



# Bloodhounds

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# Bloodhound

## Introduction

The Bloodhound is an older breed, originating nearly a thousand years ago. With their often sad and wrinkled face, they can appear to look as old as their history. Bloodhounds are best associated with their amazing ability to find a scent and follow until they find the owner. Their talent has landed them jobs alongside detectives assisting in solving some of the most difficult crimes. Patient and gentle, this breed is an excellent choice for families with young children.

## General Bloodhound Characteristics

The Bloodhound is the type of breed with amazing persistence and endurance. Their strong, lengthy muscular bodies have carried them distances ranging up to one hundred miles without stopping. Bloodhounds have also made wonderful companions for many owners. They are very kind animals that have an incredible patience with young children allowing their long ears to be tugged on and their backs to be ridden. Bloodhounds have dark eyes that are set deep in the skull. The skin around their face is loose, hanging down low, which is said to assist in trapping the scent close to their nose. They have soft hair on the head and ears, and a short, coarser coat on the body.

Average Weight	Males: 90-110 pounds Females: 80-100 pounds	Temperament	Gentle, loving; laid back, yet determined.
Average Height	25-27 inches	Good with Children	Yes; very good
Coat	Short, coarse hair on body; softer hair on head and ears.	Health Concerns	Bloating, ear infections, entropion (eyelids turn inward)



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## Selecting Your Bloodhound – Adoption or a Breeder?

Adopting a Bloodhound can be a very good option for owners who are looking for an older pet, or those that simply cannot afford the expense of purchasing directly from a breeder. Just because you adopt, does not mean you cannot own a purebred Bloodhound. Sadly, this breed finds itself in an animal shelter after they have wandered off following a scent; the owners change their mind once their little puppy grew into a big dog, or other various reasons. These dogs are still very valuable and deserve a loving home of their own.

In addition to animal shelters, there are also rescue facilities strictly dedicated to saving Bloodhounds and placing them in good homes. These shelters survive on donations and fundraisers, usually given by other owners of Bloodhounds who care a great deal for the breed. Many of these rescues can be found by conducting a search on the Internet. There are locations all over the United States.

For those that wish to work directly with a Bloodhound breeder, there are also plenty to choose from. Be careful when selecting a breeder, and opt for one that is recognized by the AKC, if you want a true purebred with good bloodlines. You can do a lot of research and investigation on breeders from the Internet. Several of them have websites and offer a full family history of the dogs for you to view. Take the time to compare several breeders before making your final decision.

## How to Choose Your New Bloodhound

Look for a Bloodhound that is healthy, strong, and that you are comfortable with. When choosing a new puppy, compare all of them in the litter and select the one that meets the criteria that you're looking for. Everyone has their own way of selecting a puppy personality that fits theirs the closest, whether that's watching for dominance in the litter, a passive puppy, or even choosing the runt. Any puppy that you select should be in good health and not sickly. They should be fairly active with the rest of the bunch, be of similar weight, and have a coat that is clean and free of parasites.

If you are planning to show your dog competitively, a quick visit the AKC website will provide you with all the breed specifications and what things to look for in a champion dog.



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You'll need these basics before your Bloodhound comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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### EXPERT TIP

#### Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a Bloodhound Dog puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Bloodhound and choose a crate based on those specifications. The average size of an adult Bloodhound Dog is 15 lbs and 16 inches tall. Choose a sturdy steel or plastic crate for medium sized breeds such as the Bloodhound Dog.

[Click here to see our crates.](#)

## Before You Bring Your Bloodhound Home

Probably the most important preparation for bringing your new Bloodhound home is ensuring that your yard is fenced and secure. While your new dog may love you to death and be overly excited when you come home from work, if they have a means of escaping, they will. With so many scents outside, they just can't resist investigating its source. Some other things to prepare in advance are:

- Pet food
- Grooming supplies (brush, shampoo)
- Collar/leash
- Toys
- Treats

## Your Bloodhound through the Years

### Your Bloodhound Puppy

Bloodhound puppies are an eye-catcher. You'll attract crowds with your new puppy. Their long, droopy ears and sad, wrinkled faces are hard for anyone to resist. Make it a habit to check and clean those big ears. While they get messy from their food, they are also prone to infections due to the lack of air getting to them. Be sure to take your new puppy to the vet regularly, so that they receive all their necessary shots, keeping them healthy.

### Your Bloodhound Adult

Hopefully, you were able to start some basic training with your young Bloodhound, and now have a good foundation to build on. Bloodhounds require constant and consistent training from their owners. While they may be gentle and fairly cooperative dogs, they can be stubborn at times and very independent. Bloodhounds are generally friendly with most people; however, they can be protective of their homes and will let you know if you are not welcome. Their deep, loud bark alone can be intimidating to most intruders.

### Your Bloodhound Senior

Older Bloodhounds can still wander off if not kept contained. Don't be fooled by their slowing. Make sure that their eyes stay clean and are not irritated or infected, due to the exposed lower lids. Many vets can provide you with eye drops, which can help with this problem. Sadly, most Bloodhounds do not live to be that old. Seven years of age for the breed is considered quite good.

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## Bloodhound Medical Considerations

One of the biggest concerns for Bloodhounds is gastric torsion. While the cause is still unsure, a dog that shows any signs of extreme bloating, vomiting, or upset stomach, the Bloodhound should be taken to the vet. This is a rather serious condition that can lead to death if not treated right away. Other health concerns are eye and ear infections.



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