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Working

Mastiff

When the Romans invaded Britain in 55BC they found the inhabitants already had a mastiff- type dog, huge and courageous and which defeated the Romans' own dogs in organised fights. The Romans took some of these mastiff types home with them and used them for fighting wild animals in the Coliseum.

The Mastiff, once known as the Old English Mastiff, was used as a guard dog, a gamekeepers' dog, a hunter of wolves, and for bear and bull baiting. He was also used in the fighting pits until this activity was outlawed in 1835. This threatened the breed's survival. A number of Mastiffs had been exported to the United States between the wars and by the end of World War II, just a single bitch, Nydia of Frithend remained in Britain. The dogs exported to the United States became the progenitors of fourteen Mastiffs who were in turn sent to Britain post-World War II to revive the breed.

Now, although they are still not numerous, they have their devotees who take on the challenge of achieving type and substance combined with soundness of movement.

Breed Group	Working
Vulnerable Breed	Yes
Size	Large
How much exercise?	Up to 1 hour per day
Length of coat	Short
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Country
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Small/Medium
Lifespan	Under 10 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Mastiff?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme
- Bitches under twenty months not to produce a litter
- Bitches over 6 years not to produce a litter

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

Mastiff Clubs

Name	Telephone
Mastiff Association	07929 988008
Old English Mastiff Club	01303 228680

Mastiff Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
Old English Mastiff Club Rehoming	01243 603899



THE KENNEL CLUB
ACCREDITED BREEDER SCHEME

Assured Breeders

Name	Member since	Phone	Accolades
Mr M & Mrs P Fox Ashford, Kent	30/06/2007	01233 712313	  
Mrs D E & Mr G A Harding Folkestone, Kent	29/03/2012	01303 250683	 
Mr A & Mrs T Facey King's Lynn, Norfolk	09/05/2017	07716 786057	
Mr C R Hill Nr Coven, Staffordshire	31/01/2010	01902 790415	  



Accolade of Excellence

Denotes a significant contribution to a breed.



Studbook Achievement

Bred at least 3 dogs listed in the Studbook.



Breed Club Membership

Current member of one or more breed clubs



Breeder Experience

5 or more litters registered with the Kennel Club