size. Give your dog the same respect".

Imagine yourself on the back of a 1,500-pound animal: Danger intensifies when you send anxiety or confusion down the reins and agitate the horse. Very quickly you grasp that you *must* transmit calming signals to your trainee. How many of us in the obedience ring have had the sinking feeling that we were telegraphing our own nervousness straight down the leash, destroying our dog's confidence to perform in the ring? Dogs are like sponges: They soak up our emotions and react to them. How can the dog remain calm when his human is frightened? Dog trainers would do well to acquire the horse trainer's ability to control anxiety and master quiet hands on the leash. Calm the owner, calm the dog.

Horse trainers usually have good manners—and good sense—when mingling with strangers, whether those strangers are humans, horses, or dogs. They do not allow their mounts to gallop wildly into the faces of other horses, nor do they allow their dogs to lunge into the muzzles of other dogs. How many dogfights would be avoided if every person attached to a dog leash learned that dogs can be mightily offended when suddenly kissed or prodded by a pushy, unknown dog displaying a lack of basic manners?

Riding teachers school young students in the necessity of grooming a horse before and after the horse is worked. The horse-trainer turned dog-trainer realizes that brushing, combing, and caring for a dog calms him and ensures he has no lumps, bumps, or lameness. Grooming builds a bond that makes the dog more easily trained. Get your hands and a quality brush onto your dog's body every day.

Your dog is not a little horse, but you can rein him in with a few of these pointers from horse trainers. Praise, tireless repetition, careful demonstration of desired outcomes, and attention to your dog's mental and physical needs will prepare him to learn your commands and follow them flawlessly. The relationship you build as you train together will open doors to exhibition and dog-sport success.

Sarah H. Ferrell, a professional trainer, owns Dog Manners Behavior and Obedience School in Fredericksburg VA. She is the author of *Devoted to Dogs: How To Be Your Dog's Best Owner* and has won multiple awards from the Dog Writer Association of America. After just three months from publication, the book won the Best Non-Fiction Book of 2007 from the Virginia press Women's Association. Her book website is [www.abrohamneal.com](http://www.abrohamneal.com).

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# Canaan Dog Club of America Code of Ethics

This code is established to protect and advance the interests of Canaan Dogs and to provide standards for responsible ownership and breeding practices.

## All Members Shall:

- Appreciate the unique nature of the Canaan Dog and try to preserve its characteristics of type, temperament, and health as a natural dog.
- Abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the Canaan Dog Club of America (CDCA) and the rules of the American Kennel Club (AKC).
- Honestly represent the breed and their own dog(s). Not make false or misleading statements about another competitor and their dog(s) and bear responsibility for the truth and accuracy of any information and/or photographs submitted for publication.
- Display good sportsmanship and conduct, whether at home or at shows in such a manner as to reflect praise upon themselves and the CDCA.
- Maintain the best possible standards of health, cleanliness, safety, and care of their dogs.
- Complete and return CDCA Health Surveys within four (4) months from the Survey's post (mailing) date. I understand that non-compliance will result in automatic removal from the CDCA Breeder's List.

## All Breeders and Owners, of Bitches and Stud Dogs Alike, shall:

- Breed Canaan Dogs which adhere to the American Kennel Club approved Standard for the breed and which are healthy and temperamentally and structurally sound.
- Breeders shall keep well informed in the field of genetics and work to eliminate hereditary defects from the breed. All dogs and bitches to be bred shall be x-rayed prior to breeding and declared free of hip dysplasia by an authorized body or organization (OFA or Penn-Hip in the USA) and be screened free of eye problems by an authorized body or organization (CERF in the USA).
- A dog or bitch shall be two (2) years of age before breeding; the maximum age of breeding for bitches shall be nine (9) years, if all health tests remain normal. A bitch shall produce no more than seven (7) litters in her lifetime and produce no more than one (1) litter per year.
- Not crossbreed or breed to an unregistered Canaan Dog, with the exception of a dog undergoing "miyun" under the auspices of the Israeli Kennel Club.
- Not wholesale litters of Canaan Dogs, sell or donate to Brokers, wholesale dealers in dogs, humane societies, laboratories, or provide any animal for auction, prize, or raffle purposes.
- Keep all puppies with the litter until at least eight (8) weeks of age.
- Sellers shall provide puppy/dog buyers with the following papers free of charge for each puppy or dog sold: a written Contract of Sale specifying conditions of the sale and signed by both buyer and seller, a four generation pedigree, and written instructions for care, feeding and immunizations. North American Breeders must provide AKC registration papers within six (6) months. Breeders outside of North America who export to the United States must provide registration papers for the exported dog within eighteen (18) months.
- Owners of bitches shall not undertake the breeding of a bitch unless they are prepared to keep the resultant puppies until each is suitably placed.

## The CDCA strongly encourages the following practices:

- No stud dog should be used in more than fifteen (15) breedings. Considering the slow maturation of the Canaan Dog and the importance of assuring that breeding stock is free of genetic or other health problems, a minimum breeding of age of three (3) is seriously recommended in order for the breeders to determine with greater certainty that the parents are of good health, temperament, and structure.
- Breeders should require that any adult or puppy of obvious non-breeding quality be spayed/neutered, and we encourage the use of AKC limited registration.
- We encourage that all puppies and adults be permanently identified by microchip and/or tattoo. As a condition of sale or placement, the breeder(s) should retain the right of first refusal should the purchaser ever decide to transfer ownership, thereby giving the seller every opportunity to help the purchaser find a new home for the dog if necessary.
- Seller should ascertain that the prospective buyer has knowledge and facilities to properly care for a growing or grown dog, considering both the physical and mental well-being of the dog. Breeders should emphasize to puppy buyers the importance of proper socialization of the Canaan Dog puppy and encourage the achievement of a Canine Good Citizen certificate.

## Breed Standard

### General Appearance

The Canaan Dog, the National dog of Israel, is a herding and flock sentry dog originating in the Land of Canaan. The Canaan Dog is a pariah dog type that is naturally alert, inquisitive and watchful. He is mistrustful of strangers and unfamiliar environments, yet loyal and loving with his family. A square dog of medium size, moderate and balanced without extremes, showing a clean outline. The moderately angulated Canaan Dog moves with athletic agility and grace in an efficient, ground-covering endurance trot. He has a wedge-shaped head with low-set erect ears, a high set brush tail that curls over the back when confident, and a straight, harsh, flat-lying double coat. There is a marked distinction between the sexes.

### Size, Proportion, Substance

**Size** - Height at the withers is 20 to 24 inches for dogs and 19 to 23 inches for bitches. The ideal Canaan Dog lies in the middle of the stated ranges. **Proportion** - Square when measured from the point of the shoulder to the ischium and from the point of the withers to the ground. **Substance** - Moderate. Dogs generally weigh 45 to 55 pounds and bitches approximately 35 to 45 pounds. Dogs distinctly masculine without coarseness and bitches feminine without over-refinement.

### Head

Elongated, the length exceeding the breadth and depth considerably. Wedge-shaped, when viewed from above. Slightly arched when viewed from the side, tapering to stop. The region of the forehead is of medium width, but appearing broader through ears set low to complete an alert expression, with a slight furrow between the eyes. **Expression** - Alert, watchful and inquisitive. Dignified. **Eyes** - Dark, almond-shaped, slightly slanted. Varying shades of hazel with liver-pointed dogs. Eye rims darkly pigmented or of varying shades of liver harmonizing with coat color. Fault - Unpigmented eye rims. **Ears** - Erect, medium to large, set moderately low, broad at the base, tapering to a very slightly rounded tip. Ears angled very slightly forward when excited. A straight line from the inner corner of the ear to the tip of the nose should just touch the inner corner of the eye and a line drawn from the tip of the ear to the tip of the nose should just touch the outer corner of the eye. Ear motion contributes to expression and clearly defines the mood of the dog. **Major Fault** - In the adult dog, other than erect ears. **Stop** - Slightly accentuated. **Muzzle** - Tapering to complete the wedge shape of the head. Length equal to or slightly longer than the length of the skull from the occiput to stop. Whisker trimming optional. **Nose** - Darkly pigmented or varying shades of liver, harmonizing with coat color. **Lips** - Tight with good pigmentation. **Bite** - Scissors.

### Neck, Topline, Body

**Neck** - well arched. Balance to body and head and free from throatiness. **Topline** - Level with slight arch over the loins. **Body** - Strong, displaying athletic agility and trimness. **Chest** - Moderately broad and deep, extending to the elbows, with well-sprung ribs. **Loin** - Well-tucked up. Short, muscled flanks. **Tail** - Set high. When confident tail will be carried curled over the back, either in a curl or sickle, with one full curl being the ideal. When extended, the bone shall reach to the hocks.

### Forequarters

Shoulders moderately angulated. Legs straight. Pasterns flexible with very slight slope when viewed from the side. Dewclaws may be removed. **Feet** - Catlike, pads hard, pigmentation harmonizing with nose and eye rims. Nails strong, hard, pigmentation harmonizing with either nose and eye rims or coat.

### Hindquarters

Moderately angulated. In balance with forequarters. Straight when viewed from the rear. Thigh musculature well-developed, moderately broad. Hocks well-let-down. Dewclaws must be removed. Feet and nails as in fore-quarters.

### Coat

Double coat. Outer coat straight, harsh, flat-lying. Outer coat of medium length on body, shorter on front part of the legs and head; longer on ruff, tail, top of withers and back of thigh. Ruff more pronounced on males. Thick brush tail tapering to a pointed tip. Undercoat - soft and short with density varying with climate. Excessively long outer coat that masks the clean outline of the dog is undesirable as is any trimming that alters the natural appearance of the dog.

### Color

There are two color patterns. Pattern 1) Predominantly white with mask and with or without additional patches of color (large body patches are desirable). Pattern 2) Solid colored with or without white trim. Color may range from black through all shades of brown - sandy to red or liver. Shadings of black on a solid brown or tan dog are frequently seen. The trim on a solid colored dog may include chest, undercarriage, feet and lower part of leg and tip of tail. In all color patterns self-ticking may be present. Disqualifications - a) Gray and/or brindle. b) All white.

### Mask

The mask is a desired and distinguishing feature of the predominantly white Canaan Dog. The mask is the same color(s) as the body patches on the dog. The basically symmetrical mask must completely cover the eyes and ears or can completely cover the head as in a hood. The only allowed white in the mask or hood is a white blaze of any size or shape and/or white on the muzzle below the mask. Faults - On predominantly white dogs - absence of mask, half mask, or grossly asymmetrical mask.

### Gait

The characteristic gait is a brisk and tireless trot covering more ground than expected. Moderate angulation results in the appropriate reach and drive of the natural dog's endurance trot. In this trot the rear paw steps into the footprint of the front paw. His trot tends to converge to the center at higher speeds. The Canaan Dog is agile, graceful and able to change speed and direction instantly. Correct movement is essential to this breed.

### Temperament

Alert, vigilant, devoted and docile with his family. Reserved and aloof with strangers. Highly territorial, serving as a responsive companion and natural guardian. Very vocal, persistent. Easily trained. Faults - Shyness or dominance toward people.

### Disqualifications

Gray and/or brindle.

All white.

Approved April 10, 2012

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