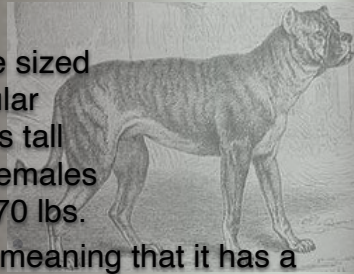


This n That about the Boxer

The boxer is a German breed, developed in the late 1800s from mastiff-type dogs known as bullenbeissers (bull-baiters). The brabant bullenbeisser is generally accepted as being the most immediate ancestor of the boxer. These dogs were selectively bred for hunting and holding prey – and the independent thinking ability required for that task remains a feature of the breed today.

The modern boxer is a medium to large sized dog, short haired, energetic and muscular dog. Males stand between 23-25 inches tall and weigh around 66 -70/80 lbs., and females 21-23 inches weighing around 55 - 60/70 lbs.



The boxer is a brachycephalic breed – meaning that it has a shorter muzzle with the lower jaw extending beyond the upper jaw (undershot). While this gives the dog a very secure 'bite' (remember the breed was first developed for hunting and holding prey) it also means he has difficulty in regulating body temperature, and does not do well in very hot or cold conditions – he may also snore, especially if too short.

What colors do boxers come in?

Brindle, fawn and white. Technically speaking, there are only two colors – brindle and fawn. Boxers may or may not have white markings (known as "flash") and the white boxer is simply a fawn or a brindle with very extensive white markings covering the whole coat . Fawn boxers have a solid fawn color coat, in shades ranging from pale tan to deep deer red. Brindle boxers have the same fawn ground colors, overlaid with various degrees of dark striping. The correct term for any brindle is brindle, and depending on the fawn ground color concentration of striping and local terminology, they can be variously described as "light", "golden", "fawn", "red", "mahogany", "dark", "reverse" or "sealed" brindle. AKC papers will only be marked **Brindle**, regardless of how dark or light the pattern of striping.

Black boxers do not exist, the color gene responsible for black coat color does not exist within the boxer breed (much as brindle does not exist for labradors, or harlequin for Rottweilers). If you see a "black" boxer, it must either be a very dark brindle or a mixed breed.

What is the difference between a show quality and pet quality puppy? Very little! The difference between a show quality puppy (or more correctly, a show potential puppy) and a pet quality puppy may be as little as more evenly or attractively placed markings. A breeder should breed every litter for the best quality healthiest puppies possible, with the aim of producing dogs that hopefully will attain the breed standard. What makes one puppy a better show prospect than another is a matter of judgement (and supposition) as to which will develop the best structure, markings and personality to make it in the show-ring and ultimately to breeding the next generation.

There may be a price difference between show prospect and pet puppies, but this should be minimal as all puppies in a litter have required the same investment in time, money and health care, however some desirable colorations ARE harder to come by.

Leading health issues of Boxers and large breeds in general, are cancers, heart conditions, hypothyroidism, hip dysplasia, and degenerative myelopathy. Studies show the risks of these are greatly increased by spaying and neutering. Other conditions that may be seen, are gastric dilation and torsion (bloat), intestinal problems, and allergies (although these may be more related to diet and over vaccination than breed). The boxer is one of many breeds that have a tendency towards spondylosis of the spine as they age. Natural anti-inflammatories such as Golden Paste may help manage this. According to a UK Kennel Club health survey, cancer accounts for 38.5% of Boxer deaths, followed by old age 21.5%, cardiac 6.9% and gastrointestinal 6.9% related issues.

"The character of the Boxer is of the greatest importance and demands the most solicitous attention. He is renowned from olden times for his great love and faithfulness to his master and household. He is harmless in the family, but distrustful of strangers, bright and friendly of temperament at play, but brave and determined when aroused. His intelligence and willing tractability, his modesty and cleanliness make him a highly desirable family dog and cheerful companion. He is the soul of honesty and loyalty, and is never false or treacherous even in his old age."