

www.amrottclub.org

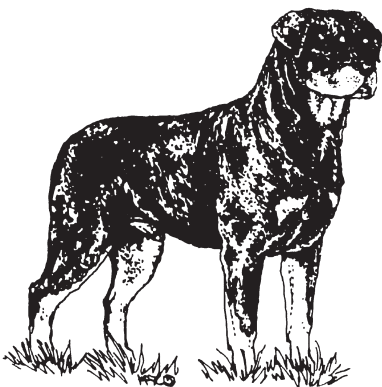
By bringing a Rottweiler into your home, you have opened the door to not just any dog, but a wonderful friend and companion.

The American Rottweiler Club wants you to be aware of all the aspects of Rottweiler ownership so you will enjoy your Rottweiler as well as feel confident of your dog within your community. Ownership of such an intelligent and powerful animal carries with it legal and moral responsibilities. Thus, it is incumbent upon you, as owner and guardian, to provide the love, care and training needed.

Rottweiler ancestors were the Mastiff-based dogs brought by the invading Romans into Europe. Their dogs worked the herds of livestock and pulled carts and cannons. The native Germans appreciated the controllable herding and guarding instincts of these dogs, and selectively bred for these traits to create dogs for their own needs on their farms. In the early 1900s, a club in Germany established a breed standard for the Rottweiler. Through vigilance and devotion, the breed has remained relatively unchanged in appearance and temperament.

Aggression levels varies with individuals within the breed, but generally the Rottweiler is protective of its territory and does not welcome strangers until properly introduced. Aggression toward other dogs is fairly common, especially between same-sex dogs. Your obligation is to make certain your dog is under control at all times and never allowed to be a threat or nuisance to others.

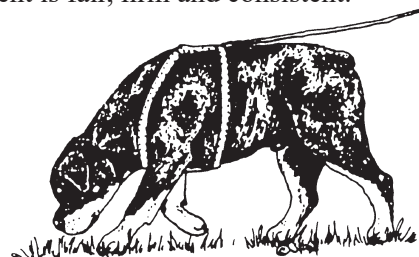
Proper socialization of a dog of such strength cannot be postponed. It must be done at a very early age. This



Congratulations on your new Rottweiler!

does not mean dog parks! Instead, consult a positive-methods trainer for proper procedures with humans and other animals. Obedience training for the Rottweiler is mandatory, and is best started at an early age. Ideally, you are part of this training and the dog is not sent to boarding school. Obedience is a life-long skill, and is ongoing throughout the life of the dog.

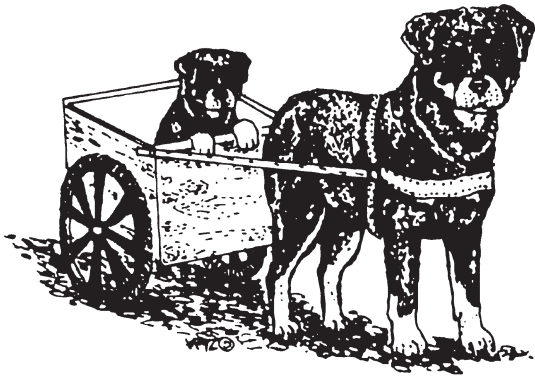
Rottweilers love to show off and please their owners. Be certain to select an instructor who has knowledge and understanding of the breed, one who practices reasonable training methods. Harsh corrections and physical abuse are not necessary and can damage your dog both emotionally and physically. The Rottweiler is an eager partner but a reluctant slave. He is both intelligent and sensitive and will respond best when environment is fair, firm and consistent.



The personality of the Rottweiler may range from very friendly to very reserved. It is not uncommon for them to behave in a clownish manner toward family and friends. The Rottweiler often follows its owner from room to room, preferring to keep its people in view. For this reason, and many others, Rottweilers do not thrive in a kennel environment. Although a fenced yard is a must for the dog to safely experience some freedom of movement, no Rottweiler should spend all its time alone, banished from the family. The Rottweiler is not a good "yard dog;" they are "people" dogs. If maintained in isolation they can quickly develop unpleasant traits. No Rottweiler should be tied or chained. Left alone for long periods of time, the Rottweiler is capable of extremely destructive behavior, which may indicate boredom or anxiety. They can also develop hyper-territorial aggression and other symptoms of frustration.

This is an expensive breed to maintain, requiring good quality kibble generally not found in grocery stores. Quantity to feed is determined by developmental and activity level. Ask your breeder or veterinarian for guidance or advice. Your Rottweiler requires regular veterinary examinations and vaccinations. They can have health issues that need medication, monitoring and even surgery.

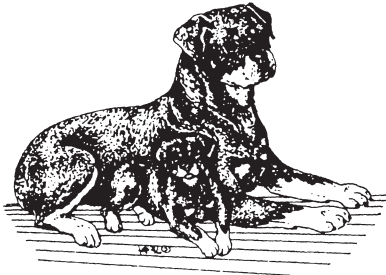
Proper daily exercise will keep your Rottweiler fit and happy. However, too much exercise in a young dog can



invite joint problems, and heat exhaustion at any age. See below for a reference on proper exercise.

Most Rottweilers love and adore children; many are simply benign with them. *However, no young child should ever be left unsupervised with any dog.*

Thousands of Rottweilers are bred every year here in the United States, so the question of whether to breed your Rottweiler must be given serious consideration. Rottweilers are subject to genetic problems that can be passed onto any puppies they produce. Such defects include hip and elbow dysplasia (a crippling malformation of the joints), several types of eye problems, heart defects and cancer. Poor temperament is the most serious genetic fault passed on from parent to puppy. There is never an excuse to breed a Rottweiler of poor temperament.



Rottweilers used for breeding should be certified free of hip and elbow dysplasia by x-rays submitted to the Orthopedic Foundation For Animals (see link below), as well as certified free of eye problems by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist. Because of heart issues, an echocardiogram is also strongly urged.

The American Kennel Club has an approved, written breed standard for each breed, describing how the breed should look, move, and behave. All responsible breeders strive to produce dogs that conform to this standard. Rottweilers that deviate from the standard in appearance, structure or temperament are not to be bred.

Bitches do not benefit by having a litter. Spayed bitches are often healthier and live longer than their unsprayed sisters. Spaying eliminates uterine cancer and greatly reduces the risk of breast cancer. Neutered males cannot develop testicular cancer and have a lower risk of developing prostate cancer. A neutered male is usually more tolerant of other male dogs and less likely

to “leave his mark” in inappropriate places, such as your home. Spaying and neutering will not make your Rottweiler obese or lazy, but overfeeding and lack of exercise will. If this is not enough to convince you to spay or neuter, merely contact your local Rottweiler Rescue, or look at any online adoption site and see how many Rottweilers are listed needing homes.

Altered animals can participate in most of the American Kennel Club performance and companion animal events, but they cannot participate in conformation shows.

“Due to recent studies funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, it may be prudent for the long-term health of the animal to delay spay/neuter until a dog reaches maturity as determined in conjunction with your veterinarian,” Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC’s Chief Veterinarian Officer recently reported.

The Rottweiler is a Working Breed and is happiest when given a job to perform, even as simple a one as carrying the newspaper or a package for you. His versatility is demonstrated by its ability as a tracking dog, an obedience competitor, agility, a therapy dog, a support dog for the handicapped, a herding dog, a police canine, and most importantly, as a devoted family companion.

Links **to help you in your new adventure**

Like to read? Believe it or not, *Rottweilers for Dummies* is actually a good book if you’re new to the breed.

Be careful of young joints! Appropriate exercise for a dog, puppy through adulthood:

www.shoppuppyculture.com/collections/books

Need a trainer? For humane training referrals, go here:

www.apdt.com

Want to know about OFA? For all orthopedic information, see

www.ofa.org

Have children and dogs? Check out

www.familypaws.com

And of course, the American Rottweiler Club is here to help you!

www.amrottclub.org

