Congratulations

on Your New Black and Tan Coonhound!

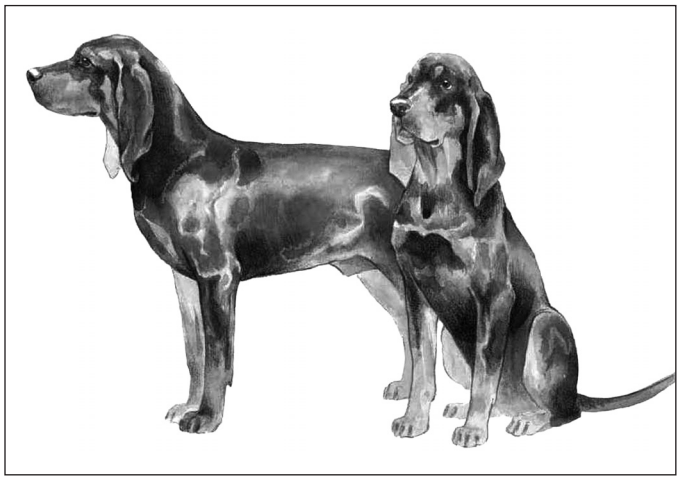
A Few Words on Origin

The Black and Tan Coonhound is one of the few breeds that can claim the title of All-American. Although the exact origins are unknown, it is probable that many of the European hunting hounds went into the basic make-up of the early coonhounds, including Bloodhounds and Foxhounds of the time, and possibly the Kerry Beagle and the Grand Bleu de Gascogne hounds. At any rate, the evolution and development of the Black and Tan took place here in America and by the turn of the century the breed was here to stay. The first Black and Tans were registered with the United Kennel Club in 1900, as the Black and Tan Coon and Fox Hound, and after selective breeding of Black and Tans, the breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1945. This is a hunting dog. Years upon years of selective breeding have gone into his background and though he does not need to hunt to be happy, most all possess strong hunting instincts. A hound may travel miles and miles from home in pursuit of game. Once they are on the scent it is difficult to capture their attention again.

Living With a Black and Tan Coonhound

Basically a happy-go-lucky breed, they adapt fairly easily to most situations. They are very people oriented and enjoy being with the family. They are very good with children and are seldom quarrelsome with other animals. They are playful but gentle despite their proportions. The breed is slow to mature and requires patience and a firm and loving hand. Independent by nature, do not expect exacting obedience from your Black and Tan, rather compliance from a loving friend.

Black and Tans are medium-large dogs (65-100 pounds) and can adapt to living either outside or indoors. They thrive on human companionship and enjoy being part of their owner's life. Hunting isn't essential, but moderate exercise is essential. The average lifespan is 10-12 years. Early socialization is necessary for the puppy to grow up calm and confident. As housedogs, Black and Tans tend to be very laid back, and they enjoy their creature comforts. If you are not willing to share your furniture with your hound, you may be fighting an uphill battle. Most Black and Tans are good travelers and enjoy car rides. The Black and Tan may not be as



frivolous in his play as some other breeds, but most have a sense of humor. They tend to chase and tree small animals, and neighbors may object to their deep, booming voice. A secured area is essential unless you live on enough acreage for your Black and Tan to exercise safely. In the field, Black and Tan Coonhounds work their trail with consummate skill and determination. They trail Bloodhound fashion; entirely by skill, with nose to ground, "barking up" or giving voice the moment their quarry is treed. Though especially bred for coon, these dogs train well for the deer hunter, bear hunter, mountain "cat" hunter, right down to the squirrel-hunting enthusiast without too much additional training. Their short, dense coat makes them easy to groom and care for, with a rubber currycomb an ideal tool for this type of coat.

Training Your Coonhound

Obedience training for a Black and Tan Coonhound can encompass many facets. The first, known as "competition," comprises exercises that must be performed in order to be awarded the AKC obedience titles. If possible, visit obedience training classes in your area and observe the training methods. A Black and Tan does not respond favorably to a heavy hand. The instructor you choose should work with you and your Black and Tan as a team. The second way to train your Black and Tan is "manners." You may never consider competing in the obedience ring, but the difference between a well-mannered dog and one that's not could be your sanity. The main idea is to have a dog you can live with. Teach the limits and restrictions early and consistently. Third, if you wish to hunt your Black and Tan, even in the woods, a few commands may make quite a difference. Coming in when called, heeling, and command to stop

© 2021 The American Black and Tan Coonhound Club

barking (perhaps in the truck) will make your hunting trip more enjoyable. And fourth, the breed ring. Even the few exercises required in the breed ring are a form of obedience. To stand still when examined and to gait properly demand training and practice. Whether you participate in hunting, showing, obedience or just want an enjoyable pet, exercise is very important—run that extra energy out before practicing, then again after; make it fun—let them look forward to these sessions with eagerness. A lot of trainers report that their Black and Tans approach training in many different ways. Some will perform without a hitch, but with minimal amount of enthusiasm, while some enjoy every moment of practice, but tend to deviate from the exercises. These dogs like to practice "creative obedience" —adding their own touches to the commands. Perhaps you may be working too slowly, or training the exercises in the same order. Try to vary the order and/or add new ones. Above all, enjoy your dog. When you give him a job to do, he will be happy. That is the best possible relationship between a canine and human. The tracking enthusiast will find it difficult to find a more eager trainee that our Black and Tan Coonhounds—what better sport than tracking with a dog bred to use his nose!

Before You Breed

If you plan to breed a litter, the first step is an honest comparison of your Black and Tan Coonhound to the breed standard. Obtain a copy from the AKC or American Black and Tan Coonhound Club websites (www.abtcc.com and www.akc.org). A responsible breeder plans each breeding with the goal of improving the breed, avoiding genetic defects and producing puppies that are not only better than their parents but one step closer to the ideal Black and Tan Coonhound described in the breed standard.

Health

The American Black and Tan Coonhound Club (AB&TCC) has its own Canine Health Committee as well as being supportive to the AKC Canine Health Foundation (www.akcchf.org). While the Black and Tan Coonhound is not prone to the average canine disorders, some degree of hip dysplasia has been recorded. Many members have their breeding stock certified by the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA). Eyes are checked (CERF) for cataracts. Some thyroid issues have also been noted to occur. Ear problems can be a consideration, as with any pendulous ear type dog. However, with weekly ear checks and cleansing of the ear, there is little need to worry.

Permanent Identification

Because our hounds may have a one-track mind and may lose us, it is important for your dog to have permanent identification and be enrolled in a recovery program. Microchipping by your veterinarian and registration through programs such as the AKC Companion Animal Recovery Program (www.akccar.org). The Program consists of an encapsulated microchip inserted under the skin at the back of the neck. The chip contains information used to identify your dog and you, the owner, plus a toll-free number to the AKC database. Nearly all animal shelters and veterinarians now have scanners to read these chips. The insertion procedure, available at most veterinary offices, is simple and painless.

AKC Venues for You and Your Black and Tan Coohound

There are several sports open to enjoy with your Black and Tan Coonhound. They include Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Tracking, Rally and Night Hunts. Spayed and neutered dogs can participate in all of these, except Conformation, where the dog is required to remain sexually unaltered. For more information on these events contact AKC at (919) 233-9767 or www.akc.org.

American Black and Tan Coonhound Club
Contact the American Black and Tan Coonhound Club at **www.abtcc.org**

AKC Companion Animal Recovery Program (CAR)
1-800-252-7894
www.akccar.org

AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF)
1-800-682-9696
www.akcchf.org

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA)
(573) 442-0418
www.offa.org

Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF)
(765) 494-8179
http://www.vet.purdue.edu/~yshen/cerf.html

