



## **California Airedale Terrier Club, Inc.**

Founded 1909 AKC Member

### **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE AIREDALE TERRIER**

The Airedale Terrier is known as “The King of the Terriers” for he is the largest and hardiest of all the terriers and has no superior as an all-round useful dog.

#### **HISTORY**

The Airedale had its origin in the valley of the Aire in England. The now extinct English Terrier had the nerve and fire for dry land hunting, but was lacking the “nose” and also needed a coat that was water repellant for water work. A cross between the English Terrier and the Otterhound was the solution to this problem. These ancestors of our present day Airedales looked slightly different and in fact were called Waterside Terriers and then Bingley Terriers. It was in 1879 that classes for Airedale Terriers were first provided at shows. Recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1888, the Airedale reached its greatest popularity in the United States in 1920. Today, the Airedale is rated in the top third of all breeds recognized by the AKC in the United States.

#### **APPEARANCE**

The Airedale Terrier is a medium-sized dog; The American Kennel Club approved Airedale Terrier Standard states that dogs should measure approximately 23 inches in height at the shoulder, with bitches slightly less. There may be slight variations in size but the large size that is sometimes advertised is not correct. Both sexes should be sturdy, well muscled and well boned. The outer coat should be hard, dense and wiry and there should be a shorter growth of softer hair underneath called the undercoat. All Airedales are black and tan, with the black forming a saddle over the back. Slight variations in shade are allowed. Movement is the crucial test of conformation...it should be free and the legs should be placed so as to give a strong well- balanced stand. The toes should point straight ahead

#### **CHARACTERISTICS**

The Airedale is extremely adaptable and through his keen intelligence and great desire to please his owner he can be taught to do any of the jobs for which other breeds have been developed. The properly trained Airedale has proven himself as hunter, herder, and guard in military and police work. He is truly a Jack of all Trades!

The Airedale is, by nature, interested and inquisitive. He should also have intelligence and steadiness that gives him dignity and good sense that set him apart from some of his yappier and scrappier cousins.

For all his courage, the Airedale is a sensitive, responsive dog. He will return many times over the care, affection and training invested in him; and he will develop a high sense of responsibility for his family and his home. When standing alert and “on his toes”, with head and tail high, the Airedale gives no doubt about his ability to stand his ground and guard his family without exaggerated threats of aggression. His ability as a watchdog comes through his devotion for his owner and not through viciousness, but his reputation is such that questionable strangers will hesitate to cross his doorway. With an Airedale at your side you will feel a companionable security that is without measure.

He is patient and gentle with a child. However, both the child and the Airedale need firm rules. Given total freedom, the Airedale and the child can get into lots of trouble.

Few breeds manage to be as stylish, noble, athletic, protective and goofy as an Airedale. Once you’ve owned one, the only thing better is two, or three, or more.

## DAILY CARE

The Airedale Terrier requires a well-balanced, high quality diet. Regular visits to the veterinarian help to maintain good health. Exercise is of vital importance. A brisk walk in the morning and evening will help him burn those unwanted calories and keep him fit. Airedales enjoy playing frisbee, flyball, working agility courses, obedience work and other activity in which you are involved.

The Airedale's coat is relatively easy to maintain. Quarterly visits to a quality grooming salon, along with regular twice-weekly brushing and/or combing will keep your Airedale neat and clean. Letting the coat grow naturally will turn the Airedale into a very shaggy dog.

## TRAINING

Airedale Terriers are eager and quick to learn. The challenge is to stay on your toes and know what you want your Airedale to do. The Airedale tends to learn a task in the first or second try, then becomes bored when asked to repeat the same task again and again. However you choose to train your Airedale, you must remain calm, in control and most importantly, positive. With positive training and reinforcement, your Airedale will enjoy learning and be ready to accept any challenges you present to him.

## SPAY / NEUTER

The California Airedale Terrier Club and the Airedale Terrier Club of America strongly recommends that you spay or neuter your pet Airedale. Most responsible breeders require this by selling their pets with spay/neuter contracts or limited registrations.

There are several important reasons for this recommendation: **(a)** Altered animals are normally healthier and usually live longer than unaltered animals. Spaying a female before the first season greatly reduces the risk of mammary tumors and eliminates the dangers of uterine infections. Neutering a male removes the possibility of testicular cancer and lowers the risk of developing prostate problems; **(b)** The breeding of dogs is a serious responsibility and should be undertaken only by those who seek to improve the breed; it should never be done to make a profit; **(c)** The basic disposition of your Airedale will not be changed by spaying or neutering. The AKC permits dogs that have been altered to participate in all phases of obedience, tracking and agility competitions.

## CONCLUSIONS

If the day should come when you can no longer keep your Airedale – for any reason – what should you do? We urge that you NEVER take your pet to an animal shelter. You should first contact your breeder for help in re-homing your dog. If that is not successful, contact your local Airedale Terrier Rescue. If you need help in locating a breeder or want to adopt a rescue dog, please contact our Rescue line: **510-215-9986 or [www.calairedale.org](http://www.calairedale.org)**

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB, INC.

The California Airedale Terrier Club (CATC) was founded in 1909 and is an American Kennel Club member club. The CATC serves members who are primarily located in Northern California. Members receive a bi-monthly newsletter containing show reports, breeding information articles of interest and updates on club activities.

### The club objectives are:

- 1 To encourage and promote the quality breeding of purebred Airedale Terriers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- 2 To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed, as approved by the American Kennel Club, as the only standard of excellence by which Airedale Terriers shall be judged;
- 3 To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials and to act as a support group for all Airedale Terrier owners.
- 4 To conduct sanctioned and member specialty shows under the rules of the AKC.

## ACTIVITIES

**Meetings** -- The club holds bi-monthly dinner meetings with informative speakers. Guests are always welcome.

**Trim & Train** -- (Spring) This is a series of classes with instruction on grooming the Airedale.

**Sanctioned Match** -- (June) This is an AKC sanctioned conformation and obedience match. There are puppy and adult classes in conformation, obedience competition and a parade of titleholders.

**Fun Day** -- (July) A day of fun and games which is open to all Airedales. A great way to meet other Airedalers and get acquainted with CATC.

**Obedience Training** -- (Spring and Fall) Basic and intermediate obedience classes are offered for Airedales and are taught by Airedale trainers, owners, breeders.

**Specialty Show** -- (Spring and Fall) This is an AKC show for Airedales. The spring show is held in Sacramento and the fall show is in Pleasanton. Both shows precede all breed shows.

**Newsletter** -- The club publishes a bi-monthly newsletter for its members. A subscription to the newsletter is available to non-members for \$15.00 per year for 6 issues. Send your request, with a check payable to CATC to Georgia McRae, 23815 Putter Way, Los Altos, CA 94024.

**Website** -- CATC's website has a list of activities and helpful information. Check out [www.calairedale.org](http://www.calairedale.org)



**A Rescue and Referral Committee is sponsored by the CATC. It is made up of members who volunteer to help place Airedales in need of a home. A special line with an answering machine is dedicated to this endeavor.**

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**[www.calairedale.org](http://www.calairedale.org)**