

Congratulations on your new Swedish Vallhund!



The Swedish Vallhund Club of America welcomes you as a new owner of this wonderful breed. Our club strives to help Vallhund owners learn about and enjoy the amazing attributes of the breed. We present here some basic information and resources to get you started.

Breed History

The Vallhund is a very old Spitz breed as well as an original Swedish breed. Sweden has declared that this breed goes back over 1000 years to the



time of the Vikings and was bred to work on farms and ranches. The breed was known as "Vallhund," which meant "herding dog." They are low to the ground and herd by rounding up the animals and nipping at their hocks. In 1942, the breed was almost extinct till Bjorn von Rosen, who had worked to save several old Swedish breeds from extinction, remembered the Vallhund from his boyhood and became involved. He and Mr. K.G. Zettersten worked together to save the breed. The men found a few of the old Vallhunds and began a breeding program. In 1943, the Swedish Kennel Club recognized the breed.

In 1964, with the Swedish standard revised, the breed became known as Vastgotaspets after the Swedish province Vastergotland in which the revived breeding originated. Vallhunds are

sometimes also referred to as "Spitz of the West Goths." Then, in 1974, the first Vallhund came to England, to Ryslip Kennels. The first two Vallhunds were imported to the United States from Starvon Kennel, England, in 1984. Marilyn Thell of Rhode Island, USA, brought two Vallhunds to the United States in 1985, and produced the first litter of Vallhunds to be whelped in the United States, nine in number, at Jonricker Kennel in 1986.

The breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 2007. Although considered a rare breed, Vallhunds are becoming more popular due to their temperament, athleticism, and adaptability.

General Description

This is a solid dog, with strong, substantial bone and a solidly built, muscular body. The breed is watchful, energetic, fearless, alert, intelligent, friendly, eager to please, adaptable, active and steady, making for



a good herding and companion animal, as well as a responsible watchdog. Spirited and athletic, as well as steady and dependable, he is a "big dog in

a smaller body.” The Swedish Vallhund does well with adults and children of all ages. He is also quite adaptable to other family pets, as long as gradual progressive adjustment procedures are used. The Vallhund is a hardy and healthy dog, with a life expectancy of 14-18 years. Vallhunds can have



a natural bob or stub tail, or long tail. All tails are acceptable and can be present in the same litter! Vallhund coats show a sable pattern (black-tipped hairs) and are seen in colors of gray and red, and combinations of these colors, in various shades.

Grooming

A good weekly brushing helps to keep the dog's coat in good shape. Daily brushing may be necessary during seasonal shedding. Nail trimming, and checking ears and teeth for possible problems, should also be performed weekly.

Exercise, Training, and Activity

The Vallhund, as a herding dog, has abundant energy but is not hyperactive. He enjoys walks and runs as well as playing with other dogs and his family. Proper socialization and obedience training establish good habits at an early age. We strongly encourage you to attend a puppy kindergarten or an obedience class with your puppy. Besides being a wonderful companion, Vallhunds are active in: Herding Trials, Conformation, Agility, Search and Rescue, Scentwork, Obedience, and other dog sports. They may also be trained as Therapy or Service Dogs.

Health

Vallhunds overall tend to be a healthy breed. While they are tremendously athletic, it is possible for them to overdo exercise, especially as growing puppies. We encourage you to establish a relationship with your veterinarian to determine the best vaccine and preventative health care for your new puppy.

Spay/Neuter

Please honor the terms of your contract with your breeder. Veterinary research recommends not spaying or neutering until after the pet is fully mature, often 18-24 months of age.



The Parent Club

The Swedish Vallhund Club of America (SVCA) is a nonprofit club dedicated to welfare of the breed. We have members across the US who are knowledgeable and would be happy to answer any questions. We also publish a quarterly newsletter, **VIKING TIMES**, for more news and information about the breed.

For more information please visit us at:

SVCA, Inc. | The official website of
the Swedish Vallhund Club of America

<http://www.swedishvallhund.com>

