





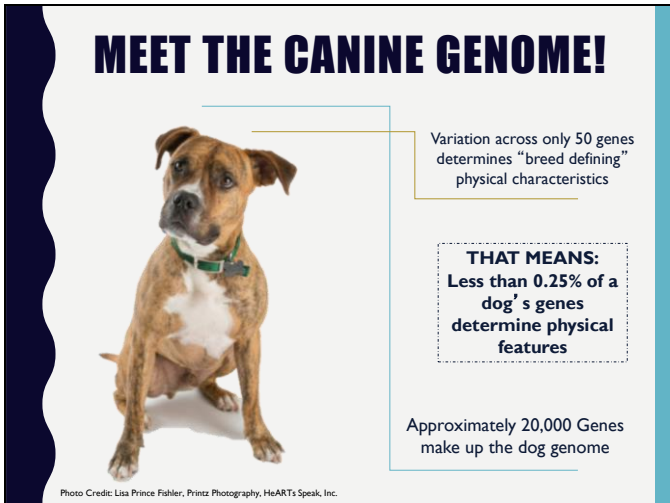
**BACKGROUND
INFO**

THE LATEST AND GREATEST IN
RESEARCH AND SCIENCE



**"WHAT KIND OF DOG IS
THAT?"**

Photo Credit: Lisa Prince Fähler, Prinz Photography, HeARTs Speak, Inc.



MEET THE CANINE GENOME!

Variation across only 50 genes determines "breed defining" physical characteristics

THAT MEANS:
Less than 0.25% of a dog's genes determine physical features

Approximately 20,000 Genes make up the dog genome

Photo Credit: Lisa Prince Fähler, Prinz Photography, HeARTs Speak, Inc.

When we look at a dog and see breed, we are seeing ONLY ROUGHLY **50** of their nearly **20,000** GENES **0.25%**

That is **0.25%** of a dog's ENTIRE GENOME.

The set of **50** genes associated with physical appearance is **DIFFERENT** from the set of thousands of genes responsible for *brain development* and *function*.

LOOKS DON'T EQUAL BEHAVIOR

GENOME

Credit: Animal Farm Foundation, www.animalfarmfoundation.org

BY AMY MARDER, VMD, CAAB
Member of the Institute for Shelter Dogs
Animal Behavior Liaison of Ontario



INTRODUCING...
From the Fall 2008 issue of Our Four Purred Partners

The American Shelter Dog!

A TRIED & TRUE CONCEPT

"INSTEAD OF DEPENDING ON INACCURATE BREED LABELS, WE WANT PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE COMPANIONS BASED ON ACCURATE PERSONALITY PROFILES... THE PROBLEM IS THAT BREED IDENTITY ELICITS BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS ON THE PART OF THE NEW OWNER, EVEN THOUGH RESEARCHERS HAVE FOUND ENORMOUS BEHAVIORAL VARIABILITY WITHIN ALL BREEDS."

DR. AMY MARDER, VMD, CAAB

LET'S PLAY A GAME:

If these two 4-month old puppies came in to your shelter...

What would you label them?



MEET THE PARENTS!

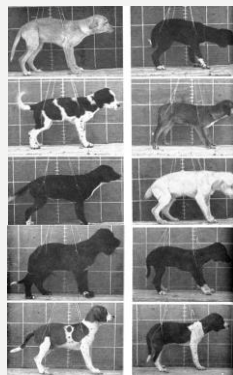


Scott and Fuller, 1965, *Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog*

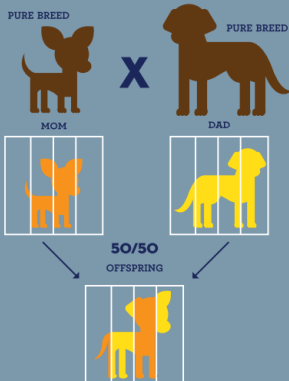
IN LATER GENERATIONS, THINGS GET EVEN MORE COMPLICATED

"None of the 72 puppies in the total F2 population showed an exact resemblance to either parent breed."

REMEMBER:
These pups have only Basenji and Cocker Spaniel in their background



MEET THE PARENTS



We can't accurately predict the behavior of **MIXED BREED DOGS** by comparing them to **PURE BREED DOGS**, even if the pure breed dog is a parent.

The offspring of 2 different pure breed dogs isn't a member of either parent's breed.

IT IS MISSING 50% of each parental breed's DNA, and we don't know *which 50%!*


Credit: Animal Farm Foundation, www.animalfarmfoundation.org








THE EVOLUTION OF SHELTER SOFTWARE


	<p>I am a neutered male, brindle and white Bull Terrier mix. The shelter staff think I am about 8 years old. I have been at the shelter since Jan 14, 2017. My name is MOOSE.</p>	<p>ID# A37648</p>
	<p>I am a neutered male, brown Labrador Retriever mix. The shelter staff think I am about 4 years old. I have been at the shelter since Dec 09, 2016. My name is CAMELO.</p>	<p>ID# A36217</p>
	<p>I am an unneutered male, tan and black Australian Cattle Dog and German Shepherd Dog mix. The shelter staff think I am about 4 years old. I have been at the shelter since Jan 16, 2017. My name is EMILEY.</p>	<p>ID# A36866</p>
	<p>I am an unneutered male, white and tan American Bulldog mix. The shelter staff think I am about 4 years old. I have been at the shelter since Jan 07, 2017. My name is SANDY.</p>	<p>ID# A37285</p>
	<p>I am a spayed female, white and brown Papillon mix. The shelter staff think I am about 10 years old. I have been at the shelter since Jan 11, 2017. My name is ODIN.</p>	<p>ID# A36959</p>
	<p>I am a neutered male, blue merle and white Catahoula Leopard Head and Great Dane mix. The shelter staff think I am about 2 years and 3 months old. I have been at the shelter since Dec 21, 2016.</p>	<p>ID# A36875</p>

SHELTER SOFTWARE




THE SHELTER SOFTWARE SYSTEM REQUIRES THAT WE CHOOSE A PREDOMINANT BREED OR BREED MIX FOR OUR DOGS. VISUAL BREED IDENTIFICATION IN DOGS IS UNRELIABLE SO FOR MOST OF OUR DOGS WE ARE ONLY GUESSING AT PREDOMINANT BREED OR BREED MIX. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SELECT YOUR NEW COMPANION BY CONSIDERING EACH DOG'S INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITY AND PET QUALITIES INSTEAD OF RELYING ON A BREED LABEL THAT IS ONLY A GUESS.


Dogs are
INDIVIDUALS




ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGER
This software goes the extra step and lets shelters add their own breed names to the breed drop down menu.




CHAMELEON
Upon request, Chameleon will offer "mixed breed" as a primary breed identifier.




PET POINT
Pet Point has a "mixed breed" option for a primary breed identifier.



SHELTER LUV
Shelter Luv does not require breed labels and offers "mixed breed - small, medium, or large" categories.



SHELTER BUDDY
If you request it, Shelter Buddy, will offer "unknown" or "mixed breed" options.



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN PEOPLE ASK, "WHAT BREED IS THAT?"



celeste
intericum

WHAT ABOUT AREAS WITH BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION?



WHAT ABOUT HOUSING RESTRICTIONS?

Property Management and Pets: Most Aggressive Dog Breeds

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 | CATEGORY: RENTAL PROS | AUTHOR: ZILLOW RENTALS TEAM



Knowledge is power when it comes to pet policies. You may be a dog lover, maybe even a lifelong dog owner, but naturally this doesn't make you a veterinary expert. That's important to know as it's about dog breeds to determine if you should let a tenant have a certain pet, in order to protect yourself and the best of your tenants.


Meeting each pet before agreeing to a lease is a good idea, even with a liberal pet policy in your area. Weight limits for dogs are a smart in terms of general damage a big and energetic dog could wreak on your property, inside and out. But a 10 year old, mischievous golden retriever is unlikely to be a huge concern. When you do meet the pet, you should not only check its general disposition, but have the owner prove to you that the pet follows commands well.

However, some dog breeds you should beware of generally include the following:

- The dogs most often banned around the world include American Bulldogs, Mastiffs, Wolfhogs, Boxers, Dozo Argentino, Presa Canario, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa Inu, and the American Pit Bull Terrier.
- Dogs that generally have a bad rap are Pit Bulls, Cocker Spaniels, and Rottweilers.
- Schnauzers, old English Sheepdogs, and Shar Peis are not particularly friendly.
- Dogs that don't normally get singled out because of their size but can be aggressive include Chow Chows, Liaca Apino, Jack Russell Terriers, Papillons, Dalmatians, Cocker Spaniels, Bull Terriers, Phalaropes, Beagles, and Chihuahuas. Small dogs can be aggressive and bite too, but just because a dog is small doesn't mean it's not a risk.
- Mutt's unfortunately have no recipe for disposition.
- For perspective, some dogs that are known to be friendly or docile include Bassett Hounds, Golden Retrievers, Labradors, Shetland Sheepdogs, and Greyhounds.

"Generally speaking, having an allowance for pets will increase your pool of potential renters and even the amount you can charge for the apartment. But not every pet is built equally and some will be a perfect fit while others would make for trouble. So creating a list of breeds you would not allow and spelling out your policies in the lease and on your website is a good idea."


-Zillow for Pros



HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE LOST AND FOUND LISTINGS?

Elton
Dog • Golden Retriever • Senior • Male • Large
Little Victories Animal Rescue Group Ona, WV

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BREED RESCUES?



MOVING FORWARD


HOW TO LEAVE BREED BEHIND TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION PROGRAM

CASE STUDY: FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA



1. We removed breed labels from our kennel cards.
2. We stopped using breed labels in social media posts.
3. We changed how we talked about breed internally and challenged each other to use non-breed descriptors for our dogs.
4. We asked our shelter software provider to allow us to use 'mixed breed' as a primary breed identifier.
5. We role played with staff and volunteers what to do when someone says, "What breed is that?"

...AN ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFT...



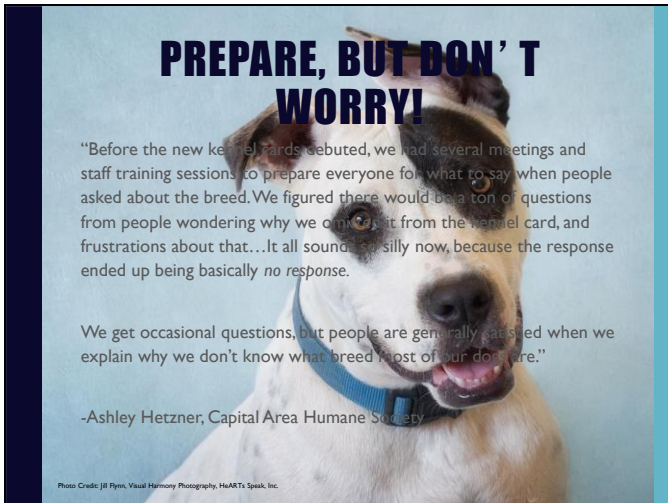
"Dalton is not merely smart; he is knock-your-socks-off, almost-human intelligent. The evidence: He knows the commands sit, stay, down, and paw. He lets us know when he doesn't have enough water left by lifting the bowl and bringing it to us. His most amazing feat yet was when I started putting on my boots to walk him. He instantly got excited and started whining a little, like he wanted me to hurry up. Then he inexplicably ran from the room. I heard noises down the hall, so I went to investigate. Dalton was standing there, holding my coat in his mouth! Then he looked at me and shook the coat."

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER




"The weeks following the removal of breed from the kennel card were uneventful. However, an amazing shift had happened for not only the dogs in the care, but how we treated people that entered our facility. Removing breed labels meant we not only got to know the dogs better, but our adopters as well."









USE PHOTOS TO TELL A STORY

“The chairman of our advisory board at the time was the founder of a volunteer group called Pawsitive Shelter Photography, which takes glam shots of some of our pets. His recommendation was that the photos speak more about the animal than the breed and that we should remove the breed altogether because it was potentially putting a stigma or connotation on the dog that may not be true”

-Diane Summers, OCAS

Dawn Marie Cole



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

ORLANDO, FL

ID A289828 Room:WD22	ID A289839 Room:WD39	ID A289840 Room:WD33
ID A289852 Room:WD134	ID A289870 Room:WD58	ID A289880 Room:WD15
ID A289888 Room:WD58	ID A289893 Room:WD30	ID A289895 Room:WD132
ID A289906 Room:WD45	ID A289911 Room:WD50	ID A289927 Room:WD110

Search for a dog by location:

Site: Foster Home
Age Group: All

WASHINGTON HUMANE SOCIETY

Aasche Dog Male 7 years 9 months	Mila Dog Female 7 years 7 months	Yalerie Dog Female 1 year 4 months
Blossom Dog Female 9 years 5 months	Sasha Dog Female 9 years 5 months	Das Dog Male 2 years 4 months
Zoe Dog Female 7 years 3 months	Lucky Dog Male 7 months	JD Dog Male 2 years 1 month

is impossible to fix breed, or predict future a dog's appearance... We've known that for a while requires that we every pet that comes in, that adopters may pass issue of a breed label... Not anymore. Kennel cards for nger include the breed. We ask our staff for a labels. #NoAVSADS
More information on breed foundation.org

Share Chronological 46 comments

SHAKE UP YOUR BIO-WRITING

CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW
SAMPLE QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

I HEAR YOU'RE A VORACIOUS READER? ANY FAVORITE AUTHORS?
"I've recently been introduced to Steinbeck and wow! The Grapes of Wrath taught me a lot about what foods I shouldn't eat."

WHEN I GROW UP, I'D LIKE TO BE...
I can be anything! 10 is the new 2!

MY FAVORITE PLACE TO BE IS...
"A lap," "Your heart," "By a pair of feet under a desk."

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS...
"I'm rather fond of bananas. Carrots are pretty tasty too though."

SQUEAKY OR BOUNCY, WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A TOY?
"Both, really. I do enjoy going to get them and bringing them back and then going to get them again."

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITY?
"I'd really love to meet Brian from Family Guy, one day. He seems like he'd be pretty cool."

www.heartsspeak.org

KENNEL CARDS

Austin Animal Center

Austin Animal Center Report Card

Name: _____

Championed by: _____

Academics *So far, I know:*

Sit Stay Come Other: _____

Shake Drop it Down _____

Recess *I seem to enjoy:*

Walking with a _____ (Equipment)

Playgroups Swimming Car Rides
or playing in water

Agility Fetch Toys/Puzzles

Qualities *Staff & Volunteers say I'm:*

Goofy Cuddly Outgoing

Adventurous Sweet Independent

Calm/Gentle Shy Playful

Enrichment and Equipment items

I Love	Kongs	
	Kong Wobblers	
	Bully Sticks/Rawhides	
	Nylabones	
	Twist n' Treats	
	Kibble Nibbles	
Do Not Give Me	Kongs	
	Rubber Treat Puzzles	
	Hard Plastic Treat Puzzles	
	Hard Bones	
	Large Rawhides	
	Fluffy Blankets	
	Plush Toys	
Equipment Needs	Easy Walk Harness	
	Gentle Leader	
	Martingale	

UP YOUR MARKETING GAME


Heartsspeak.org/FREEdownloads



FINAL THOUGHT
If you remember only one thing:

We have nothing to gain by perpetuating our guesses at breed labeling as accurate or helpful to determining a dog's future

Photo Credit: Jill Pynn, Visual Harmony Photography, HART's Speak, Inc.



THANK YOU!

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Photo Credit: HART's Speak, Inc.
