

All About Boxers

All dog breeds were bred to have a purpose. Some dogs are used for herding livestock while others are used to track game. Each of these breeds are divided into one of seven groups developed by the American Kennel Club. Of these groups, the working group is one of stamina and courage. In this article, we will be discussing one of the most popular working dogs, the boxer.

Where Did the Boxer Dog Breed Originate?

Boxers date back to 1896, and were developed from the now-extinct Bullenbeisser breed. Other breeds such as the Mastiff and the Bulldog also develop from this ancestor. The first boxer dog breed standard emerged in 1904 deriving from the original breeding. In the same year, the American Kennel Club not only recognized the breed but also named it the first champion.

Originally bred as a guard dog, the boxer has been used for police, service, and as a family companion. Because of its working nature, the boxer dog breed tends to be energetic and want to please.

What Are the Key Characteristics of a Boxer?

The boxer dog breed is well known for their “smushed” appearing skull. The proper term for this shape is brachycephalic. This means that the width of the head is greater than the length.

Another key feature is the jawline. The bottom jaw should protrude over the upper jaw, known as mandibular prognathism, or underbite. In some cases, the jaw may even protrude past the lips, exposing the boxer’s teeth.

With the wide skull also comes round, expressive eyes, which must be brown according to the American Kennel Club. The boxer has big, almost bug-like eyes that need to be kept clean. The muzzle pushes into the eyes causing wrinkles that can collect dirt and cause eye problems.

There are two procedures technically required to have an AKC-registered dog. Tail docking is the most commonly known and almost all boxer dog breeders will already have them docked before the puppies go to their forever home. The other procedure is cropping, which is cutting the ears so they stand upright. Most breeders will not get this done and let the owner decide if they want their boxer to have hanging ears or erect ears.

The key to the breed standard is square. They have a square muzzle, chest, and stance which shows off the muscle features of the dog. The topline will look like a “v” shape from the head to the tail.

What Colors Do Boxers Come In?

Boxer dog interesting fact, they do come in more than two colors. While the most common colors are fawn and brindle, the boxer can also come in black and white. Most boxers can have white or black

markings while still being fawn or brindle. The AKC considers a boxer with more than 1/3 of white markings to be a disqualification.

Is the Boxer a Healthy Breed?

While a relatively healthy breed, the boxer can develop several issues, one being hip dysplasia. They can become overweight easily if not exercised daily which can worsen the chance of hip dysplasia.

Another key health problem is heart and breathing problems. Being a brachycephalic breed means a shorter nasal passage, which means they have a harder time catching their breath. It also means that boxers tend to snore.

Boxers are also susceptible to cancer. Any change in movement, appetite, or demeanor should always be reported to your veterinarian.

The Boxer Dog Breed Looks Mean – What is Their Temperament Like?

Another boxer dog interesting fact, despite the “mean” look to their muzzle, the breed is generally very laid back. They are known for their loyalty to their family and are able to get along with children and other dogs. It never hurts to enroll your boxer into training classes as a puppy to ensure proper socialization.

Any Other Boxer Interesting Facts?

The breed actually got its name from the way they play. Boxers tend to stand on their hind legs and use their front paws to bat and swat, as if trying to box an opponent. They also tend to bounce and jump with all fours off the ground.

Even though the AKC does not recognize the color, over 20% of boxers are all white.

If you have decided to adopt a boxer dog breed, make sure you have plenty of time for training and playing. But most importantly, make sure you have plenty of love to give.