



March 2025



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As you all know, our Specialty Show is just around the corner! Mark your calendars and prepare to join us on March 30th and March 31st (Sunday and Monday).

If you can spare an hour or two to help during the show, it would be truly welcomed and appreciated. I am looking for help at the raffle table selling tickets, watching over the raffle items/ticket buckets in case of poor weather most notably the wind!

We may need runners/walkers from the tent to the building to deliver messages/items/pick up a food order for the members staffing the tent area. If you are a good picture taker and willing to share, you are my person! Pictures are needed for our newsletter!

There are lots of small jobs that can help a show go from being a good to show to a fantastic show. Go into the crowds, welcome visitors, answer questions, ask if they know about the raffle and silent auction.

Thank you to those members who are already volunteering their time!

Let's all put out the welcome mat and work together to have the best show ever!!

Kathy

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If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Kathy Lewis.

Susan and Adam Wine are proud of their boy, Aulfynn! The pics are of Aulfynn with his Rally Intermediate Title ribbon and his first Best of Breed win on Saturday, February 15th 2025.



Yearly Home Cleaning Guide for Pet Owners

By Saige Driver, Updated: Mar 14, 2024 **AKC**



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This year, while you're airing bedding, flinging open the windows, mopping the floors, and dusting everything in sight, don't forget to include your dog's living space too. It's important to take a yearly audit of your pet's supplies and sanitize any items such as toys that may be used often.

Make your annual cleaning ritual pup-friendly by adding these dog-specific tasks to your checklist. Remember to always use pet-safe cleaning products!

Pick Up Your Yard

If you live in a colder climate, you likely already know why you need to clean your yard. When the snow melts, it reveals everything you neglected to pick up during the colder months, including your dog's droppings.

When the warm weather hits, your pup will want to indulge in the sunshine, so make sure your yard is a safe place for them to hang out and play. Along with picking up your dog's poop, walk around your yard and pick up sticks, stones, branches, or anything else your dog may try to play with and chew.

Refresh Your Kitchen

Annual cleaning isn't complete until you give your kitchen a good deep clean—and that includes your dog's supplies as well. When did you last

clean or replace your dog's food dish or water bowl? You don't need to replace bowls regularly, but consider purchasing new dishes if the bowls have been chewed or are too dirty to save.

You should clean your dog's bowls out at least every day, but it is always a good idea to give them a deep cleaning every so often. If your dog has a rug or mat under their dishes, clean that too.

Check Expiration Dates

Make sure to check your puppy's food, treats, and medications, and dispose of anything that's expired.



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Get Rid of the Dog Hair

If your dog sheds often, you know that stray strands and dander are among the biggest house-cleaning challenges. You'll want to go over every corner and surface of your house with a pet hair vacuum.

Take preparatory steps to improve your chances of making a clean sweep. On carpets and upholstery, for example, a light misting with water and fabric softener followed by a once-over with a stiff-bristled brush can loosen and pull up embedded hairs. You can also go over surfaces with a lint roller, pet-hair remover, or other hair-grabber after vacuuming. Once all your surfaces are free of pet hair, go over your fabrics and carpets with a fabric spray to finish the job.

Clean and Discard Old Toys

Decluttering is a crucial part of any cleaning. Along with organizing your closet, take a look at your dog's toy basket. If the toys are dirty, give them a good clean with soap and water (fabric toys can go in the laundry) but toss out any broken or potentially dangerous ones.

Once you're finished cleaning them, don't forget to have fun replacing the toys you had to discard.

Wash Bedding, Blankets, and Collars

While you should frequently wash your dog's bedding and blankets throughout the year, give them an extra-thorough cleaning occasionally. Consider also cleaning the baseboards, carpet, and walls near your pup's sleeping area, and give all your windows a good polish to wipe away nose and paw prints.

This is also a good time to thoroughly clean crates, carriers, collars, and leashes with a mild soap, like dishwashing detergent, and a highly diluted disinfectant. Many people do a final wipe-down with water, to reduce the chance of pets coming in contact with chemicals.

Don't Forget Grooming

Don't forget the most important part: keeping your pup clean! Your dog should already have a regular grooming routine, but, after a long winter, their thick coat will begin to shed, which often requires special care. To refresh your grooming knowledge, read our spring grooming tips and invest in safe, quality grooming products.

How to Clean Your Dog's Bed and Why It's Important

By Gemma Johnstone, Updated: Oct 24, 2024 **AKC**

There are lots of benefits of sharing your home with a dog, but the extra dirt they generate might not be one of them. While hoovering up hairs may become part of your daily routine, it's not uncommon to overlook your dog's bed and let it go weeks without a wash. However, given that these sleeping spots can be havens for fur, fleas, and undesirable germs, learning how to wash a dog's bed properly and adding the task to your regular cleaning calendar makes sense.



Aiste Stankeviciute/Shutterstock

Why You Should Wash Your Dog's Bed

Washing your dog's bed does more than remove funky odors—it can have health benefits for the whole family.

- **Control allergies:** Research shows a buildup of dander and dust mites in dog beds could exacerbate allergies, especially if your dog sleeps close to you in your bedroom or under your work-from-home desk.
- **Keep parasites at bay:** Dog sleeping spots can harbor fast-spreading fleas, roundworms, ticks, mange-causing mites and other external parasites. One study found fleas in 14% of pets' sleeping places, even though it was conducted well outside the prime flea season. Fleas mainly produce eggs at night, so dog beds can quickly become heavily infested.
- **Better for your dog's health:** Lying in a grimy bed increases the chance of your dog picking up an infection, especially if they have cuts or other open wounds.

- Reduce the risk of spreading disease: Studies show zoonotic diseases (those that can pass from animals to humans) and harmful bacteria can spread through contact with infected dog beds. These include Salmonella, Staphylococcus aureus and Leptospirosis.
- Increase the bed's lifespan: By ridding a buildup of coat oils, fur, odors, residue from treat toys or chews, and other grime.



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How Often Should You Wash Your Dog's Bedding?

There are no hard and fast rules regarding how often you should wash your dog's bedding. However, the authors of a study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal and the CDC recommend washing your dog's bedding weekly to reduce the risk of spreading parasites or zoonoses. The guidance from the EPA is to deep clean dog beds every two to three weeks to help control flea infestations.

How often your dog sleeps in their bed, the material it's made from, the type of coat your dog has, what they get up to outdoors, and whether any family members have allergies are some factors that can influence cleaning frequency. The fluffy bed of an oily-coated, heavy-shedding Labrador Retriever that loves to swim in muddy ponds and roll in fox poop will need more frequent cleaning than the water-resistant bed of a minimal-shedding Poodle that skirts around puddles to avoid getting their paws wet or dirty, for example.

How to Wash Your Dog's Bed

How you wash your dog's bed depends on its material, size, the manufacturer's instructions, and how dirty it is. Here are a few easy ways to clean a dog bed:

Remove Excess Hair

Mixing dog hair with water causes it to clump up and clog your machine, so before and in between washings, vacuum the surface, crevices and sides of the bed with a pet hair vacuum or a pet hair remover tool. Use a lint roller or masking tape, or wear rubber or latex gloves, and wipe the bed to lift the remaining hair.

Put It in the Washing Machine

Dog blankets and soft beds are typically best put in a washing machine—if they fit and the label allows it. High-temperature programs can kill germs and parasites and provide a deep clean.

Use a fragrance-free, pet-friendly detergent. If you have concerns about hair causing washing machine clogs, purchase a dog bed laundry bag to keep them contained. After the program is complete, check the filter and wipe the rubber seal to remove any debris or hair.

If the bed is very dirty, consider running an empty cycle afterwards to remove lingering odors. Put 1 or 2 cups of white vinegar and a 1/2 cup of bicarbonate of soda into the dispenser.

Air drying is usually best, as some bed fillings can clump in the dryer. Wait until thick, fiber-filled beds are fully dry before allowing your dog to snuggle back into them. A damp bed encourages mold and mildew formation.

Clean With Soapy Water

For plastic beds or other materials that can't go into the machine, wash them with warm, soapy water. Place the bed in a bathtub (if that isn't big enough, try an outdoor children's pool). Fill the container with warm water, pet-safe laundry detergent, and a cup of vinegar. Squeeze and

knead soft beds in the water repeatedly or scrub plastic beds thoroughly with a sponge. Empty the tub and rinse the bed until the soap is gone, then thoroughly disinfect the tub.

Where possible, avoid washing pet beds in sinks as this can spread germs to this food prep area.



STOWEN SETO/Getty Images Plus

What Dog Beds or Bedding Are Easiest to Keep Clean?

Choosing the right dog bed or bedding can make the washing process easier. Some options include:

- Plastic dog beds, which are probably the easiest to clean option and won't harbor hairs, smells, or parasites the way fiber-filled, fluffy beds will. However, some dogs don't find them snuggly enough, even with cozy blankets or a cushion lining their base.
- Elevated dog beds. These beds are typically built on a metal frame and featuring a wipe-clean fabric that stretches across the frame like a taut hammock.
- Dog blankets, which are ideal for covering a bed, especially if your dog sheds heavily or has an oily, smelly coat. They offer extra protection, meaning you can often wash the blankets weekly and the bulky bed slightly less frequently.
- Beds with removable covers. Removable bed covers are another option that might allow you to wash the main bed less frequently, especially if you opt for a waterproof type. You can easily pop these

in the washing machine and can often go in the dryer. Even if they require air-drying, a cover won't take nearly as long to wash as a thick, fiber-filled cushion.

When Is a Dog Bed Too Dirty for Cleaning?

Over time, washing might not vanquish ingrained dirt, stains and odors as well. If your dog's old bed still smells funky after washing and doesn't look its best, it might be time to invest in a new one. The EPA also recommends discarding your dog's bedding if it's heavily infested with fleas.

7 Nontoxic Houseplants for Dog Owners

By **AKC** Staff

Updated: Mar 21, 2024

When it comes to houseplants and pets, both can bring a lot of love and light into your life. Unfortunately, the two don't always mix so well. In fact, some houseplants can be downright deadly for pets. The good news is that many nontoxic houseplants are safe for dogs, and if you choose your houseplants wisely, your dog and your plants can coexist beautifully, says Justin Hancock, garden expert at Costa Farms in Miami.

Here are expert picks on the best nontoxic houseplants for dog owners.

Peperomia



This family of easy-growing Peperomia houseplants has been popular for generations because it's so forgiving, which is perfect for busy pet owners, Hancock says.

"Forget to water them now and again? No worries. Don't want to fertilize? No problem. And they don't contain natural compounds that are toxic to animals, so you don't need to worry if Fido nibbles on a leaf or two."

Bromeliads



With their exotic spikes of brightly colored blooms, Guzmania bromeliad

plants look festive. These nonpoisonous plants are easy to grow and stay relatively sturdy, so they're unlikely to suffer a lot of damage if playful pups knock them over.

Echeveria



This trendy Echeveria succulent doesn't need a lot of water. Nonpoisonous and spineless, they won't harm the furry members of your household.

Ponytail Palm



This "plant of steel" is practically indestructible, so the Ponytail Palm houseplant is a great choice if you need an easy-care plant that's

compatible with your pets. Its thick trunk and grassy leaves give it a festive look that's perfect for any room in the home.

Catnip



Catnip plants are nontoxic, and if you have a cat, they will love its fragrant leaves. Known for its bright green foliage, it can be planted inside or outside. It can also be steeped into a soothing tea for you!

Money Tree



Sadly, money does not actually grow on Money Tree plants. But these

beautifully green and sculptural houseplants are safe for pets, and also recommended for people with allergies and asthma.

Moth Orchid



The flowers of the Moth Orchid plant look fancy, but they're actually low-maintenance. They come in an amazing array of colors and can add an elegant touch to any space without putting your dog in danger.

A Note of Caution

Hancock says it's important to note that just because these plants are nontoxic for pets, it doesn't mean your pet still can't have a negative reaction to them.

"Pets can have allergies to plants, just like people can have food allergies, so a nonpoisonous plant could possibly (it's rare, of course) make a pet

sick,” Hancock says. “Likewise, it’s also possible for pets to have bad interactions with fertilizers or other products used on plants.”

So if your green thumb is itching, these nontoxic plants for dog owners are a good place to start. Just remember to watch your dogs around any new plants, and contact your vet if your dog eats any unknown plants in your home or yard.

How To Keep Your Carpet Clean With a Dog

By Jan Reisen, Updated: May 29, 2024 **AKC**

Dog owners often find themselves choosing between a home that’s decorated for their own comfort and style, and one that can withstand life with dogs. How many of us throw an old blanket on our beautiful sofa, so the dog can watch TV with us, and then pull it off when company comes?

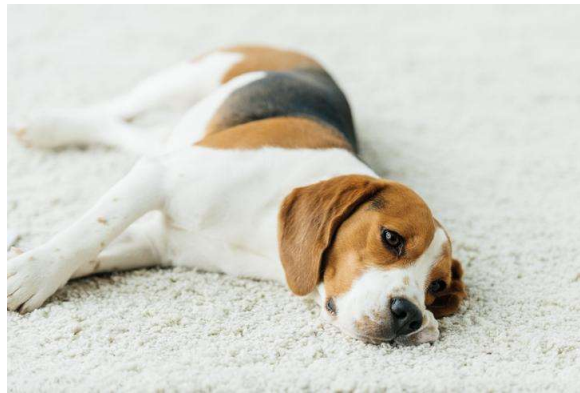
The question of balancing style and practicality often comes up when you are remodeling, renovating, or decorating your home. One of the more important decisions you’ll make as a dog owner will involve flooring. Luckily, there are ways to keep your carpets clean (and yourself sane) even with the messiest pets.

Advantages of Carpet for Dogs

The choice is easier in rooms that naturally get a lot of wear and tear, such as kitchens, mudrooms, and bathrooms. But what about rooms where you dream of having some plush carpeting under your feet, but hesitate because you have dogs? There actually are some advantages to carpet when it comes to dogs.

Unlike hard-surface floors, dogs won’t slip and slide on it, especially puppies that have not yet found their grown-up balance. Unlike hardwood, laminate, vinyl, or tile, carpets won’t accumulate scratches and scuff marks, so there’s no more worrying about damage from pets’ paws and claws. Carpeting is also noise-muffling, which is especially nice in upstairs

rooms or apartments. You can choose the color and style you want. Plus, your dog will appreciate having a soft, warm place to snooze.



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Types of Carpeting for Homes With Dogs

Once you've decided that carpeting is right for you, select one that can withstand the usual dirt and occasional accidents that come with living with dogs. You'll want:

- Material that repels spills, from your morning coffee to the wine your dog's tail just swept off the coffee table
- Superior stain resistance. Life happens, but it doesn't have to live permanently on your carpet
- A carpet that stands up to heavy traffic and wear-and-tear
- A serious warranty, just in case

Once you find the perfect carpeting, invest in regular a carpet cleaning service to prevent long-term wear and tear on carpet fibers. The longer you wait to clean for things like spots or traffic patterns, the more likely your carpet is beyond repair.

Remember that all carpets are different — that's why professional services have expert technicians to make sure your carpet is cleaned to its specific needs.



alvarez via Getty Images

How to Keep Carpets Clean With Dogs

You'll never keep all the dirt and mud off of your dog. However, you can follow a few tips to help keep your carpets clean when you live with dogs.

- Dry your dog's paws when they come inside. That will help prevent dirt from embedding in the carpet. They may not like it. But if you're consistent, they'll learn that they can't come in until you wipe their paws.
- Blot up spills as quickly as possible. The sooner you clean up a spill, the less likely it will turn into a stain. Make sure to blot because wiping and rubbing can make the stain worse.
- Clean any accidents with a neutral cleaner to help remove the acidity of your pet's urine
- If you do find old spots or spills, there are many pet-safe cleaning solutions you can use on carpet

No matter how careful you are, all dogs make messes or have accidents at some point. Finding a professional, pet-safe cleaning service is key to keeping your home clean and your pet healthy. Some cleaning services are EPA Safer Choice recognized, meaning they are safe for both you and your pets. Some carpet cleaning services also offer upholstery cleaning, odor removal, and professional spot/urine removal as add-ons.

If you're concerned about allergens that come with having a dog, professional carpet cleaning can remove common household allergens from carpet. Take the fear away from letting your dog on the carpet or furniture by using a pet-safe professional cleaning service.

We all make some compromises when we share our home with a dog, whether that means never leaving food on the counter, making room in the bed, or designating one armchair as "the dog's chair." But you don't have to compromise when it comes to flooring. Your family can enjoy the comfort of a soft carpet, and you won't have to gate off a room for fear of what your dog will do to the carpeting. Your dog can come in and enjoy family life with you, worry-free.

White Noise Machines for Dogs: Everything You Need to Know

By Colt Dodd, Published: Oct 25, 2024 **AKC**

Life can feel scary through a dog's eyes. Rolling thunder can sound like earth-shattering explosions. Sleeping in a crate for the first time can feel isolating. Couple that with being away from their favorite person, and it's no wonder some dogs are prone to stress. This is where white noise machines for dogs enter the picture. They're amazing tools for reshaping dogs' behavior and helping them navigate distressing situations.

These devices emit a constant stream of audio to drown out loud, sudden sounds, such as fireworks or heavy construction. They can also help dogs sleep through the night by offering a calming sound to redirect their focus. The great thing about these devices is that they're relatively inexpensive. Plus, any dog, even one without apparent anxiety, can benefit from using one.



Richard Unten/Moment Open via Getty Images

White Noise Machines Use Noise to Soothe Anxious Dogs

So, what is white noise? The first sound that comes to mind is that “shhh” sound that used to accompany cable TVs without signal. It’s also similar to the sound emitted by hairdryers, air conditioners, and running water. It’s different from “brown noise” and “pink noise” in that instead of audible sound rising and falling, various soundwaves combine and stay at the same frequency.

As we’ll explain shortly, there are different types of white noise machines, and some offer more advanced features than others. For example, some no-frills white noise machines are simply speakers with on/off switches. More advanced models turn on when your dog begins barking excessively, even offering variations of white noise at different volumes.

Although white noise machines are a great tool for dog owners, they’re not a one-stop solution to stress, separation anxiety, or issues arising from canine dementia. They’re best used in combination with positive reinforcement training and other methods used to help dogs manage their triggers. An animal behaviorist could be a helpful resource if your dog’s anxiety begins to affect their day-to-day routines.

What Dogs Can Benefit from White Noise Machines?



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Any dog could potentially benefit from using a white noise machine. Yet, these devices are specifically designed to comfort:

- Senior dogs who struggle with sleeping. It's an unfortunate fact of life that some older dogs have problems falling and staying asleep. They may be more sensitive to certain sounds or become anxious when the sun sets. White noise machines can block out upsetting sounds and allow the dog to focus on a singular sound as they fall asleep.
- Dogs who bark excessively. Depending on where you live, the sound of dogs barking outside may be unavoidable. A white noise machine can drown out other dogs' barking and prevent your dog from joining the chorus.
- Puppies. Many puppies recently separated from their mothers will exhibit signs of stress, whether that's whining in their crate or struggling to fall asleep. The steady "shhh" of a white noise machine may help alleviate their anxiety or offer a welcome distraction.
- Destructive dogs. In many cases, a destructive dog is an anxious dog. A white noise machine can redirect a dog's anxiety and soften their response to certain triggers, such as being left alone for prolonged periods.

Experimenting with a white noise machine is a low-risk, high-reward endeavor. Many of these machines are easy to set up, inexpensive, and a game changer for many dog owners.

Different Features of White Noise Machines for Dogs

There is a white noise machine for every price point and purpose. Still, some offer more customizable features than others. For example, some white noise machines are outfitted with timers, offering set-it-and-forget-it convenience. Devices without timers generally run continuously until the battery dies, or they're turned off manually.



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Another feature many owners enjoy is built-in microphones that detect when their dogs start barking or whining. In response, the white noise machine begins emitting sound, immediately working to soothe an anxious dog in its owner's absence. This feature is generally paired with what many products call "memory keeping," which is when the device memorizes the exact sound and volume used previously. That way, owners don't have to fumble with the device's settings every time they use it.

While many white noise machines plug into the wall using USB cables, some devices are battery-powered. This offers another layer of convenience for owners who are constantly on the move with their pets. Using a white noise machine in the car could help a dog grow accustomed to riding in the vehicle, ultimately working to drown out loud engines, car horns, and screeching tires. With consistent use, a dog who once hated riding in the car could learn to love the adventure!

Things to Consider About White Noise Machines

Understanding the pros and cons regarding white noise machines can help you make informed decisions regarding your dog's health and well-being.

The pros are fairly straightforward. Over time, you could see a marked improvement in your dog's sleep patterns, temperament, and response to triggers. In the long run, these improvements can build your dog's confidence and enhance their overall quality of life.

Of course, there's no such thing as a perfect product, and there are some downsides to know about. For starters, white noise machines are not the final solution to behavioral issues. They're a great tool while you work to address the underlying cause of your dog's stress and work to mitigate it. With exclusive use, your dog could get used to the white noise machine and no longer get the full benefits.

Another concern is noise level. Louder isn't always better. White noise is generally between 60 and 65 decibels, about the same volume as a shower running. Blasting a white noise machine constantly could damage your dog's hearing, particularly if the machine is left running in small spaces. You should be able to hold a normal conversation while the white noise machine hums in the background.



Rob Thorley/Shutterstock

Other Devices Intended to Soothe Dogs

White noise machines are one of many products designed to help dogs power through stressful events. Others include:

- Calming shirts. Also known as anxiety vests, these garments resemble shirts and are usually made from a breathable fabric, like polyester. They apply a firm yet gentle pressure over your dog's

chest, shoulders, and back. It's the same concept as swaddling a crying baby to soothe them.

- Specially-formulated calming treats. Some calming treats aim to mellow out high-energy dogs with ingredients like melatonin or chamomile flower by making them sleepy. Others work to address the symptoms associated with stress. For example, calming treats with ginger root can soothe anxious dogs' tummies.
- Collars that release pheromones. To a dog, there's nothing more soothing than their mother's scent, even after they've passed puppyhood. Calming collars are infused with certain odors that remind a dog of its mother, working to pacify them.

White noise machines are just one options of working to reshape your dog's behavior and help them thrive. Not everything will work for every day, so the best thing you can do is talk to your vet and try the product, and observing your dog's reactions. No matter the cause of your dog's stress or anxiety, there are many tools and resources that can help them.

(Editor's note: For my Orlaith, I look for White Noise that plays for 8 – 10 hours on YouTube. It works for her and doesn't cost me a cent!)

Finding the Right Dog Door for Your Home

By Harriet Meyers, Published: Jun 20, 2024 **AKC**

If you have a dog who frequently asks to go out or multiple dogs you're constantly getting up to let outside and then back indoors, you may wonder whether a dog door would make your life a little easier.

Dog doors are protected openings built into an existing door or outside wall of your house. These openings allow your dog to access your yard and return to the house without your assistance. Here are some things to consider before purchasing a dog door for your home.

Types of Dog Doors

Dog doors come in a variety of different designs with a range of features. Here are a few types to consider based on your home setup, as well as your dog's needs:

Flaps

The most common and usually least expensive type of dog doors are simple flaps that cover openings made in your current door or wall. The flaps are flexible and easy for a dog to push aside. Some versions have double flaps or magnetic seals to provide more protection from outside temperatures.

Microchip-Activated Doors

These doors require your pet to wear a microchip collar that opens the door only when your dog approaches it. Then, the door closes once the dog passes through. The idea is that unwanted visitors, such as raccoons or squirrels, won't be able to get through the dog door. Microchip-activated doors require electricity or batteries to operate. If your electricity often goes down, consider a battery-operated version. In particular, look for an option that alerts you when the batteries are running low.

Sliding Door Insert

Floor-to-ceiling panels are easy to insert in a sliding door opening and offer an excellent alternative to making holes in your wall or door. These inserts are an especially great option for those who are renting. However, the door must be wide enough to fit a full-length sliding door insert and still leave room for adults to walk through.

Customized Sliding Doors and French Doors

It's possible to buy a sliding door or a French door for your house with a built-in dog door. These may be a more expensive option, but they're also more attractive.



TriggerPhoto / Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

Benefits of Dog Doors

An obvious benefit of dog doors is that they allow your dog to get outside fast whenever they need to relieve themselves. But pet owners have plenty of other reasons for praising the use of dog doors:

- Dogs get bored and need mental stimulation, and dog doors allow them to get outside more frequently and help prevent boredom
- To maintain good health, dogs require proper exercise. Running around and exploring in the backyard is great for muscle development and weight management. Plus, a dog door may encourage them to do that more often.
- Dog owners who are working at home don't need to excuse themselves from their online conference call to let the dog out or back in
- If you're out of the house, you can sometimes get caught in traffic or tied up in an activity. With a dog door, you won't need to worry that your dog is stuck inside the house or outside.



What to Consider Before Purchasing a Dog Door

It's important to find the right dog door that meets your dog's needs and suits your living situation. Here are some factors to consider before making a purchase:

- **Safety:** If your dog is going to be outside unsupervised, your yard must be escape-proof, your plants mustn't be toxic to dogs, and your pool or pond must be fenced and inaccessible.
- **Size:** Be sure that the door will accommodate the size of your dog. Small dogs must be able to easily open the door without much force. Large dogs must fit through comfortably.
- **Energy-Saving Features:** It's important to look for dog doors made of materials that insulate your home from cold or hot temperatures, rain, and snow.
- **Security:** Some doors have locks and electronic timers. These features allow you to secure the door at night or when you're on vacation. Plus, they'll allow you to block out other animals and prevent your dog from going out at night unsupervised. Consider installing your dog door away from doorknobs or window latches that can be opened if someone reaches in.
- **Yard size:** If you have a huge yard and find it difficult to keep track of your dog, you can enclose a smaller area outside the dog door with a dog pen for convenience and safety.
- **Training considerations:** All dogs aren't automatically drawn to use dog doors, so expect to put in some time training your dog how to go out and come back in without your help.
- **Importance of oversight:** Whether you're at home or not, you'll want to know where your dog is at all times. A GPS collar on your

dog or a sensor on the dog door will alert you when your dog goes out and comes in.



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Sometimes Dog Doors Aren't a Good Fit

There are times when a dog door may just not be the right option for your dog. Here are some examples:

- **Housetraining:** Dog trainers recommend that the best way to housetrain a dog is to take them outside frequently on a leash and praise them when they do their business. Dog doors may allow your dog to go out quickly. But, you won't always be with them to praise their good habits.
- **Families:** If you have toddlers who could copy your dog and exit through a dog door, you may want to wait until they're older to install one. When they're young, they'll think it's a great game to follow behind their dog buddy.
- **Wildlife:** If you live in an area where you could find wild animals in your yard, a dog door could allow unwelcome surprises into your home. Small and extra-small dog breeds are especially unsafe being outside alone when there's wildlife around.
- **Mess factor:** When dogs come inside they can track in mud, sand, leaves, sticks, and water. Since your dog can come inside unattended, you won't have a chance to wipe their feet before they run through the house.

- **Disturbance:** If your dog is a barker – at the neighbors, passersby, squirrels, etc., allowing them to let themselves out whenever they detect something they consider worth barking at can get very annoying.
- **Bonding:** Dog doors can be very convenient in the right circumstances, but they shouldn't replace the time you spend with your dog playing fetch in the yard, taking walks together, and doing positive reinforcement training.

Meet the Danish-Swedish Farmdog, AKC's Newest Recognized Dog Breed

By Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz. Published: Jan 02, 2025 **AKC**

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs are small, compact dogs with a big attitude and a passion for a job and a challenge. The American Kennel Club's 202nd recognized breed and newest member of the Working Group is eligible to start competing in AKC events on January 1, 2025. Aimee Parramore Kincaid, President of the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America, has helped usher the breed to recognition.

Moving to Recognition

While the Danish-Swedish Farmdog is joining the ranks of breeds recognized by the AKC, it isn't a new breed. As old as the Vikings, skeletons of similar Farmdog types have been found in Viking burial sites dating back 1,000 to 1,200 years. "Today, the breed is called 'Farmdogs' or 'DSF' in the U.S., and 'Dansk Svensk Gardshund' or 'Danski' in Europe," says Kincaid. "It's popular in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands; you see people walking them everywhere."

Once seen on small farms in Denmark and Sweden, the Farmdog nearly became extinct when the Industrial Revolution came and farms were sold. But the Danish and Swedish kennel clubs worked together to save them.

When officially naming the breed, Denmark and Sweden held the dog in such high esteem that neither country wanted to relinquish ownership. Hence, the breed carries both country names.



Kewalin Madsen/Shutterstock

While Farmdogs likely accompanied their families to the U.S. from Scandinavia for many years, Melody Farquhar-Chang of California imported “Agerhønen’s Flora” from a breeder in Norway in 1998. Two DSFs from other breeders followed when Helene Riisgaard-Pedersen of Wyoming imported “Javika’s Prinsesse Madeleine” from Denmark in 1999, and Brita Lemmon of California imported “Gonzo’s Folmer (Vago)” from Denmark in 2000.

Farquhar-Chang, Riisgaard-Pedersen, and Lemmon organized a Danish-Swedish Farmdog club in 2003. Farquhar-Chang helped guide the breed’s entry into the AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program in 2011, the first step toward AKC recognition. A second club soon emerged. In 2019, the two clubs merged as the official AKC Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America. In 2021, the club piloted the breed into the Miscellaneous Class.

From FSS to Working Group

Becoming an AKC-recognized breed involves meeting specific requirements that begin with the FSS and Miscellaneous Class. Before a breed can enter FSS, a foreign registry must recognize the breed, and U.S. club members must begin an accurate record-keeping program. Denmark and Sweden recognized the DSF as their official breed in 1987. The Federation

Cynologique Internationale (FCI), the international federation of national kennel clubs, recognized the Danish-Swedish Farmdog in 2019.

While not eligible for AKC registration in the FSS class, the breed may compete in companion events. Moving into the Miscellaneous Class is the next step. Before a breed can enter Miscellaneous, it must have 150 dogs with three-generation pedigrees, a written breed standard, and one club representing the breed in the U.S.

Kincaid estimates there are about 400 Danish-Swedish Farmdogs nationwide.

The path to recognition also includes proof of registrations, a certain number of club members in good standing, and ten dogs with Certificate of Merit titles. Their owners can earn these titles after showing in the Miscellaneous class offered at AKC shows. Clubs applying for recognition must also present judging seminars and competitions in three Open shows.



Taropy/Shutterstock

Building Breed Knowledge

Receiving full AKC recognition means letting the public know there's a new breed in town. When people in the U.S. see Danish-Swedish Farmdogs for the first time, they don't know what breed they are, but they'll likely play a guessing game with the owners. "People on the street or even at a dog show will stop and ask me if my DSF is a Beagle or a Jack Russell," Kincaid says. "If they know a Jack Russell, they'll guess Jack Russell, and if they know a Beagle, they'll guess Beagle."

After a man insisted a club member's dog was a purebred "South Carolina Squirrel Dog," club members printed t-shirts with a saying, "No, it's not a Jack Russell, Beagle, or a South Carolina Squirrel Dog. It's a Danish-Swedish Farmdog." "It's our favorite t-shirt, and we wear it when we're out with our dogs," Kincaid says.

To educate people about their breed, club members designed a strategic plan that included taking their dogs on public outings, printing pamphlets, attending judges' seminars, and decorating a booth at AKC Meet the Breed events. "We want people to know as much as possible about them," Kincaid says. "When we sell a dog, we mentor new owners," Kincaid says.



Rolf_52/Shutterstock

Kincaid acquired her first Farmdog after a friend told her about the breed. "I went to the AKC Meet the Breeds in Orlando, Florida in 2017, and since I had Australian Shepherds, I liked the Farmdog's smaller size," she remembers.

Small Breed in a Do-it-All Package

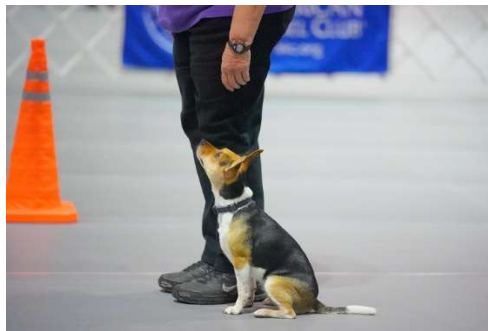
This cheerful, friendly, outgoing companion dog, was once known as a Danish Pinscher. "We want people to know it's not a Terrier, but a Pinscher-type dog most likely descended from Pinscher-Fox Terrier crosses," Kincaid says.

More rectangular than a terrier, DSFs are 12 to 15 inches and weigh 15 to 20 pounds. Single and smooth-coated, in patches of different colors, sizes, and combinations of black, brown, yellow, all shades of tan, and fawn, the

breed helped to bring in cows, but its specialty was its agility and speed in vermin control.

“A multipurpose barnyard dog, DSFs live to hunt vermin, but at home, they’re one of the easiest dogs to live with,” Kincaid says. A dedicated and hardy working breed, Farmdogs are far from needy, capable of entertaining themselves, and, like a cat, will lie on their back and play with a ball. These dogs are ready to accompany their owners to any activity.

Once used as performing circus dogs, they enjoy competing in nearly all performance events and take quickly to training. Many Farmdog owners report that their dogs possess solid herding instincts and enjoy a variety of sports, such as dock diving, AKC Scent Work, AKC Rally, and Agility. A few Farmdogs in the Florida Keys are even known to go after iguanas.



Pix 'n Pages ©American Kennel Club

“The best part comes when you settle down; they do, too,” Kincaid says. “If you like a dog sleeping with you, they’ll happily curl up under the covers and cuddle.”

Not a nuisance barker, Farmdogs are relatively quiet and will alert their owners when a stranger appears. “When they’re happy to see a familiar face, they send out cute vocalizations almost like yodeling and squeaking,” Kincaid says.

Measuring Health

The club is committed to the breed's health. "The Farmdog's biggest attribute is its health," Kincaid says. "The typical life span is 16 to 18 years, and the oldest in California was healthy until he died at age 20."

With no genetic issues common in the breed, many club members voluntarily test their adult dogs for hip and elbow dysplasia, patellar luxation, primary lens luxation (PLL), and perform BAER hearing tests on puppies.

"Many of our breeders come from other breeds and are accustomed to testing and breeding clearances," Kincaid says.

The U.S. breed standard is the same as the FCI standard, which enables breeders to maintain diversity. "We're not breeding for specific traits, although we're trying to improve the type," Kincaid says. "We want judges to identify a dog that looks like a Farmdog."

If you see a dog on the street that looks like a cuddler, a charmer, and a willing worker, know that it's not a South Carolina Squirrel Dog but a Danish-Swedish Farmdog.



Dear Friends of the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club,

The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club's (PVIWC) Specialty is scheduled to take place March 30-31, 2025. Every year members, friends, and exhibitors financially contribute to sponsor trophies and ribbons, either in whole or in part. It has been through these generous contributions that the PVIWC specialty is a success.

Many individuals contribute in various ways: some work up front under the main tent; some work behind the scenes to ensure the rings, tables and tents are up for the shows and help breakdown the same, after the final show; some make donations to the raffle; and some through monetary donations. On behalf of the PVIWC, I express great appreciation to past contributors.

I ask you to consider sponsoring or making a financial donation to this year's general trophy fund. Your donation(s) will help sponsor the trophies and ribbons this year. There is no such thing as a donation too small.

To contribute, please complete the enclosed form and send it along with your financial donation (check payable to PVIWC) to:

Christina Buckner
PVIWC Treasurer and Show Secretary
1348 Sycamore Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403

Your donations for the 2025 Specialty are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bañales Thackston
PVIWC Trophy Committee

Ribbon and Trophy Sponsorship Specification and Guide

Sponsorship of First in each class-\$18.00

Sponsorship of Third in each class-\$12.00

Sponsorship of Second in each class-\$15.00

Sponsorship of Fourth in each class-\$10.00

Or Sponsor the entire class for \$50.00

_____ 6-9 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 6-9 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ 9-12 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 9-12 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ 12-15 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 12-15 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ 15-18 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 15-18 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Novice Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Novice Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ AOH Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ AOH Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Bred-By Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Bred-By Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Am-Bred Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Am-Bred Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Open Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Open Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Veteran Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Veteran Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Stud Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Brood Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Obedience - \$50

_____ Rally - \$50

Trophy Sponsorship/Mementos to Challenge Trophies Donation

_____ Best of Breed \$125
\$50

_____ Reserve Winners Dog

_____ Best of Opposite \$50	\$115	_____ Reserve Winners Bitch
_____ Best of Winners \$30	\$100	_____ Bred-By-Exhibitor Dog
_____ Winners Dog \$30	\$100	_____ Bred-By-Exhibitor Bitch
_____ Winners Bitch \$40	\$100	_____ Best BBE
_____ Am-Bred Dog \$30	\$30	_____ Am-Bred Bitch
_____ Open Dog \$30	\$30	_____ Open Bitch
_____ Best Puppy \$30	\$75	_____ Veteran Bitch
_____ Best in Sweeps \$50	\$75	_____ BoS to BI Sweeps

Name

Phone

Address

E-mail

City, State Zip

To secure recognition in the Premium/Catalog, donations must be received no later than 14 November. Please make known the class you wish to sponsor in preferential order. All attempts

at accommodating your request will be made. If you have no preference place an “X” in the no preference box.

First Choice Class Donation: _____

Second Choice Class Donation: _____

Third Choice Class Donation: _____
Preference:

No

☐

Feel free to contact Christina Buckner via e-mail at: ckallay@verizon.net



PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2025

January 12	Meeting
February 9	Meeting
March 2025	<u>St. Patrick's Day Parades</u>
• March 1	Alexandria, VA
• March 8	Manassas, VA
• March 9	Annapolis, MD
• March 15	Harrisburg, PA
• March 15	Gaithersburg, MD
• March 16	Baltimore, MD
March 29 & 30	Tell Tale Steampunk Festival, 1726 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD 21208
March 30 & 31	<i>Specialty Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD</i>
April 11 & 12	Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 227 N Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA 17019
April 19 & 20	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Carolinas Specialty</i>
April 26	Southern MD Celtic Festival, Jefferson Patterson Park, 10515 Mackall Rd, St Leonard MD 20685
May 2 & 3	Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 Generals Hwy Crownsville, MD
May 3 & 4	Faerie Festival , Rocky Point Park, 2200 Rocky Point Rd, Essex, MD 21221
May 18	Show Wrap Up Meeting
May 25 - 29	<i>IWCA National Specialty Cache County Fairgrounds, Logan, UT</i>
June 14 & 15	Carroll County Celtic Festival, 706 Agriculture Center Dr, Westminster, MD 21157
June 8	Regular Meeting
June 21	Penn Mar Irish Festival, Pheasant Run Greenhouse, 10241 Brillhart Rd, Glen Rock, PA 17327
June 27 - 29	Celtic Fling (w/ a concert Friday night) Mt Hope Winery 2775 Lebanon Rd. Manheim, PA 17545
August 10	Regular Meeting
August	Oakenmist Ren Faire Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD
August 30 & 31	Virginia Scottish Games, 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA 20198
September 21	Fun Day
September	PA Renn Faire Shamrocks and Shenanigans, Mt Hope Winery 2775 Lebanon Rd. Manheim, PA 17545
October 5 & 6	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Delaware Valley Specialty</i>
October 19	Regular Meeting
November	Lá Gaelge (Irish Day), Front Royal, VA
November 7 - 9	Maryland Irish Festival, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD 21093
November 16	Regular Meeting
December 14	Holiday Party Montgomery's
December	Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5Miler, 1 Safari Place, Baltimore, MD 21217
December	Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD

Dates, Time, or location to be determined and subject to change on some events.

Need Volunteers to Host meetings.

