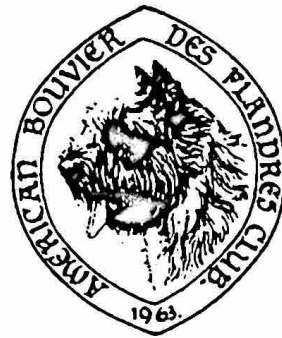


Congratulations on your Bouvier puppy!



Congratulations on the addition of a Bouvier puppy to your family. The American Bouvier des Flandres Club welcomes you, and wants to help you enjoy your new family member to the fullest by providing you with some basic information.

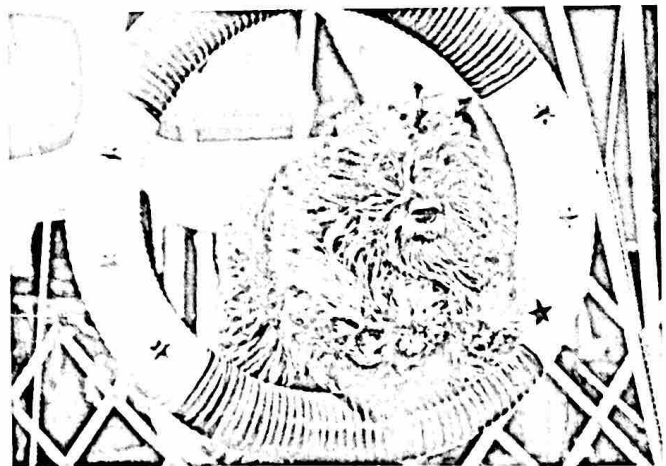
The Bouvier was developed late in the 19th century in the farming regions of Belgium. Documentation of his ancestry is cloudy but loosely attributed to the berger, a type of sheep dog, the Dutch Griffon and the barbet, or water dog. By the early 20th century he was used as a drover, a draft animal, and farm and family protectors. During the world wars, the home of the Bouvier became a battlefield. The breed's numbers were reduced almost to extinction. Those that stayed in Belgium became ambulance pullers and military tracking aides. Some of those that survived were taken to France and the Netherlands, and they became part of breeding programs in those countries. The Bouvier came to America late in the 1920's and now can be found throughout the United States and Canada. The ABdFC was formed in 1963, and became a member of the AKC in 1971.

The Bouvier legacy has produced a breed with many admirable qualities both as a working dog and a companion. He is a square, powerfully built dog, rugged and formidable in appearance. His harsh coat protects him in all kinds of weather, he has a keen sense of smell, and he is very aware of his surroundings. He thrives on plenty of room to work and play but is not an "outdoor dog." His loving people become his flock, and he wants to be where he can care for them. He is agile and intelligent; he has great spirit and fearlessness but with an even temperament and serene disposition. The average size of a male Bouvier is about 26 inches at the withers, 25 inches for a female, and between 70 and 110 pounds.

Grooming

Your puppy will grow hair! Lots of it. They are a double-coated breed with a harsh outercoat that keeps the shedding undercoat from falling to the floor, but the

undercoat will mat without a good brushing to the skin every few days. Keeping toenails trimmed, clearing matted hair from around the foot pads, cleaning their ears, and keeping teeth free from plaque build-up are important parts of a grooming routine that can prevent potentially serious health problems. An investment in good grooming tools and a grooming table is money well spent (even if you have your Bouvier professionally groomed). Teaching your puppy to be comfortable with a grooming routine is time well spent and is a good opportunity to work on basic obedience commands.



Health

Contact your veterinarian to be sure your puppy has all the necessary vaccinations and is protected from health hazards that may be unique to your area of the country. Bouviers are a large breed and grow rapidly; a diet too high in protein can cause serious problems with bone growth. Several dog food manufacturers have large-breed puppy food available. Feeding two small meals a day is better than one large meal. Limit heavy exercise while your puppy is growing. Exercise is healthy, but don't let, or force, your growing puppy to overdo it. Your Bouvier will be your loving companion for up to 12 or 13 years. Puppyhood goes by quickly. What happens during that short time will have a profound effect on your dog's quality of life.



Training

We can't recommend too strongly the importance of socialization and basic obedience training. A puppy kindergarten that uses positive reinforcement training is a good place to start. Bouviers are protective by nature. Walks and outings with you where they can meet other people and dogs, hear noises, and investigate their world in a safe way are socializing experiences that develop their protective instinct in an appropriate way. These are smart dogs. Don't underestimate them. They are also big dogs. It is much easier to establish yourself as head of the household early on while you can still lift your pup. Bouvier puppies tend to be "mouthy" and can play rough. While



Bouviers are loving with children and make excellent family dogs, this early puppy behavior can be too

rough for small children. Crate training is humane and safe. It is a way your puppy can be near you any time without getting into trouble, and his crate will become his quiet nest as an adult. The *Beginner's Guide to the Bouvier des Flandres* has a detailed guide to crate training.

Identification

Protect your Bouvier in case it is lost. Identify your Bouvier with a collar and tags. A permanent identification with a microchip or tattoo can be registered with AKC's Companion Animal Recovery. A 24-hour toll-free hotline helps locate the owners. There is a 100% re-homing rate with enrolled animals. For information, call (800) 252-7894.

Breeding

Breeding is serious business, not a casual undertaking! The well being of the puppies themselves (a litter of 10 or 12 is not unusual) is at stake as well as what impact this mating may have on the breed itself. Anyone involved in Bouvier rescue has seen the results of casual breeding. Doing it right (ethically and intelligently) requires a thorough understanding of the standard, knowledge of pedigrees and of temperament. It requires the resources to screen breeding stock for hip and elbow dysplasia, eye disorders, heart and thyroid problems. It requires conscientious care of the puppies for the eight or more weeks before they are ready for their new homes. It also requires being prepared to take a puppy you bred back if it becomes necessary.

Many Bouvier members support health research for the Bouvier through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research to help Bouviers, see www.akcchf.org or call toll free 1-888-682-9696.

Spayed or neutered animals are wonderful companions; altering ends the risk of an unplanned litter. A neutered male often becomes more tolerant of other males. Spayed or neutered Bouviers can participate in AKC-sanctioned herding, agility, tracking, obedience and junior showmanship. Performance events develop a tremendous bond between the dog and the handler during training.



Resources

The American Bouvier des Flandres Club invites you to visit our website at www.bouvier.org. The *Beginner's Guide to the Bouvier des Flandres*, membership information and other information can be downloaded from the website.

If you are not able to visit the club's website and would like information regarding the breed and club, please contact the American Bouvier des Flandres Club Secretary.

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Don't Let Winter's Chill Take a Bite Out of Your Dog's Health



BEWARE OF ICE, SNOW AND COLD TEMPERATURES. Puppies, smaller dogs, older or shorthaired dogs should not be left outdoors when temperatures fall below 40 degrees. The acceptable temperature range for all dogs depends greatly on age, health, breed and degree of acclimatization; consult your veterinarian about your dog's specific cold-weather needs. Don't leave your pet in a vehicle during cold weather.

KEEP OLDER, ARTHRITIC DOGS INSIDE. These dogs should not be left outdoors under any circumstances. Escort the older dog outside for toileting. If the yard has snow or ice, use a leash since he can easily slip and hurt himself.

WATCH FOR SIGNS OF FROSTBITE AND INJURY. Dogs' ears, paws and tails are especially susceptible to frostbite. Initially, frostbitten tissue may appear pale or gray in color, and the area will be cold and hard to the touch. As the area thaws, it may become red. In severe frostbite, within several days the tissue will start to appear black. If you suspect frostbite, bring your dog into a warm location and soak the affected area in lukewarm water for about 20 minutes. Contact your veterinarian.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HYPOTHERMIA. Watch for signs that your dog may be getting overly cold when he is outdoors. If he begins to whine or you notice extreme shivering, lethargy, or low heart rate, immediately take him into a warm place, cover him with a light blanket, and call your veterinarian.

ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF POISONING. Unfortunately, dogs like the sweet taste of antifreeze, which can cause sickness or death if ingested. Be sure all antifreeze containers are well out of reach of dogs, and thoroughly clean any spills immediately. If you think your pet has swallowed antifreeze, contact your vet or animal hospital right away.

PROVIDE A PROTECTIVE SHELTER. If your dog stays outside in the winter, check that his doghouse meets minimum safety criteria. Face the house away from the weather and put a flap on the door. Be sure the house is raised several inches off the frozen ground or concrete. Place straw or cedar shavings on the floor, and change the bedding often to keep it dry. The doghouse should be large enough for your dog to sit and stand, but small enough so his body heat will be retained in the house.

SUPPLY FRESH WATER. Hydration is important year-round. Use a plastic water bowl to ensure the dog's tongue does not get stuck to cold metal, and change the water often to keep it from freezing. Consider using a heated water bowl.

PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF FOOD. A dog that is active in winter will burn more calories in the cold, and thus needs about 10 percent more food to compensate. If he is less active in winter, avoid allowing him to gain extra weight—decrease his food and be sure to take him out for walks and playtime.

CONTINUE TO TRAIN YOUR DOG DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

Dogs that spend less time outside during the winter may become lethargic—or, in some cases, hyperactive. The best way to keep your dog active or encourage him to spend excess energy is to make him think. Provide 10-15 minutes of training daily on basics such as sit, stay, come, and walking on leash to energize the lethargic dog and tire out the hyper dog. (Doing this twice a day is even better.)

This information is brought to you as a public service by Bark Busters Home Dog Training—the world's largest, most trusted dog training company. Bark Busters is the only international dog training company that offers guaranteed lifetime support. Find more information by contacting your local dog behavioral therapist at 1-877-500-BARK(2275) or by visiting www.BarkBusters.com.

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HARMFUL FOODS --

Avocados
Chocolate - all forms
Coffee - all forms
Raw Onions
Raw Garlic
Grapes
Raisins
Macadamia Nuts

Alcoholic Beverages - all forms
Moldy/Spoiled Foods
Salt
Fatty Foods
Gum, candies or other foods sweetened
with Xylitol
Tea Leaves
Raw Yeast Dough

----- HOLIDAY CAUTION LIST -----



NEW YEAR'S: Adult party-goers can be cruel & senseless. Under no conditions should guests give your dog alcohol because they think "it's cute." Dogs can get ill from drinking & eating rich foods which are different from their usual diet. Paws & tails are susceptible to being stepped on while guests mingle & dance.

Some people just don't like to have dogs around. Keeping your dog out of sight may be the best thing for you, your dog & your guests. Confine your dog to a separate area of the house & put up a sign warning guests that there is a dog inside & "Do Not Open Door". Make sure your dog is wearing traceable identification in case he does get loose.



EASTER: Make sure the ham & Easter baskets filled with chocolate are put well out of reach of your dog. Both will make your dog very ill & may even cause death.



HALLOWEEN: Walk your dog early on Halloween night & hold the dog firmly on leash as it may be distracted or scared easily. Dogs don't understand masks & can be overwhelmed by shrieking children. Scared dogs may bite.

Keep your dog far from the front door. If your dog is a "barker", perhaps you will want to go to the front door before trick or treaters ring your bell.

Again watch the Halloween candy & treats & keep them away from your dog.



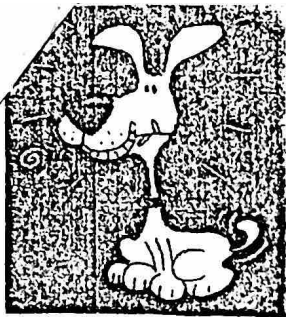
THANKSGIVING: Keep the dog out of the kitchen & do not give in & feed table scraps. Be firm with guests not to slip your dog any "treats". Turkey scraps are not easily digestible & turkey bones are dangerous!! Tie up garbage tightly & remove as soon as possible so dogs aren't tempted to search for bones & food in the trash.



CHRISTMAS: Train your dog to stay from the tree. Dogs can break ornaments & get cut or swallow small pieces or may bite the lights & possibly electrocute themselves. If you need, put a barrier around the tree or close off the room where the tree is displayed.

An animal's stress may result in flight or fight instincts. Stressed out dogs have been known to bite guests or bolt through an open door to escape the noise. As the host or hostess you may not even realize your dog is missing until many hours & miles later.

Children who are not familiar with dogs could sit on your dog or pull his tail or fur. If your dog reacts by fighting back, these children are in danger of being bitten.



HAZARDS IN THE HOME

Make your home a safer place for your pets by keeping them away from hazardous household items, plants, foods & objects.

COMMON PLANTS --

Aloe
Amaryllis
Andromeda Japonica
Australian Nut
Azalea
Belladonna
Bird of Paradise
Bittersweet
Black Locust
Bleeding Heart
Buckeye
Buddhist Pine
Buttercups
Caladium
Castor Bean
Cherry tree
Clematis
Cordatum
Corn Plant
Crocus - all types

Cycads
Cyclamen
Daffodil
Daphne
Dieffenbachia
Dracaena
Dumbcane
Elderberry
Elephant Ears
Eucalyptus
Ferns - all types
Foxglove
Gladiolas
Golden Chain
Heavenly Bamboo
Hemlock
Honeysuckle
Hyacinth
Hydrangea
Iris

Ivy - all types
Jack in the Pulpit
Jasmine
Jerusalem Cherry
Jimson Weed
Kalanchoe
Lantana
Larkspur
Lilies - all types
Lily of the Valley
Lupine
Mistletoe
Mayapple
Monks Hood
Morning Glory
Moonseed
Mountain Laurel
Narcissus
Nephthysis
Nightshade

Oaks
Oleander
Peace Lily
Philodendron
Privet
Rhododendron
Rhubarb
Ribbon Plant
Rosary Pea
Sago Palm
Satin Pothos
Schefflera
Star of Bethlehem
Tulip
Wisteria
Yew
Yucca



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS --

Acetaminophen
Ibuprofen
Cold & flu meds
Vitamins
Diet Pills
Liquid Potpourri

Home Insect Products
Rat & Mouse Bait
Mothballs
Flea & Tick Products
Fly Bait
Slug & Snail Bait

Detergents
Bleach
Fabric Softener
Disinfectants
Drain Cleaners
Lime/scale Remover

Oven Cleaners
Solvents
Tobacco
Products
Lighter Fluid

HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS --

Balls (too small or smooth)
Batteries
Bread Twist Ties
Buttons
Coins
Cotton Swabs

Glass
Hair Pins
Jewelry
Nylons
Paper Clip
Plastic Wrap

Socks
Rubber Bands
Sharp Objects (knives, razors, scissors, nails, needles, etc)
String, yarn or dental floss
Towels

CRATE TRAINING

Contrary to popular belief, crate training is the professional, humane way to raise and care for a dog. Whenever a puppy cannot be supervised, he should be in his crate.

When a dog is in the wild, he lives in a den. This makes him feel safe and secure. In your home, your dog's crate is his den. Crate training should start as soon as you bring your puppy home. He should be encouraged to sleep and rest in the crate. He should be coaxed in, not forced. A small treat or toy can be used, and always give him plenty of praise when he goes in his crate.

A puppy will instinctively try not to go to the bathroom in his crate, but from 8 weeks to 20 weeks of age he will need to go out every 2 to 3 hours to help him keep his crate as clean as possible. A dog is able to begin to control his bladder and bowels at about 16 to 20 weeks of age. An adult dog, after being given the opportunity to go to the bathroom outside, can easily be comfortable in his crate for 4 to 5 hours at a time.

The crate should be large enough for the dog to grow into. The dog should be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down. Do not feed or water the dog inside his crate. Just leave him two quality chew toys so that he can satisfy his need to chew (See Dogs Love To Chew page). Several layers of newspaper make the best floor for a puppy. Clean up is easy, and it doesn't matter if the puppy chews or tears up the paper.

The crate must always be a happy place to go to. The dog must never be placed in his crate for punishment or while being scolded (See Correction, Discipline, & Punishment page).

The crate should be in a quiet part of the house, away from household activity. The room door should be closed, and a radio should be left on a soft music station loud enough to keep him from being easily startled or awakened by noise.

It is strongly recommended that the dog not wear any type of collar when confined to his crate unsupervised. Collars, buckles, and tags have been known to get caught on the crate, and this can sometimes result in serious injury or death! This is especially a concern for puppies.

Eventually, as the puppy grows into an adult, he will use his crate, with the door open, as his own little den.

People who crate train their dogs, and maintain the crate training for the life of the dog, have significantly far less behavior problems than those who don't.

From: Chantal Claesen <bouvierldy@aol.com>

To: BOUVERLDY <BOUVERLDY@aol.com>

Subject: spay/neuter

Date: Sat, Aug 25, 2012 6:26 pm

8/17/12

The data has been compiled. I went through our patients over the last ten years who are over the age of three years old. A summary of the data shows that while 2.1% of our spayed and neutered patients had to undergo ACL surgery, only 0.3% of the intact animals had to have the surgery. This represents a **seven fold** increase for animals that have been spayed and neutered before the age of 6 months to have to undergo knee surgery for anterior cruciate rupture.

These results are staggering (so much so that I am submitting these results for publication...if we are published I will post the article and everyone can see the specifics of the study...don't want to get too technical here). In pouring through the archived studies there does seem to be a possible explanation.

A study of 1444 Golden Retrievers performed in 1998 and 1999 found that animals spayed and neutered at less than a year of age were significantly taller than those spayed or neutered at more than a year. The sex hormones, by communicating with a number of other growth-related hormones, promote the closure of growth plates at puberty, so bones of neutered or spayed animals continue to grow longer. These dogs have longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrow chests and narrow skulls.

This delay of growth plate closure can result in different angles from one set of long bones to another. For example, a study by Dr. Kathy Linn and her resident Dr. Felix Duerr showed that spayed and female animals have a significantly greater tibial plateau angle. This is because the tibial growth plate stays open longer than it is supposed to and the tibia continues to grow longer relative to the femur in "fixed" animals as opposed to those animals who are intact. It is widely known and accepted that animals with a greater tibial plateau angle are at a much higher risk for anterior cruciate injury. Perhaps Dr. Michael will delve into this on later posts.

It is these changes in bone structure then that subject prepubertally spayed and neutered animals to anterior cruciate rupture. Other orthopedic abnormalities like osteoarthritis and hip dysplasia have also been correlated with early spay and neuter. In addition, spayed and neutered animals tend to gain weight, are more likely to develop obesity, and have decreased lean muscle mass. Obesity itself is a major risk factor for orthopedic abnormalities and injury.

The increased risk of anterior cruciate rupture and surgery is just one more reason to think strongly about whether we should be spaying and neutering our pets....**particularly before puberty and before normal growth has finished.**

C

www.chantalsbouviers.com