



# Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

## **Congratulations on your new Wirehaired Pointing Griffon!**

The American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association (AWPGA) would like to help you enjoy your new Griffon by providing you with some basic information about the breed.

### **Brief History**

The Griffon is an international breed of dog whose earliest origins are lost in the mist of antiquity. Some scholars suggest that our beloved "Griffs" were used by the Romans as companions. Fortunately, its most recent history is complete and well documented.

The Wirehaired Pointing Griffons—affectionately called "Griffs"—were developed by a Dutch sportsman and hunter, Edward Karel Korthals, who lived from 1851 to 1896. The strain Korthal developed was a coarsely wirehaired dog of medium size with excellent hunting ability. He systematically narrowed his breeding stock down to eight specimens that bred true and can be said to be responsible for the foundation of this international breed. The first imported Griffons appeared in the US in 1887. The first Griffon registered by the AKC was in 1887 and was registered as a Russian Setter.

### **Temperament**

Griffs are people dogs that thrive on human companionship. They have an intense need to be near their owners. Because of this trait, your Griff will be happiest when kept in the house as a member of your family. Griffs do best with an active family. Dogs kept in kennels or fenced yards need a significant amount of people time each day in order to remain emotionally healthy. Isolation from humans can quickly ruin a Griff's

personality. Griffs that have been properly socialized make ideal family dogs. They are gentle guardians of small children and enthusiastic playmates of older children and adults. Griffs can be reserved with strangers and can be quite protective of their family and property. Taking your dog to training classes and introducing him to a wide variety of people and places will help him develop appropriate social behaviors.

### **The Griffon as a Field Dog**

Griffs are well known as versatile gun dogs, excelling in all aspects of hunting upland game birds and waterfowl. Their natural hunting abilities allow them to track, point, mark falls, and retrieve on land and in the water. These dogs are not specialists: they are all-terrain dogs for hunters who desire flexibility and need multipurpose dogs to assist them in the field. Griffs are close working dogs for the foot hunter. They have a natural hunting instinct and require only minimal formal training. They are usually persistent and methodical in their hunting pattern. Griffs are very good swimmers and love the water. Their coat provides protection from the elements. Griffs have been affectionately called the 4-wheel drive of hunting dogs, going in briars and underbrush with no hesitation.

### **The Griffon as a Show Dog**

The great beauty of this breed is that it is to be shown in its natural state. A Griffon requires only slight alteration to his coat. Trimming and stripping are allowed only around the ears, top of head, cheeks, and feet. The intelligent Griff trains easily for the show ring. His ever-present desire to please enables him to quickly understand the intricacies of show ring procedure. A well-bred Griffon,



properly socialized, is steady in temperament and is unflappable with the bustling show antics going on around him.

### **The Griffon as a Performance Dog**

The Griffon is a very cooperative dog to train, and handle. Griffons have achieved many of AKC's advanced obedience titles as well as tracking titles, agility titles, and of course, field titles. Griffons are very athletic dogs and commonly enjoy a long working life, often staying healthy and active into their teens.

### **Spaying and Neutering**

Spaying or neutering your Griff has positive benefits for you and your pet. Spaying or neutering will not make your pet lazy or fat. Lack of exercise will. Spayed females often live longer and have fewer health problems. Spaying eliminates uterine cancer and greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer. You will also be spared the inconvenience and mess of twice-yearly heat cycles.

Neutered males will be less inclined to wander and are usually more tolerant of other male dogs. Neutered males cannot develop testicular cancer and have a lower risk of prostate cancer. The American Kennel Club welcomes spayed and neutered dogs to participate in obedience, agility, tracking, junior showmanship events, and some field work.

### **Breeding**

Breeding dogs is a great responsibility. It involves art, science, and total devotion. It will show you the best in the human-canine bond and the result of absolute commitment by responsible breeders. Responsible breeders seek to improve their breeds with every litter. To reach this goal they must devote hours to continually learning as much as they can about their breeds, including health and genetics concerns, temperament, hunting instinct, appearance, and type. They have their breeding stock tested for, and certified free of, diseases like hip dysplasia, hypothyroidism, and eye problems. They also need to know about general dog behavior, training, and health care. In short, they become canine experts. A responsible breeder becomes involved with a dog club, studies the breed standard, attends dog events, is objective, conditions the sire and dam, has the time to nurture the puppies, and very importantly, **places the puppies** wisely. A responsible breeder is responsible for life.



### **The American Wirehaired Griffon Association (AWPGA)**

The AWPGA is dedicated to the well being of this breed and has some 300 members. We are dedicated to the betterment of the breed and have a quarterly magazine, the *Griffonnier*, in which we offer articles and news of interest to Griff fanciers everywhere. To join or for more information, contact AWPGA, 1924 Sweetwater Road, Gypsum, CO 81637-9413.

**Visit our web site: [www.awpga.com](http://www.awpga.com)**