

Buying a Jindo

Purchasing a well bred, healthy, and well socialized Jindo pup in the United States can be a challenge. Within the United States, Jindo puppies can be obtained from people affiliated with clubs as well as from independent breeders. In the case of the Jindo, determining club or registry affiliation won't guarantee that one would get a quality puppy. Therefore, the best way to increase one's chances of getting a purebred Jindo puppy is to arm oneself with breed-specific information and garner the fortitude to walk away even when presented with adorable puppies.



Before making the decision to bring a Jindo into your family it is very important that you first make sure that this is the right breed for you. As with many breeds, Jindos are not the dog for everyone. They are wonderful, loyal, active, intelligent companions, but they do require a dedicated owner who will put in the effort to meet their needs. Please do some research, visit other Jindos and their owners, and evaluate your ability to care for these special dogs before making one a part of your family. For more information on this breed please visit:

www.jindojunkie.com
and

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/koreanjindolist/>

Ask Questions!!!

Bringing a dog into your life and family is a huge decision. That dog will be a part of your family for the next 10-15 years. It is both your right and your responsibility to research carefully and choose a puppy who will meet your expectations and goals. Regardless of whether you are looking for a loving companion or also a dog of potential show and breeding quality, you will want that dog to be a typical example of the breed, you will want the dog to have a good temperament and personality, and you will want that puppy to live a long healthy life. How a puppy is bred and raised makes a world of difference in the dog you end up with. It is up to YOU to question the breeders and search for the right puppy, not just the most convenient one or the least expensive.

Good Breeders Stay Involved

A sign of a truly great breeder is their desire to continue a relationship with their puppies' buyers throughout the puppies' lifetimes. These breeders place great value in their bloodlines, and believe in the dogs they are producing. They care about their puppies' futures, and they are willing to give assistance, guidance, and help in solving any problems encountered throughout the puppies' lives. These breeders also want to know how all their puppies turn out, not just the ones they keep. This is vital information for the future of their breeding program.



As a reflection of the value they place on their lines, good breeders will be open to taking their dogs back or will assist with placement in another home should the owner no longer be able to care for or keep the dog.

Links

For more information on the Korean Jindo:

www.jindojunkie.com
www.jindo-dog-rescue.org/articles/Jindo_booklet.pdf
www.kang.org/Jindo.html
www.dogbreedinfo.com/jindo.htm



The Jindo Dog Association of America:
www.jindola.com/

What is a Responsible Breeder?
<http://dogplay.com/Breeding/ethics.html>
www.canismajor.com/dog/responbr.html

Jindo Rescue
www.jindo-dog-rescue.org

Buying A Purebred Korean Jindo



What is a “Purebred” Jindo?

In many other breeds, it is fairly straightforward to find a reasonably well bred dog that looks and acts as would be expected for that breed. This is done by finding a breeder who registers their dogs with the AKC or UKC and who is active in their breed club and in showing or working their dogs. Things aren't quite so simple with Jindos.

There are many Jindo organizations in Korea that register dogs and certify pedigrees. Without going into the politics involved or opinions on each organization's dogs, it is instead important to recognize the value of a pedigree. A pedigree simply is documentation of the ancestors of a particular dog. How accurate that pedigree is depends entirely on how honest or diligent the breeders are. Without first hand knowledge of the dogs and people involved, a pedigree in no way tells you that a particular dog is a purebred Jindo.

In addition, pedigrees do not denote the quality of a particular dog. They simply document a dog's parents and grandparents. Within any population of purebred dogs there are going to be some born who have undesirable or abnormal characteristics. If those animals are used for breeding they produce even more non-typical or “poorly bred” Jindos.

It is the breeder's responsibility to study the breed, and to make decisions on which dogs are of sufficient quality to use as part of a breeding program. Good breeders take this very seriously. In many cases they are involved in the Jindo dog community, are members in one of the Jindo clubs, and make efforts to show their dogs and obtain outside opinions on their quality. Good breeders are those who take care in matching males and females with intent to produce quality puppies. These are all positive things to look for when choosing a breeder.

Many people breeding Jindos in the US do not do this. It is important to evaluate any breeder you are considering purchasing a puppy from and decide for yourself if they have studied the breed in sufficient depth to understand its important characteristics. If they have not, you have no way to know if what you are purchasing is a good quality Jindo, a poor quality Jindo, or a Jindo mix.

Puppy Health

As a breed, Jindos are very healthy dogs, or at least they seem to be.

As more Jindos receive extensive health screening and care, health issues are popping up. Most of these health issues are common in other breeds and are not unexpected in Jindos.



Performing basic health tests is something that is considered normal and prudent for responsible dog breeders to do before breeding any dog. While these tests will not eliminate the possibility of a puppy inheriting a problem, they do greatly reduce the chances. In the case of Jindos, an ideal scenario would be for a breeder to do OFA or PennHip screening for hips, CERF screening for eye problems, and to test for low thyroid before using a dog in their breeding program.

At this time Jindo breeders in the US do not routinely test their breeding dogs. For that reason many breeders are oblivious to the potential of genetic diseases. It is hoped that if puppy buyers ask about or insist on health tests, then perhaps breeders will begin to understand their value.

Puppy buyers are encouraged to discuss concerns with breeders, and ask lots of questions about the parents and grandparents health. Symptoms like “arthritis” and “cataracts” may be just that, or may be indications of other underlying health problems which were never diagnosed. If a breeder is evasive or dismissive, it is in your best interest to look elsewhere.

A responsible breeder will be committed to providing their puppies with the best of care and to sending them to their new homes in perfect health. It is normal for puppies to see a vet at least once before leaving their breeder. Often puppies need to be wormed one or more times before they are ready to go to their new homes. Any parasites should be taken care of by the breeder. Preferred vaccination schedules vary, however at a minimum the first set of puppy shots should be given while the puppy is in the breeders care. Good breeders will guarantee the health of their puppies, and will give the buyer a reasonable period of time to take the puppy to the vet for a checkup.

Temperament and Socialization

A good breeder is concerned about both the physical AND mental health of their puppies. Their responsibility to the puppy's mental well being starts when they choose to breed a particular pair of dogs and does not stop until the pups go to their new homes.

The basis for a puppy's temperament is genetic. The best way to gauge this is to visit both parents of a particular litter. If either is excessively shy, highly reactive, or aggressive without cause, then there is a high likelihood the puppies are going to also show those characteristics. None of these things are normal or typical for a Jindo. Instead, a Jindo should be a supremely confident dog, willing to act if given good reason, but not aggressive without cause. They should be reserved with strangers, but willing to allow respectful petting at the request of their owner. A good breeder will NOT breed dogs that do not have solid temperaments typical of the breed. Inquiring about how an adult dog with a questionable temperament was raised will give some insight on if the issues are a matter of socialization or genetics.

The genetic temperament a puppy is born with is its foundation. The socialization that puppy receives from that moment onward determines what direction the puppy's personality takes and how close it comes to meeting its ultimate potential. From day one good breeders provide their puppies with ongoing stimulation, and as the little ones grow they are gently exposed to new things, places, and people. They will strive to give their pups plenty of environmental enrichment and time being handled and played with by a variety of people every day.

There is a myth that Jindo puppies mature earlier than other breeds. While young weaned Jindo puppies may physically appear ready to be placed in a new home, this does not take into account the behavioral and mental readiness of the puppy. Studies have proven that puppies continue learning very valuable behaviors and lessons from their mother and littermates well past the point that they are eating solid food. Canine communication skills and bite inhibition are two of the vital things puppies do not learn when removed from their mother before 7 weeks of age. This early learning can never be made up for later, and a puppy who does not receive it will always be at a disadvantage. Responsible breeders do not let puppies go to new homes until they are at least 7 weeks old, and breeders of other primitive dogs like Shibas and Kais, have learned it is best not to release puppies at a young age.