



LIVING WITH YOUR STABYHOUN



MAY 1, 2021
AMERI-CAN STABYHOUN ASSOCIATION

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Congratulations!

The Board of the Ameri-Can Stabyhoun Association (ASA) congratulates you on your new puppy.

With the choice of a Stabyhoun you are not only helping to protect and preserve a rare breed, but also to advance the breed in North America.

It is a momentous event when your puppy first comes home with you. A pup is not a mature dog, just like a child is not an adult. Both require special care and attention. If you have never owned a dog before, good advice is very important. But even if you do know quite a bit about dogs, these guidelines can refresh your memory. This manual is not a complete guide, nor does it intend to be. A dog is a dog and each dog is different. Wouldn't it be great if we could teach a dog to read, so that he would understand how he should behave according to the manuals?

Raising a pup and teaching the little one some manners can be quite a challenge. It takes a lot of time, but it is very rewarding in the end!

This manual is based on numerous questions and experiences received from puppy owners and members of the Ameri-Can Stabyhoun Association (ASA). Please note, we have chosen to use "he/ him" for referring to the puppy rather than use the more impersonal "it".

The pup's first year is the most important period for turning him into a happy, well-behaved dog. The more time you spend with your dog during this year, the higher the rewards will be in the long run. Your pup is entitled to your profound attention during this first year. By welcoming a pup into your home, you have taken on a huge responsibility.

Origin of the Stabyhoun

The Stabyhoun originated in Friesland, a province in the Northeastern part of the Netherlands. The Stabyhoun is related to the Dutch Partridge Dog and the Small Munsterlander and in a lesser degree to the Dutch Kooikerhondje and German Longhaired Pointer. The Stabyhoun is a very versatile dog, which made him very popular amongst poor farmers in the old days. They kept the homestead free from rats and mice; they were an all-around hunting dog, guarded the property and had an excellent reputation as mole and ferret hunters.

The larger kind of Stabyhoun even pulled a milk cart, while the smaller type was used as a professional mole catcher. When on a mole catching mission, the Stabyhoun was carried along in the basket of the bicycle. If the dog were to run next to the bike over a long distance, the paw pads could become sensitive or hurt, which could hamper the digging process. Mole catching was a lucrative business, back in those days. The mole's coat was used as lining in pulse muffs and was in high demand.

The Stabyhoun probably owes its name to its versatility. The word Staby could be derived from the Dutch words: 'sta me bij' ('stand by me'). Houn is the word for dog in Frisian, the language of this Northern region of The Netherlands.

A Staby is truly a dog that enjoys activity. They love to get tasks and have a strong desire to work. It is not important what activity you do with your dog (obedience training, agility, hunting), just as long as you do something.

In 1942, the Stabyhoun was officially recognized by the Dutch Kennel Club together with the other dog from the same region in Friesland, the Wetterhoun.

On April 26, 1947 the Dutch Stabyhoun and Wetterhoun Association (NVSW) was established with the goal to protect the interests of these Frisian breeds. It is an active organization that has many events, such as club matches, breeder's days, gatherings, shows, lectures, newsletters etc.

The Ameri-Can Stabyhoun Association (ASA) was established in 2006. We are a non-profit International Club representing Stabyhoun owners and breeders in the United States and Canada. The ASA works in close partnership with the NSVW.

Please enjoy visiting our website, www.stabyhouns.org.

Health

Because you interact with your dog on a daily basis, you will immediately notice when something is not right. Still, it is important to pay attention to the following every day:

- Does the dog eat well?
- Is the dog active?
- Is the coat in good condition? (dense and shiny);
- Is the stool firm and does it have a consistent color?
- Does your dog drink and urinate sufficiently?
- Is the dog not too fat or too skinny? (You should be able to feel the ribs, but not see them).

If you have doubts on any of these points, please visit your veterinarian rather than play doctor yourself. If you don't think a visit is quite necessary, you can call your vet and ask for advice. Typically, he will ask you about the items described above. Your vet may want to know whether your dog has a fever. You can take your dog's rectal temperature with a regular clinical thermometer that has been lubricated with K-Y or petroleum jelly. A dog's normal body temperature ranges between 100° Fahrenheit (38.4 °C) and 102.5° Fahrenheit (39.2 °C).

Make sure you always have your vet's phone number within easy reach.

The overall health and well-being of a puppy are determined by three factors: Genetics, Maintenance/Care, and Nutrition.

- 1) *Genetics* -- Your breeder will have excluded as many genetic risks as possible in her selection of a mate. However, there are no guarantees. Your pup is not a machine but a living creature with ancestors who, when combined, can pass on desired but also possibly undesired features. A good breeder always takes all factors into consideration. But there are no certainties.
The breeder of your pup is either a member of the Dutch NVSW or the ASA in North America. This means that both the father and mother dog are subject to specific requirements with regard to exterior features, but also as far as their health is concerned. Both the breeder and the Association check out the combination of sire and dam carefully. Prior to any breeding, a breeder needs to obtain a breeding authorization by the Breeders Advisory Committee (BAC) of the ASA (or of the foreign association, if the pup is an import).
- 2) *Maintenance/Care* -- The breeder handled the first stage of caring for your pup; from now on you are responsible for raising your pup. This includes training and disciplining, inoculations, deworming, sufficient but well-balanced exercise and, of course, lots of loving care and attention. The breeder of your pup is either a member of the Dutch NVSW or the ASA in North America. The father and mother dogs are both subject to specific requirements set down by the individual organizations as to breed standard, hip and elbow evaluations and overall good health. Both the breeder and the Association perform a careful genetic and health evaluations of both parents to determine if the combination is safe genetically and physically matched. Prior to any breeding, a breeder must obtain a breeding authorization by the Breeders Advisory Committee (BAC) of the ASA (or of the NVSW, if the pup is an import).
- 3) *Nutrition* -- Nutrition is often underestimated as an important factor in the overall health of your puppy. There are several kinds of well-balanced foods available in your pet store. Your breeder probably has given you advice on how to feed your puppy. You might also discuss this with your veterinarian. If your dog is doing well, continue to follow the breeder's advice. Further discussion of nutrition follows.

Coat

Before you start combing or brushing your pup, bear in mind that a healthy diet, adequate accommodations, sufficient exercise and attention, perfect health and proper prevention of internal parasites (worms) and external parasites (fleas, lice and ticks) are by far the most determining factors for a good coat.

The Stabyhoun does not need much maintenance for its coat. A good brushing every once in a while is sufficient. Start brushing your pup right away so that he gets used to it at a young age. Use a soft brush and teach your pup to stand still while you are doing it.

The location where your puppy sleeps should not be close to central heating, or on a floor with radiant heating. Preferably it should be a cool, dry and frost-free site. These are the most favorable circumstances for the development of a healthy coat.

If you have your dog spayed or neutered, you will notice that his coat will get softer over time and will entangle more easily. You will therefore need to pay more attention to the coat and brush the coat more often.

Never use a comb, except when your dog is shedding in the spring and fall. When using a comb, you remove the undercoat. During these molting periods, a daily brushing is recommended.

Grooming? No!

Stabyhouns do not require grooming. You could trim the hairs under the foot pads and between the toes. The hair on the ears should not be longer than the ears themselves.

You should carefully pluck the extra hair with your fingernails, never with scissors.

Bathing? As a rule, NO.

By bathing your dog, you remove skin oils that protect the coat. When the dog gets wet and is drying out, dirt will usually fall off just on its own. If the dog is dirty, take it for a swim in clean water, or rinse it off with lukewarm water. It is remarkable how the Stabyhouns keep themselves clean. They are incredibly maintenance free in that regard. However, if your dog has been rolling in smelly fish or road kill for example, and it does need a bath, use a proper dog shampoo and rinse thoroughly with lukewarm water.

Teeth

When puppies are about four months old, they will start to lose their deciduous teeth. Baby teeth will gradually fall out and will be replaced with permanent teeth. Around 6-7 months old, the dog will have all its permanent teeth. During this period, the pup may not eat as well as before (especially dry food can be sensitive). The stool could become somewhat thin. If your dog still has a few baby teeth remaining with its permanent teeth, you should have a veterinarian remove those baby teeth as they may cause damage to the permanent teeth. This sometimes occurs with the canine eye tooth (fang like tooth).

A set of baby teeth consists of 28 teeth and molars. If all is well your dog should have 42 teeth and molars in their permanent set. After all the deciduous teeth have been replaced, you will notice that your pup's appetite for chewing and biting has diminished considerably.

Baby teeth are easy to recognize. They are narrow, pointy and razor-sharp. Permanent teeth are bigger and more rounded.

Dental Disease: Dental disease starts as a thin layer of protein film called plaque. Plaque is created by a build-up of dead cells from the mouth along with food remains, saliva and bacteria. At first the color is white. As layers of this build up the plaque will become a hard-yellowed calculus material over the teeth, creating a feeding ground for bacteria to grow. Over time this will lead to severe disease including gingivitis and potentially loss of teeth. Your dog may experience bad breath, decreased appetite, avoidance of toys or hard food. By feeding your dog dry food and using Veterinary approved dental chewing aids (VOHC.org has a list of approved chewing items) you can reduce the development of potential disease. Your dog can quietly chew all evening and be cleaning its teeth at the same time.

Another option would be to brush your dog's teeth on a regular basis. Special dog tooth brushes and tooth pastes are available at the pet store. If you start at a young age, your pup will grow accustomed to it quickly and you will be rewarded with fresh breath.

The standard bite in a Stabyhoun is scissor bite. This is when the upper incisors should just overlap the lower incisors when the mouth is closed. A *level bite* is when the incisors meet edge to edge. An underbite is one in which the bottom jaw is longer than the upper jaw. An overbite is when the upper jaw is longer than the lower which will sometimes be apparent as a puppy. This may change as they age but if there is an abnormal bite the puppy must be monitored by a veterinarian as malocclusions can cause the puppy pain when eating. Please notify the ASA-BAC if any malocclusion is noted in you puppy as this could be genetic. The standard for our breed calls for a complete (42 teeth) scissors bite.

Puppy biting behavior

By now you have probably become familiar with your pup's razor-sharp baby teeth. Play biting is perfectly natural for your pup and completely different from aggressive biting. Play biting is a form of making contact. In the litter your pup made contact with his brothers, sisters and mother by play biting. If play became too rough, mother or littermate would discipline your pup. Now it is your job to teach your pup when it is playing too rough or biting too hard. You can do this if you immediately stop caressing or playing with him. This will teach your puppy that hard bites result in the end of a game and a loss of social contact. Make sure pup has safe chew toys and supervise chewing play. Eventually it will learn to be more careful with you.

Undesirable critters

Fleas

Almost every dog will have fleas once in a while. Fleas are harmful pests that suck blood and can cause itching and skin irritation. Flea eggs and larva hide in the dog's bed, carpeting, nooks and cracks. It is therefore essential, with flea control to treat not just the dog, but the entire environment. Flea larvae feed on anything they can find (dust, skin flakes, food crumbs, etc.) When the young flea crawls out of its cocoon, it is hungry and immediately looks for a dog or a cat. When pets are not present it can even bite humans. If your pet has fleas you will find little black dots – flea droppings - in its coat.

There are numerous products available to treat fleas both topically and orally, please consult your veterinarian for the best product for you and your pet. Regardless what treatment you use, do not forget to treat the surroundings and to vacuum your home regularly. Please remember to treat all pets in the house, as other pets can become hosts to the fleas too.

Ticks

A tick is a bloodsucking parasite that lives in shrubs and tall grass. It will attach itself to a host when the host is walking by. The tick must feed on a blood meal in order to reproduce, when completely full of blood it will subsequently fall off its host and lay eggs.

Ticks can spread numerous diseases some of which can be very serious and even deadly. Not all ticks carry all diseases, so it is best to check with your state and veterinarian as to what to be aware of in your area.

Diseases include Lyme, Ehrlichia, Anaplasma, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Babesia (not a complete list but most commonly seen in North America).

Prevention of ticks is the best form of tick disease control, please consult your veterinarian to create a prevention program for your area and your pet. There are many products available and in some areas two products may be needed. Level of prevention may also depend on the activities you and your dog do, please inform your veterinary team of activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, swimming in lakes and ponds and spending time in the woods.

The tick generally must remain attached to the dog's skin for at least 24 hours before the infection can be transmitted but this can vary so again prevention is best. If you do find a tick on your pet and need to remove, please follow the prescribed methods. Use fine-point tweezers (available in pet stores) to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull the tick out using a straight, steady pulling motion. Be gentle and avoid squeezing the body of the tick, as this may force infectious fluid back into the dog's skin. Do not apply alcohol, petroleum jelly or any other noxious agent. This is fundamentally wrong, since the tick could regurgitate contents of its stomach increasing the chance of your pet being exposed to infectious agents.

Mites

Sarcoptic mites, also known as **scabies**, is transmissible from one animal to another is zoonotic (meaning humans can get this from their pets) Sarcoptic mange causes intense itching, inflammation, crusting and scabs. Immediately consult your veterinarian if your pet is exposed to another animal affected with this disease. In general, scabies can be treated.

Demodex skin mites are part of the normal flora of pets, but if the immune system is unable to keep up with the rapid growth of a young pet, the mites may become overwhelming causing skin disease. There are medications to assist in a more comfortable and rapid control of the mites. Young dogs will clear this disease on their own. However, if an older pet develops demodex then there is a more serious condition occurring and further testing by your veterinarian is needed. This disease is not transferred from pet to pet or to humans.

Ear mites live in the ear canal and are transmitted directly from one animal to another. It causes the dog to scratch around their ears as the bites of mites are irritating. There is a heavy thick dry black discharge in the ear. Ear mites can be treated very easily. There are a number of approved medications available.

Nasal mites are a common but rarely diagnosed mite that infects the nasal passages of dogs.

The mites live inside the nasal passages, but some mites will travel to the outer edges of the nostril. Some dogs suffer from bouts of sneezing or nose bleeds. Others may develop a *chronic* nasal discharge from the infection. Nasal mites can usually be treated easily if caught early.

Lice

There are two types of dog lice. The first type (Mallophaga), concentrates on biting the skin and feeding on skin flakes. The other type is blood-sucking lice (Anoplura), which feed exclusively on blood. In general, lice are reported to be common in regions of the northern hemisphere. Dog lice are usually found on the area around the ears, neck and shoulders. They are slow movers and not as active as fleas, but like fleas, they can also cause anemia. If your puppy is infected with lice, consult your vet first before starting any kind of pesticide treatment or other medication. When used improperly these products can be poisonous for your dog.

Worms and other Puppy Parasites

In dogs, there are four kinds of parasites:

- Roundworms
- Hookworms
- Tapeworms
- Coccidia.

You will recognize **roundworms** by their vermicelli-like shape. They look like small elastic bands and can be as long as 7 inches (18 cms). The eggs of these worms are invisible to the naked eye and can live outside the body for years, lurking for another victim. When ingested, the worms start producing eggs in the intestines. One worm can produce up to 80 million eggs. Some worms will remain in the intestines for the rest of their lives, others travel through the body and can affect the liver and the lungs. Mature dogs are usually not troubled by roundworms, but they can cause considerable damage in puppies.

Encapsulated larvae in male dogs will remain encapsulated for life, but larvae in female dogs will be activated by changing hormone levels during heat cycles or pregnancy. Contrary to mature worms, the larvae are not killed by deworming. Therefore, puppies are already infected before they are born. The larvae enter the fetus

through the placenta. Directly after birth, the larvae start to grow and when the pups are three weeks old, the worms are mature and lay their first eggs.

Hookworms are shaped like a tiny goblet with three sets of teeth. The goblet-shaped mouth is very hard and resists collapse as the worm sucks. The Hookworm grasps onto the inner surface of the small intestine with the teeth and then pierces a blood vessel. An anti-coagulant, saliva-like substance is released which prevents the blood from clotting. Each hookworm can suck 0.1cc of blood per day. If they release the wound continues to bleed. The hookworm (*Ancylostoma caninum*, *Ancylostoma braziliense*) is one of the classical internal parasites of puppies, as the larva are tiny enough to migrate through the placental blood supply to the fetal lungs as well as the mother's milk. The larva can also be found in the environment (like on a blade of grass, a toy, water or food dish) and be ingested.

Tapeworms constitute segments that are visible around the dog's anus. They are recognized easily; they look like grains of rice. Tapeworm eggs are transmitted via an interim host, most commonly a flea. In addition to tapeworm control, you will therefore have to control fleas as well.

Coccidia are single celled organisms that infect the intestine. They are microscopic parasites detectable on routine fecal tests in the same way that worms are but coccidia are not worms and they are not visible to the naked eye. Coccidia infection causes a watery diarrhea which is sometimes bloody and can even be a life-threatening problem to an especially young or small pet. Coccidia come from fecal-contaminated ground. They are swallowed when a dog grooms/licks the dirt off itself. Coccidia infection is especially common in young pups housed in groups (in shelters, rescue areas, kennels, etc.) This is a common parasite and is not a sign of poor husbandry. A routine fecal test is a good idea for any new puppy or kitten whether there are signs of diarrhea or not as youngsters are commonly parasitized. This sort of test is also a good idea for any patient with diarrhea. Coccidia are microscopic and a test such as this is necessary to rule them in. It should be noted that small numbers of coccidia can be hard to detect so just because a fecal sample tests negative, this does not mean that the pet is not infected. Sometimes several fecal tests are performed, especially in a young pet with a refractory diarrhea; parasites may not be evident until later in the course of the condition. There are no medicines that will kill coccidia; only the patient's immune system can do that. But medicines called "coccidiostats" can be given and will inhibit coccidial reproduction. Once the numbers stop expanding, it is easier for the patient's immune system to "catch up" and wipe the infection out. This also means, though, that the time it takes to clear the infection depends on how many coccidia organisms there are to start with and how strong the patient's immune system is. A typical treatment course lasts about a week or two but it is important to realize that the medication should be given until the diarrhea resolves plus an extra couple of days. Medication should be given for at least five days total. Sometimes courses as long as a month are needed. Please consult with your veterinarian on the treatment of this parasite.

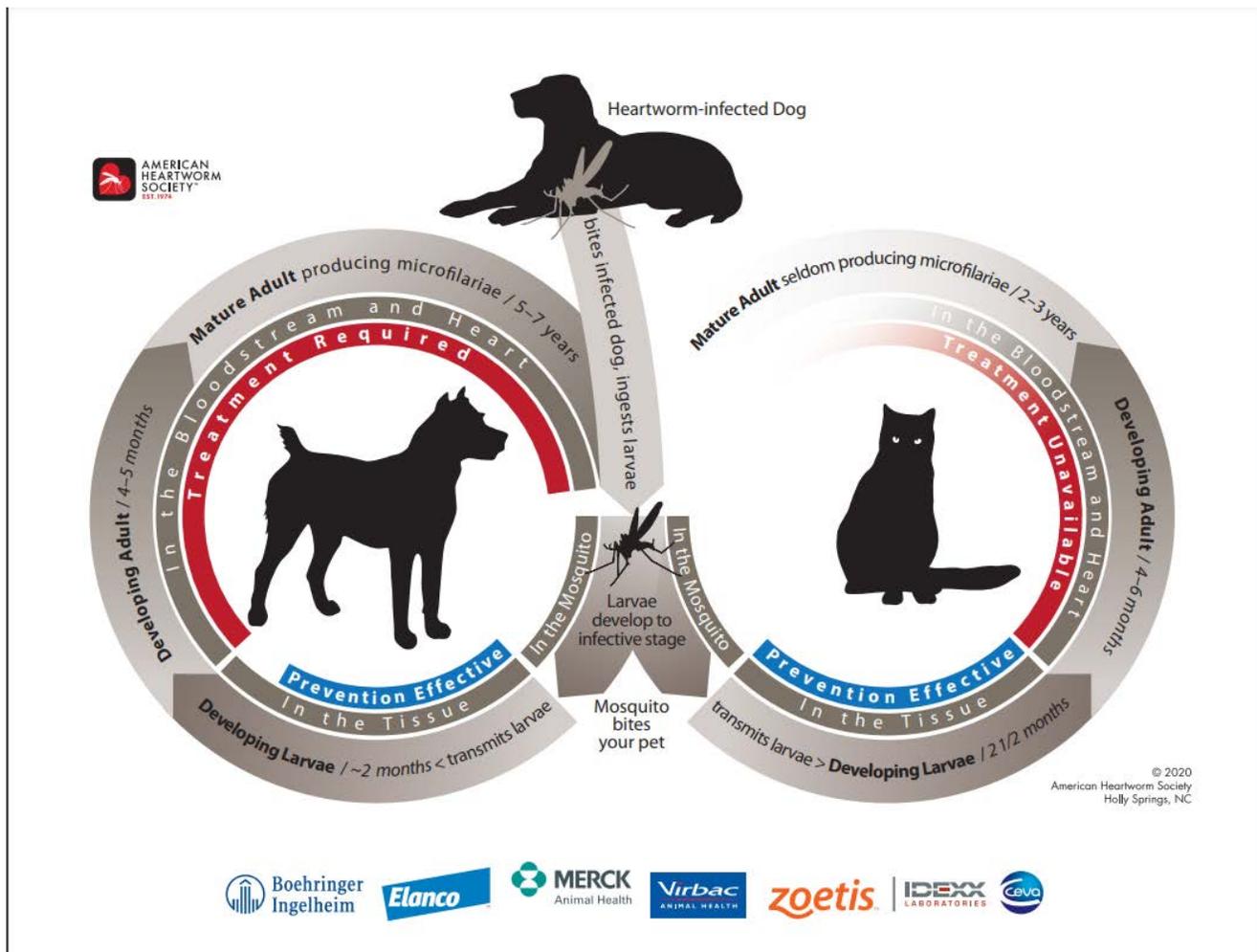
Your breeder should have dewormed the pups sufficiently and given you a deworming schedule. If this is not the case, you should discuss a program with your veterinarian. Deworming regularly is absolutely critical in the first six months of your pup's life. You should have your dog's stool tested at least annually for worms.

Heartworm

Great website:

<https://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/shelter-resources/faq>

Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) disease is now recognized as a major, global pest affecting many mammals including dogs and cats. The mosquito serves as the intermediate host for the transmission of the disease, see schematic below. The mosquito ingests the larva, larva develops into an infective state and is then transmitted to the pet when the bite occurs. The larva (microfilaria) migrates into the dog's tissue where it undergoes several changes to reach adult form, ultimately traveling to the right side of the heart. -Adult heartworms can reach 12 inches in length and can remain alive for several years. If both male and female worms are present, they can reproduce creating even more worms. Signs and symptoms may not be readily visible to owners in early stages. Late stages of the disease can cause severe lung and heart changes and can be fatal.



5 Facts About Heartworm Disease

The American Heartworm Society (AHS) recommends annual heartworm testing and year-round heartworm prevention. Here are five reasons why:

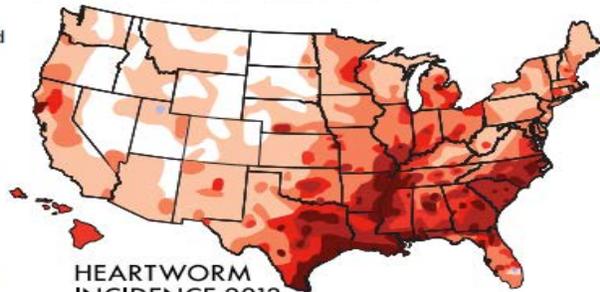
1 More than a million pets in the U.S. have heartworm disease. A look at the AHS heartworm incidence map* reveals that in most veterinary clinics in the U.S., a minimum of 1-5 heartworm cases per clinic were diagnosed in 2013, while numerous regions reported 100 cases per clinic or more. These reports do *not* reflect the status of the millions of dogs and cats that aren't regularly seen by a veterinarian or tested for heartworm.

2 Heartworm disease has been diagnosed in all 50 states. Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes. While heartworm disease tends to be associated with regions that have warm, humid weather and high counts of pesky bloodsuckers, heartworm infection is widespread in most states of the country, including states like California and Arizona where the disease was once considered rare, thanks to dog mobility and the variety of mosquitoes that carry heartworm.

3 Both dogs and cats get heartworm disease. In dogs, adult heartworms that develop from heartworm larvae deposited by mosquitoes cause disease. Cats can also harbor adult heartworms, but it is more common in cats for heartworms to die, before reaching maturity. However, even immature worms can cause respiratory disease in cats.

4 Heartworm disease can be fatal. Heartworm disease affects the heart, lungs and pulmonary blood vessels of pets and can be fatal to both dogs and cats. Annual testing and monitoring is important, because infected dogs can be successfully treated, and the earlier the better. There are no approved treatments for cats, but supportive care can help manage complications.

5 Prevention is safe, effective and cost-effective. The American Heartworm Society recommends year-round prevention for dogs and cats in the U.S., even in regions that experience cold winters. Heartworm preventives work retroactively, so an animal that acquires an infection one month must be given heartworm preventives in the months that follow to be protected. And with unpredictable weather patterns and the ability of hardy mosquitoes to survive in protected areas—as well as indoors—it's difficult to predict when heartworms aren't in season. Fortunately, heartworm prevention is highly effective when given faithfully, and the year-round cost of preventing the disease in dogs is a small fraction of the cost of heartworm treatment.



HEARTWORM INCIDENCE 2013

Average number of cases per reporting clinic

< 1 case/clinic	26-50 cases/clinic
1-5 cases/clinic	51-99 cases/clinic
6-25 cases/clinic	100+ cases/clinic

© American Heartworm Society
The severity of heartworm incidence as shown in this map is based on the average number of cases in dogs and cats from reporting clinics in 2013. Some remote regions of the United States lack veterinary clinics; therefore, we have no reported cases in these areas.

*The 2013 American Heartworm Society Heartworm Data is based on a survey of heartworm testing results from more than 4,500 veterinary clinics and shelters across the U.S.



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Heartworm disease is easily preventable with proper use of prevention products. There are numerous products available to use, from oral to topical to injectable. Check with your veterinarian as to which product is best for you. To date (5/2021) we have not had any severe reactions reported in the Stabyhoun to any product currently available. Many veterinarians recommend owners use a year-round heartworm prevention program to guard against the occasional mosquito flying about in areas with mild winters.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are an important part of preparing your pet for a long and healthy life. Most diseases are passed on to pets via fecal oral route. Even though you may not see feces, remnants maybe left behind and your pet steps in it and then licks their feet or picks up an object contaminated with it. Much research has been done recently on how and when to vaccinate; please read the following attached articles to inform yourself.

<https://www.iwsc.org/Puppy%20Packet/Health%20Info/Vaccination/AVMA%20Vaccine%20Recommendations%20.PDF>

https://www.aaha.org/globalassets/02-guidelines/canine-vaccination/vaccination_recommendation_for_general_practice_table.pdf

Basically, there are core vaccines: DHPP- (Distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus, parainfluenza) and Rabies vaccines. Then there are also elective vaccines based on needs and environment (Bordetella, Lyme, Canine influenzas, Leptospirosis for example. Current recommendations are to vaccinate puppies every 3 weeks starting at 6-7 weeks with DHPP with the last one being no earlier than 16 weeks. Pets are then given a booster at one year and then every three years thereafter. There is also titer testing to aid in determinizations of vaccine protocols, discuss the pros and cons with your veterinarian. By law Rabies must be given to pets due the high mortality and morbidity of this disease in humans. Every state and sometime municipality have their own rules on vaccinating for Rabies, your veterinarian will assist you with this.

Female in Season

If your pup is a female, she will have heat cycles. She will probably have her first season when she is about nine months old, but this can vary between 6 and 18 months of age. You must be very careful during this time if you do not desire family additions. Walk your dog on a leash, because she will have the urge to run off. You should expect your dog to be “in season” for roughly 21 days. The complete cycle lasts about six months and can be divided into four stages:

- Pro-estrus:** This stage begins with the appearance of vaginal bleeding. Male dogs become very interested in the female; however, she will not allow them to mate with her. The egg cells (ova) are beginning to mature and the uterus is preparing itself for reception. As the bleeding becomes more severe, the smaller capillaries burst, which results in a reddish, bloody discharge. The vulva becomes swollen as well.
- Estrus:** After about nine days, the bloody discharge diminishes slightly and becomes more slimy and lighter in color. Do not assume that the heat period is over now; this is the period when you really have to be careful. This is the stage in which the female will accept the male and conception can occur. Your female will stand still, push her vulva outward and “flag” her tail to the side when you touch her back or when a male dog tries to mount her. This stage will also last about nine days. The optimal fertility period for most bitches is usually between the 11th and 14th days.
- Metestrus** Discharge has stopped, the vulva is shrinking again and your dog will no longer allow a male to mount to her. This stage lasts about ten weeks. There are no significant external signs. Internally, some hormonal changes still occur, which can cause false pregnancies. If this happens, the bitch will behave as if she were pregnant. She can become sluggish, more affectionate, and start to “nest”; she can appear heavier and her nipples might be swollen and sometimes fill with milk.
- Anestrus** During this stage, there is no hormonal activity of the reproductive organs. This stage can vary considerably from one dog to another. On average, this stage lasts four months.

The most important point to take away from this overview is that just when you assume the heat cycle is over, the most dangerous period is just beginning. It seems like a lot of fuss, this whole heat cycle, but it is not that bad. Special dog pants are available to help keep your house clean. Some females can be a little bitchy or droopy during this period. Remember that when your female dog is in heat – for the entire 21 days - she is not welcome in day care, training classes or shows.

In some cases, your vet will recommend to spay your dog, especially when the dog tends to have false pregnancies after every season. If indeed there is no other solution than spaying, it is recommended to wait with this procedure until after the first heat, and preferably until they are 1 year of age so their growth plates have closed.. If you decide to have your dog spayed, please discuss this with your breeder first, unless this was contractually agreed upon previously.

After the procedure, the coat of a Stabyhoun will change considerably. Her appearance will be different. Her hair will be lush and will require grooming on a regular basis. Spayed dogs often gain weight as well.

Walking and Running

One of the best ways to exercise a mature dog is by letting him exercise along with you. However, you should never take a dog that is less than one year old out for a long walk or run. After your dog turns one year, you can gently start to build up his endurance. The dog should walk comfortably by your side, preferably away from traffic.

The straightforward movements in a fast walk or trot are excellent for developing strong muscles and are a good fitness exercise. The muscles around the chest will become somewhat broader and your dog's movement will be steadier.

Always check the paw pads for wear and tear during and after each walk or run. A well-trained, mature Stabyhoun can easily run 12 miles in a steady trot.

Do not run with your dog when the temperature is above 68°F (20°C). This is too hot for your dog. Instead, take your dog swimming or go to the woods where it would be cooler.

Stairs

A young dog should walk stairs as little as possible. It is best to carry him until he is one year old and after that you should, let him negotiate stairs slowly next to you. Going up the stairs is particularly bad for the hips; it is an overload. Going down the stairs is bad for the front legs. A dog has no collarbones. The front legs are connected to the torso by muscles only. The muscles of a young dog are not sufficiently developed yet. When the puppy goes down the stairs his full body weight comes down onto the unstable forequarters, which can cause injuries.

Warm weather

Never leave your dog in the car in warm weather. The temperature in a parked car can reach 160 degrees Fahrenheit in a matter of minutes, even in the shade and with opened windows. Your dog could be killed by a heat stroke. Always provide adequate shade and sufficient drinking water for your dog when it is warm outside and make sure he does not play too much. Some dogs literally don't stop until they drop! Dogs can only cool down by panting and by sweating through their paw pads. Neither panting nor a dog's sweat glands are efficient at cooling their bodies on humid, hot days. Long walks on hot surfaces can quickly overheat your dog.

Do not allow your dog to swim in water with dead birds or fish, nor allow him to drink that water. Be especially careful with older dogs. If your dog does get overheated, cool him down by covering him with a moist towel and sprinkle water over it. Do not use ice; that would cool him too quickly. If your dog is overheated have your dog checked by a veterinarian, even if he seems to have recovered. There may be internal damage not easily apparent.

Genetic Defects

Although all dogs are of one species, there are over four hundred different dog breeds. All breeds have the same ancestor: the wolf. All of the breeds were bred for a specific task, such as hunting, herding or companionship. A certain breed is the combination of specific desired characteristics. In the selection process, there is a possibility that undesired characteristics will be passed on as well. It may take a few generations for these undesired features to surface. Some breeds have more genetic defects than others. It is a myth that only purebred dogs can get CHD, epilepsy or other hereditary defects. Cross breeds have purebred genes, including undesirable ones also. Even bastards are subject to genetic problems. Although our Frisian Stabyhoun is a healthy breed, some genetic defects have occurred. They are described below.

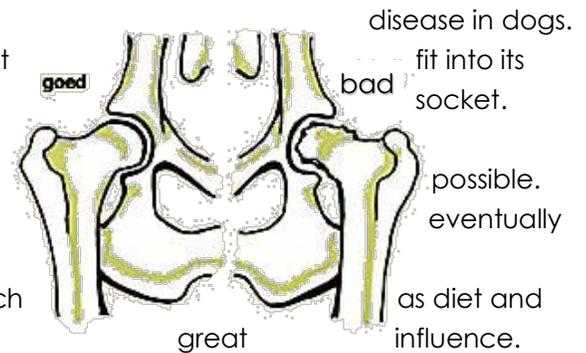
It is in the interest of the breed that all genetic defects are known and registered. In the breeding process, all aspects are taken into consideration. Please notify your Association immediately when you know of any defect your dog may have. Inform your dog's breeder as well. This will give the breeder and the Breeders Advisory Committee (BAC) of the ASA better insight in selecting animals for breeding and will help minimize genetic defects in our beloved breed.

Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD)

Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD) is a common degenerative joint. In a dysplastic hip, the ball of the hip joint (or thigh bone) does not fit into its socket in the hip. In a normal joint the ball rotates freely in the socket. Because the ball rotates, the joint allows for ample movement. When the joint has defects, good movement is no longer possible. The imperfect fit causes the joint to become loose and unstable, leading to osteoarthritis.

Although CHD is a hereditary condition, environmental factors such as exercise, muscle development, growth process, etc. can have a

Playing and walking on smooth surfaces such as wood or tile can be disadvantageous for the hips.



Symptoms of CHD:

- After resting, having difficulty getting up – sometimes even with pain;
- Light use of hind legs. Your dog will develop a broad chest and narrow hindquarters.
- Limping on one or both hind legs;
- Sagging hind legs, or standing and walking with a bent back;
- Poor stamina;
- Bunny hopping (keeping hind legs together when running).

If your dog shows one of these symptoms for more than three days, it may be time for an evaluation. You may want your veterinarian to take X-rays. This is the only way to find out if your dog has CHD.

X-rays and Results

Radiological examination is the only definitive method to determine the presence of HD. Unless you are doing PennHip evaluations on your Staby, or you want an early idea of your puppy's hip positions, wait until your dog is 24 months of age before taking radiographs. If you want to breed with your dog, X-rays are mandatory at two years of age. If you are doing a PennHip analysis for position of hip bones, it can be done as early as 16 weeks of age.

Radiographs are black-and-white photographs that show the hip joints, the sockets and their connections in detail. They can also show the potential presence of bone tumors. Next, the depth of the hip sockets is measured; this is called the Norberg-value. A satisfactory Norberg-value is between 30 and 40. Norberg values are common in European radiographs, but not often done here in the US and Canada.

All results are put in a report - the hip score – and summarized by a letter between E (excellent) to S (severe):

OFA ¹ (USA)	FCI ² (European)	
• E	A	negative (no HD)
• G	A-	satisfactory
• F	B	transitional case
• B	C	Borderline, mild form of HD
• M	D	moderate form
• S	E	severe HD

1. Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
2. Fédération Cynologique Internationale

For example, when the result is E, it means that your dog is radiological free from HD. However, this does not guarantee that he will be free from HD for the rest of his life, nor does this exclude him from being a possible carrier.

What if your dog has HD

If the results of the report are not what you expected because your dog does not show any symptoms (yet), do not despair. When the radiographs clearly show deformations, it does not necessarily mean that your dog will be affected. But you should be mindful and consider:

- Reducing your dog's body weight to prevent unnecessary burdening of the hips.
- Improving muscle build-up by exercise such as swimming, light walking exercises, etc.
Strong muscles can partially compensate for weaker hips.

If the dog has a severe case of HD, you may want to consider treatment. But before making hasty decisions, get a second opinion from an orthopedic surgeon. Surgery is an option. One is TPO (Triple Pelvis Osteotomy): Pelvis is cut in three places, then rotated, plated and bolted. Another is PTS (Pectineous Tendon Surgery). This option helps to release tension on the hip joint socket.

Prevention

Unfortunately, CHD cannot be prevented entirely. However, by carefully selecting the canine parents and raising the pup with care, we can greatly reduce the risks. Making short turns, like when running after a ball, are disastrous; just like climbing stairs, jumping, running and playing on smooth surfaces, such as tile or laminate floors. Your pup's exercise should be well-balanced. A 4-5 month old dog is allowed a 30-minute walk (15 minutes each way). Swimming is a great exercise for the dog; it builds up muscle, without taxing the joints. When the dog is one year old, you can take it along on a bike ride. Running at a constant speed builds good muscle. Strong muscles are important, for muscles carry part of the body weight and help relieve the hip joints. And last but not least, a well-balanced diet (containing calcium, phosphorous and vitamins A and D) is essential. Keep your puppy slim and trim. Overweight dogs have a higher risk of obtaining CHD.

Growing Pains or Elbow Dysplasia?

Growing Pains

It is no surprise that dogs often have growing pains. A pup weighs 0.6 pounds at birth and a year later he weighs between 45 and 65 pounds. In comparison to humans, dogs grow much faster. If a human baby would have the same growth rate as a puppy, a oneyear old would weigh between 450 and 650 pounds!

When a dog has growing pains, he is limping occasionally, sometimes with one of the front legs, another time with one of the hind legs. If your dog has this problem, reduce exercise temporarily and reconsider his food (e.g. less protein). Puppy food contains more protein than adult food. You could gradually start feeding him adult dog food.

During the first five months of his life a dog grows 0.5 inches (1-1.5 cm) per week. Initially, the new bone is quite soft and vulnerable. Be careful during this time. No hour-long beach walks, no stair-climbing and no ball chasing. The constant stop and go of ball chasing is an enormous burden on the joints.

When your dog is six months old, you can slowly begin doing all these things.

Limping during the fast-growing stage does not have to be a problem, unless the dog is limping with the same leg for several weeks. This may be an indication of a more serious condition than growing pains.

Limping hind legs could be a case of HD or knee trouble; lameness of the front legs could be elbow dysplasia. This is a condition that occurs in many breeds.

Elbow Dysplasia

Over the last couple of years, a few Stabyhoun pups have had this elbow disease. In these cases, when the dogs were about five months old, they developed front-leg lameness. After several weeks, the lameness was still present. X-rays of the elbow indicated that there were defects in the joint. This is elbow dysplasia. It is a condition in younger dogs, where the three bones that form the elbow fail to grow at the same rate. At the top end of one bone (ulna) is a slightly hooked piece of bone. When this fails to unite fully with the ulna, it can detach and float in the joint socket. This causes pain and eventually osteoarthritis.

If the problem is diagnosed early, the bone fragment can be surgically removed and the joint can heal completely. The dog should never have to limp again. If the diagnosis was made too late, the bone may be deformed in such a way that a full recovery is no longer possible.

Therefore, it is critical that when X-rays indicate defects YOU NEVER WAIT UNTIL THE DOG IS FULLY GROWN. Contact an orthopedic surgeon immediately for further treatment.

How do we know if a dog has temporary growing pains or elbow dysplasia, and if we should intervene quickly?

Growing Pains: Typically lasts about 1 – 2 weeks, lameness can occur in all four legs.

X-rays do not show defects in the joints.

Elbow Dysplasia: After three weeks the lameness is still present in the same leg. When this occurs, one or both elbows could be affected.

Good quality X-ray equipment is critical for making the diagnosis. Radiographs will not always reveal an incongruent joint. If the X-rays do not show any defects, but the lameness persists, take more X-rays three weeks later.

Epilepsy

An owner who is confronted with epilepsy for the first time will be terrified. A dog having a seizure often becomes restless, the animal may jerk or become rigid, appear anxious or hysterical, salivate frantically and his pupils begin dilating. Often the dog will lose control of his bladder and bowels and some lose consciousness. Seizures may last only a few seconds or a few minutes and the dog seems to be fine when it is over. Usually, the seizure occurs while the dog is resting, but it could also happen during activity.

During the seizure, take care of the dog and ensure that he cannot injure himself with his uncontrollable movements. The severity, length and frequency of the seizures vary per dog. Some dogs can grow old with them, but in some cases the prognosis will be a lot less favorable. Medical treatment is available, depending on the type of epilepsy.

The disease is mostly genetic, but there could be physical reasons too. Medication can minimize the seizures, but can also have side effects (such as liver injuries at higher doses). Homeopathic aids are usually not effective and could even cause worsening of the symptoms.

Steroid Responsive Meningitis-Arteritis (SRMA)

SRMA is a systemic inflammatory disease, most commonly found in young dogs. It is also referred to as a vasculitis of the meninges or inflammation of the blood vessels of the meninges.

Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA)

A heart condition also called ductus arteriosus. When the vet inspects the puppies at age 6 to 7 weeks, they will hear a loud engine noise 'on the left side of the heart if this disease is present. PDA is the failure of a large blood vessel, the ductus arteriosus, to close just after birth. If not treated, the patient dies ultimately of heart failure. By timely intervention surgery, the prognosis is excellent.

Cerebral Dysfunction (CD)

A relatively new problem that has already been identified with genetic markers, this is a hereditary neurological problem. At around 6 weeks, puppies show deviant and compulsive behavior: repeating the same movement, turning in circles, backwards or walking back and forth. Sufferers have an excessive urge to move, eat poorly, wasting away and death within a few months.

Von Willebrands Disease, Type I (VWD-I)

VWD is a blood clotting disorder that occurs in three types. In the Staby, it has been identified as Type I, the mildest form. Here is a reduced production of a particular clotting factor which causes dogs to show prolonged blood clotting times. Owners often do not notice this in their dog. Carriers are at little or no risk, but sufferers can be at risk if greater injuries and operations occur.

Nutrition

Many books have been written about dog food and each author has a different opinion. Numerable charts that prescribe feeding schedules vary tremendously and change over time.

T

he best advice is to feed with your eyes and keep the following in mind:

- A pup that eats too much will not grow faster, but does grow heavy.
- A lean dog is healthier than a heavy dog. However, your dog should not be too skinny. The ribs should be palpable but should not be visible.
- Each dog is different. Some dogs eat relatively small portions and get heavy, others need more food.
- An active dog needs more food than a dog that only goes outside for potty breaks.

Quantity of food is critical. Research studies show that a group of dogs that had 25% less food than another group had fewer cases of HD. Do not overfeed your dog! A lean pup is better off than a heavy pup; the excess fat is a burden on the bones and joints and can lead to developmental problems.

There are countless brands and kinds of dog food. The market offers a dizzying array of foods from canned to kibble and everything in between. You could even go with a home-made diet, although this is not advisable. It is difficult to prepare food that has all the right nutrients in the right proportions.

Choose a complete and balanced dog food. This consists of the optimal amounts of proteins, fats, carbs, vitamins and minerals. A complete food contains everything your pup needs in the right proportions and does not require any nutritional supplements. Supplements can disturb the all important balance and your pup could develop problems. If, for example, you would add calcium or phosphorus randomly, it could lead to distorted bones.

In most cases the breeder has given you advice regarding nutrition and he has informed you what brand your puppy is accustomed to. If you decide to change to a different brand, you should do this gradually. Mix a small amount of the new brand into the old, so that your dog will slowly get accustomed to it. Gradually increase the amount of the new food and reduce the amount of the old brand. This will prevent upsetting the stomach and the bowels.

Treats

When you use food as reward, use small pieces (size of a pea). Don't let your puppy get too heavy as a result of feeding treats. The best way to avoid this is to measure out their daily amount of food and use some of it as treats.

Food Bowl Training

Some dogs are protective of their food and do not like having people around while they are eating. Although this is natural behavior – food is a vital resource for survival - in a pet this is unacceptable. We can teach the dog to be more tolerant of having people around during mealtime. Offer your dog something tastier while he is eating, or put some extra food in his bowl. The dog will learn that you are not a threat to his food. When he is accustomed to this, pick up the bowl (after the dog has eaten all the food), put a treat in it and put the bowl down again. Don't do this too often, as it will feel more like teasing than teaching. If your dog actively guards his bowl, contact a veterinary behaviorist or professional trainer for help.

Commercial Dog Food

There are many kinds of dog food on the market:

- Canned
- Frozen
- Dinner
- Kibble

Canned Food

Canned food is approximately 80% moisture and contains hardly any nutrients. Therefore, canned food is relatively expensive, because you will need more of it. Canned food releases nice aromas and is more palatable to picky eaters. Some people like to mix canned food with other food to make it more attractive for the dog. Be careful though, because choosy eaters are not born but created!

Frozen fresh meat

This option resembles a dog's natural diet more closely. Fresh meat is deep frozen and it retains the important enzymes your dog needs. This food is highly palatable and easy to digest.

Dinners

Adding cold or warm water to this kind of food will release aromas and is therefore easily accepted by dogs. Most important ingredients are grains, cornmeal and meat. Dogs are not equipped to digest large amounts of grains and you will notice larger stools.

Kibble

Pellets of dry dog food are primarily produced by one of two methods: extrusion and baking. Extrusion is the most common manufacturing process for dry pet food. Extruded kibble resembles cattle food. The extrusion process uses high pressure and temperature and many of the vitamins and enzymes may be gone by the end of this process. In the baking process, the temperature is not as high as during extrusion.

There are numerous brands, but what are the differences? Number one is price. A certain way of food production is more expensive than another. Baked kibble will tend to have a higher price tag than extruded kibble, because it has a longer shelf life and its preparation method is less efficient. Ingredients are another difference. The dog food label can tell you a lot about what is inside the bag or can. The ingredient listed first is the main ingredient. Food with grains as the first ingredients is usually cheaper in comparison to foods with meat as the main ingredient.

Brands that put animal by-products in the dog food (such as beaks, feet, hoofs, brains and other slaughter waste) obviously have a different price tag than brands which use fresh meat that is qualified for human consumption. Dog food with high quality ingredients that is easy to digest is relatively less expensive than other food, because you need less. Moreover, as a great service to you, the dog has fewer stools.

Always the Same Food?

A common misconception is that a dog needs variety, just like humans. By nature, dogs do not need a variable diet. A dog can happily eat the same kibble for years and not be bored by it. Finicky eaters are usually created by the handlers. ('If I do not touch my food bowl, I may get something tastier'). Don't be fooled; if you give in, it will become a bad habit. Variety in food means that the digestive system needs to adjust. Some dogs are very sensitive and a sudden diet switch can result in a digestive upset.

Kibble is extruded or baked and has lost important enzymes and bacteria in the process. You could compensate for this by feeding your dog fresh meat on a regular basis. Enzymes are necessary for the digestion of other nutrients in the body, which in turn is important for your dog's development.

Life Stages and Nutrition

With the specialization of dog foods, manufacturers are providing many nutritional options for each stage of a dog's life. Puppies grow to their full size in well under a year, so they require an appropriate high-protein and high-fat diet to grow into strong, healthy adult dogs.

For senior dogs, there is a senior diet. In general, a senior dog is less active and uses less energy, while its appetite has not changed! Senior formulas contain fewer calories and less fat to avoid weight gain. Weight gain can exacerbate age-related disorders such as joint and heart problems. Senior food also contains less protein to relieve kidneys and the liver. It usually contains less minerals such as sodium and phosphorous in order to relieve kidneys.

Today a large variety of specialty foods are available for every age and stage of a dog's life, including special needs of different breeds, sizes, activity level and health conditions.

Food to Avoid

- Raw pork. This can be contaminated with Aujeszky's disease (pseudo rabies), which is acute and frequently fatal.
- Bones, in particular from poultry. These can cause obstruction or laceration of the digestive system.
- Fish bones.
- Chocolate. Contains theobromine that can be toxic for dogs. As little as 3.5 ounces of dark chocolate can be fatal for a dog that weighs 22 pounds.
- Grapes and raisins. Can be toxic to dogs' livers.

Other

The breeder's nutritional advice is a recommendation. Please abide by it if you can. If you are not experienced with dogs and their nutrition, only deviate after you have consulted the breeder or your veterinarian.

Puppies often need four feedings per day until they reach the age of four months and three feedings until they are six months old. From seven months onward two feedings per day will suffice.

Again: Feed with your eyes. Quantities are not strict laws. You can see for yourself when your dog needs more or less food. The ribs should be palpable, not visible. Feeding recommendations on the labels are to the advantage of the manufacturer and usually somewhat generous.

Dogs are not wolves

Domestication of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) into the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) took place about 15,000 years ago. Puppy-like characteristics were selected for in dogs - curled tail, soft coat, floppy ears, and most important, tameness and juvenile behavior.

Wolves cooperate to bring down large prey and raise offspring and compete for mates and access to food, forming a role-oriented pack structure. Dogs, left to their own devices, form loose temporary groups and share little of the complex structure found in wolf packs. Dogs do form social relationships with humans they live with, but these relations are not equivalent to those formed with other dogs.

Popular ideas about pack order, dominance, and rank are not an accurate description of human-dog relationships, and can bring harm by advocating confrontational training methods including physical force or intimidation. You do not have to act like a dog or a wolf in order to communicate with your dog and you do not have to worry about your dog being motivated by a desire to dominate.

Dogs do not know right from wrong, they view the world as being either safe or unsafe. They are self-centered - they will try to get what they want. But they are also social animals who are constantly learning from their experiences, and that is why they make good companions.

To raise a dog successfully, consider the following rules:

Be Fair - understand a dog's perspective

Remember that your dog is not a human! Dogs explore the world with their mouths, and are self-centered and amoral. For example, when they jump up on you, they are just trying to greet you and get closer to your face.

Be a good teacher

Manage your household so that you control what your dog learns. Focus on what you want the dog to do and set him up to succeed. Teach your pup the polite way to greet people, rather than simply punishing jumping up. Remember that he is learning all the time from his experiences.

Communicate clearly and consistently

Set rules for your household and make sure everyone has the same expectations for the dog's behavior. Establish a routine that meets your pup's needs for exercise and attention. Catch your dog doing the right thing and reward him for it.

Be your dog's advocate

Protect your pup from fear and anxiety by being aware of his body language and removing him from overwhelming situations. Plan to positively introduce your dog to different people and places, but at his own pace.

Development and Socialization

The first months in a pup's life set the stage for the rest of his life. Behavior and character are determined to a great extent during the developmental stages described below. These stages are sequential, cannot be skipped, and are often irreversible.

Vegetative Stage (0-2 weeks)

During the first two weeks of his life the pup can only eat (30%) and sleep (70%). The eyes and ears are still shut. The nose is well developed so that the pup can find his mother's nipples. The pup will familiarize itself with human scent by the presence of the breeder and family.

Transitional Stage (2-3 weeks)

The senses are developing, the pup begins to venture away from mother and siblings. He starts to eat solid food. In nature the cubs greet the mother by pushing and licking the corners of her mouth. The mother in turn will regurgitate half digested food. Our pup will greet us the same way.

Primary Socialization Stage (3-5 weeks)

This is a very important stage in the life of a pup. It is a blueprint for the rest of his life. This stage occurs primarily with the breeder. It is essential that the breeder provides an enriched environment.

Between 3 - 5 weeks is the stage when pups learn to recognize their own kind and develop the ability to communicate with other dogs. Bite inhibition and social communication skills are learned through social play. Puppies show signs of stress when separated from their litters at this stage.

Secondary Socialization Stage (6 - 12 weeks)

At the beginning of this stage, attachment to the litter starts to diminish and curiosity increases. Milk production in the mother starts to decrease, and there is an increase in social competition between puppies. In general, the pups are ready to go to their new homes by 8 weeks. Contact with other dogs, animals, humans, children, vacuum cleaner, TV, etc. is very important in the Secondary Socialization Stage. Pups that live in a kennel or a barn have a disadvantage in this regard and the breeder will have to work harder to habituate the pups to everyday life. It is especially important for a puppy to be exposed to new and different impressions.

Now you have an important task to guide him through the remaining stages.

Take your pup to public places. He is learning quickly. You don't have to be in a public place all day; short impressions are sufficient. Let your pup make new impressions in phases. For example, your pup does not need to be next to a busy highway to get accustomed to cars. Start in a residential area. Everything you teach and do not teach your pup now will determine his future.

Your pup does not have all his vaccinations yet and has not developed complete immunity to many diseases. Therefore, do not go to places with many dogs, but do not isolate him from other dogs either. Try to find a happy medium.

Avoid ditches and ponds. Your dog could be infected with Weil's disease (Leptospirosis) which is transmitted by contaminated rats. In general, your dog will be well protected after the third inoculation, but it is always advisable to confer with your veterinarian.

Expose your pup to loud and strange noises regularly. Drop something in the kitchen. Wait for the garbage truck. But, of course, everything in moderation. Socializing and training should be done in accordance to your puppy's natural development. You could use CDs with loud noises and gun shots. Start with low volume and when your pup is accustomed to this, turn up the volume slowly. Please realize that the sounds on a CD differ from reality. Training with CDs alone is not sufficient.

Juvenile Socialization Stage (12 weeks- 6 months)

Some dog trainers call the juvenile stage the fear imprint stage. Your puppy's carefree curiosity diminishes and may become fearful in certain situations.

Continue to socialize your pup, or he could easily develop fears that he will carry throughout his life. It is vital to keep exposure to new things and situations upbeat and safe. Take him everywhere and let him have as many impressions as possible. Traumatic experiences during this period can leave an impression for life. Protect your dog from bad experiences. When he acts afraid in a certain situation, do not coddle your puppy and appease his fears. Your puppy will perceive this as an encouragement of fearful behavior. Ignore the event, act like it's no big deal and talk to your dog in a happy voice. Dogs will often decide to react the same way and he will understand that there was nothing to be afraid of.

When you play games with your dog, rules of safety should always apply - teach your pup to give up a toy easily and frequently pause play, wait for your dog to calm down, then restart the game.

Adolescent Stage (6 months and up)

Your dog is reaching maturity. His confidence develops and he is more exploratory and will challenge you. When a puppy reaches this stage, his behavior is very similar to human adolescent behavior. Be consistent! This is crucial. Focus on the behavior you want, interrupt the behavior you don't want. Be clear in what you expect of him. Sometimes you have to take a few steps back when training him and go back to easier exercises.

After 1½ - 2 years, your dog is mentally mature. His character has formed and you know exactly what your four-legged friend is like. He will still challenge you sometimes. For the rest of his life he needs clarity and structure, but his character and behavior are reasonably stable. Only very traumatic experiences can upset him.

On his own Feet

Going home with the new owner

Finally the time has come. Your pup is coming home with you. He will normally have skipped his last meal and will have an empty stomach for the trip. In most cases the pup has to travel a long distance. Bring a box or carrier and put a blanket in it. It may help to use a synthetic pheromone that mimics the lactating mother's scent (DAP) on the blanket or in the carrier. Do not forget (paper) towels to clean up potential accidents. For the pup this is quite an experience. Suddenly he is taken out of his trusted environment, where he was happily playing with his littermates. The breeder will give you a rag or a toy that has the familiar litter smell. Try to put the pup at ease. Sit beside him in the car or take him on your lap and talk to him. When he tries to climb out of his box, say 'no' calmly and put them back. Praise him immediately.

His New Home

Your pup gets a lot of new impressions that first day. Give him time to absorb it all. During the first couple of days, peacefully let him get used to his new home and family members. Do not invite friends or relatives, as it will confuse the pup. First, the pup has to understand to whom he belongs from now on.

Next, show him his place. Put the toy or the rag from the litter there. This will provide at least one familiar scent for him. Again, the DAP synthetic pheromone can help soothe pup in the transition.

The first couple of days/weeks you will be completely absorbed by your new family member. Fortunately your pup sleeps a lot and you will have some time for yourself.

It is important that from day one you are consistent. Do not allow your pup to do things now that you do not want later.

The First Night

The first night will be very lonely for your pup. He was used to snuggling down with his brothers and sisters. During the day he has had enough distraction, but when nighttime comes, being all by himself, will be difficult. Consider taking him into your bedroom for the first couple of nights. Confine him to a small area, such as a crate or a playpen.

When the pup starts squealing, put your hand in the crate so he knows that he is not alone.

Do not console him at this point, you should never reward his whining. When the pup is silent, praise him with your voice and pet him. Once the dog is accustomed to his new environment and his housemates, take the pup to his sleeping-place. You should be able to do this within one week. If you wait longer it can become more difficult to let him get used to another spot.

Other Pets

If you already have a dog in your home, do not dedicate all your attention to the pup. To the contrary, give the other dog more attention, so that he has no reason to be jealous. Set up a crate or a pen for puppy, and teach him to settle down there. That will also be a way for existing dogs in your home to have time away from the new puppy. Supervise interactions between your new pup and existing dogs, and reward good behavior. Use pens, crates, and gates to impose quiet time and to provide a place where one animal can escape the attentions of others.

Often the older dog will take care of the newcomer and will be teaching pup appropriate play between dogs. The pup will adopt the good, and unfortunately also the bad habits of the older dog.

Feed meals in separate bowls - out of sight of each other is best to avoid conflict. It may help to have more than one water bowl as well. Allow your pup to develop by himself as well. Let him stay home alone and take

him out alone. The pup should not become too dependent on the other dog or he will be insecure when the other dog is not there.

If you have cats, keep an eye on them and make sure they have a way to get away from the puppy (up a cat tree, or past a barrier that is puppy-proof). The body language of cats and dogs are very different. When a dog is wagging his tail, he wants to play; when a cat does this, it means he is angry.

The sound of a dog growling resembles the purring of a cat, but mean different things. The dog is angry and the cat is enjoying himself. Be careful with your cat's claws for they are razor-sharp. It is no fun when your cat scratches the pup in his eye. When the dog and the cat are used to each other, it is great to see how they get along.

Crate Training

A crate, or a kennel, is an ideal place for a dog. A crate has the advantage that you can lock a pup in when you don't have time to watch him. The crate can be very useful for potty training and disciplining. Moreover, you do not need a bed. The crate can also prevent problematic behavior (chewing) when the dog is home alone. Put the crate in a good spot - away from heating elements where the pup feels protected and can oversee (part) of the room. However, the crate is not meant to keep your pup locked up for a long time.

Crate training should be gradual. Make the crate attractive to the pup by feeding him there and giving him treats and bones. At first, leave the door open.

When your pup is tired and wants to go to sleep, put him in the crate. He will probably wake up soon, so stay close and talk to him quietly. When he sleeps put a treat in the crate. When he wakes up, he will find the treat and savor it. When the dog is getting used to the crate, you can close the door, but make sure it is open when the bone is gone. Later, you can slowly increase the time your pup spends in the crate. However, never open the door when the dog is restless or whining. You reward the dog and he will learn that this behavior will get him what he wants.

When your pup is allowed out of the crate, just let him do his own thing. Leaving the crate should not be celebrated as a big event. It is important that the dog learns to appreciate the crate as a safe place where he likes to be. That means that all family members leave the dog alone when he is in the crate.

House Training

Most breeders train the pups to eliminate on newspapers. Take advantage of this and put newspapers near the door and show your pup where they are. When he shows signs of having to go, place him on the newspaper. Or even better, take him outside and lead him to the same area of the yard each and every time. You will quickly recognize the signs and the times when your pup has to go, such as after playtime, nap- or dinner time. Take him outside immediately and give him lots of praise when he eliminates where he is supposed to.

Over time, you can teach your pup to go on command. Use a word such as 'outside' or 'go potty' every time you take him outside. He will soon associate the command with the act.

If your pup has an accident indoors, quickly scoop him up, say 'no', and hurry him outside to his bathroom spot in the yard. This will interrupt the action and he will probably continue eliminating once he is outside. Then, praise your pup effusively.

If the mistake happened before you noticed, do not punish him; he will not understand. Consider it your failure for not supervising him properly. It is vital that you clean up any accidents thoroughly. Use detergent, carpet cleaner and an enzymatic cleaner. Otherwise, your pup will assume that this is the proper place to eliminate and come back over and over again.

Be vigilant: less accidents will reduce the time it takes for your pup to be housetrained.

Nighttime

When your puppy is young, he is physically not capable to control his body for many hours. During the night, take him out every four hours. He will be housetrained more quickly if you do this. A healthy dog will not relieve himself in the place where they sleep.

When the dog is about 12 to 14 weeks old and stays clean during the day, he should be able to stay clean at night too. Put his crate or playpen in your bedroom and take him out first thing in the morning.

Submissive Elimination

Do not confuse submissive elimination with not being housetrained. It is a reaction to a perceived threat, and most often occurs when greeting unfamiliar people or dogs, but it can also occur when puppy is very excited. The dog typically squats or even rolls over while urinating. Do not discipline your dog, as he will become insecure. When greeting him next time, do not look at the dog, kneel down and do not pat him on the head and back. Instead, tickle him under his chin or give him a treat. Puppies will show this behavior more than mature dogs, but an insecure mature dog can do this as well. When greeting new people, go outside if possible and have the new person's greeting be a low-key as possible.

And last but not least . . .

For many people, including dog owners, top of the list of major nuisances is dog feces. Have your dog eliminate in designated areas. If there is an accident, please clean up after your dog. In most urban areas in the U.S., the poop scoop law is in effect. Besides an unpleasant sight and odor, animal feces create both a public health and environmental hazard.

Training your Pup

When you train your puppy, the three most important tools at your disposal are:

- **Voice.** Use a high-pitched, happy voice for praising and a low voice for correcting. In both cases, exaggerate your tone for clarity.
- **Toys.** Make a distinction between toys that your dog can play with and toys for training. Keep a favorite toy separate and use this when you are training your dog.
- **Treats.** Treats should be small or easy to break for prompt rewarding. Above all, treats or other training rewards must be something the dog wants. Pup's regular food can often be used, but higher value treats such as cheese or meat bits will be helpful when your dog is particularly distracted.

Ensure that all family members agree on a set of house rules for your dog. Everyone should abide by those rules. It is important to be consistent.

Puppy Learning

Animals learn as a result of the consequences of their actions. For example: when a dog knows that there is a treat in a specific place, he will return to this spot over and over again. The treat is his reward. When the treat is removed, initially the dog will continue to come back to this place. But now that the reward is no longer there, he will eventually lose interest.

Another example: A dog that has burnt his snout on the stove will learn to stay away from it. When your dog learns to associate certain behavior with something fun or tasty, he will repeat the behavior. By discouraging unacceptable behavior, he will eventually stop acting like that. This is the basic rule when raising your pup. Be consistent. Reward good behavior and ignore or interrupt bad behavior.

Reward and Discipline

Deciding what behavior you want in your puppy and rewarding that good behavior (in other words, using positive reinforcement) is the best way to train. Positive training builds a strong relationship between dog and handler and is enjoyable for both the dog and the person. Punishment (whether physical punishment or intimidation) is damaging to the human-animal bond, inhibits learning, and may induce fear, anxiety, or aggression.

Try to prevent unwanted behavior. When you notice that your pup is about to do something wrong, try to distract him and get him to focus on something else. If your pup does something that is unacceptable, tell him 'no' or 'off' in a low voice. As soon as the dog stops the bad behavior, reward him immediately. However, if your pup continues, pick him up and put him in a place with some distraction. Do not be grumpy, but do not say anything. Teach the dog what is expected of him and what not. Timing for rewarding good behavior is very important (within two seconds). Reward him with your voice (always available and perfect for timing). Talk to your pup in a high-pitched and cheerful way. Besides giving lots of praise, you can use a treat or a toy as a reward for good behavior.

Stealing or Chewing Objects

When you welcome a pup in your home, he is virtually a blank sheet. He does not know what he can and cannot do or what does and does belong to him. Your furniture is nothing but a chunk of wood to him. Why should he stay away from treats on the coffee table, while he can have the tasty stuff in his food bowl? Lots of patience is required to teach all this. When your pup is about to put his little teeth in your furniture, interrupt him by diverting attention to an approved toy or treat. But, if you are late, tell him 'no' in a neutral voice, pick him up, put him in another place, and give him something that he is allowed to have.

Playing

Play is a very important component of training your pup. Use toys that are especially designed for dogs. Some toys are inappropriate, such as balls made of foam or soft rubber, or toys with bells or other parts that a dog can tear off and swallow.

Biting and mouthing is a normal behavior of growing puppies. When your pup bites onto your arms or pant legs, withdraw your attention calmly, and redirect pup onto an appropriate toy. Adults can play tug of war with pup, frequently pausing the game, waiting for calm, then restarting (rewarding the calm behavior). Teach pup to let go of the toy on a cue, and reward that by starting up the game again. If pup gets too excited or rough, play should end and the toy should disappear. Toy play can be used to reinforce other behaviors, such as sit, heel, or down.

Walking on a Loose Lead

Use a regular leather or nylon collar and a four to six-foot leash. Do not use choke or pinch collars! Decide on either the right or left side of you to start, later you can teach walking on the other side. Get a bunch of tiny (1/2 the size of your pinky fingernail) tasty, soft treats. Position yourself so that the dog is on the chosen side next to your leg, you are both facing the same way, and the leash is loose (perhaps tuck it into your pocket or belt). Say "Yes!" in a happy, upbeat tone and give a treat to your dog's mouth with the hand on his side. As pup is chewing, say "Yes!" and again treat to dog's mouth. Then try a step forward, say "Yes!" as pup moves with you, then stop and treat. Repeat, repeat, repeat. One step at a time at first, baby steps. Encourage your dog to come with you with lots of cheerful talk. Do take your time, because your pup will sit down regularly with an air of: This is it! Keep sessions short and gradually increase the number of steps between "Yes!"/treats. Do not pull on the leash, because your pup will resist even more. Consider this a challenge and praise every step lavishly. This method teaches your dog what you want them to do - walk at your side.

Once your pup walks along with you, do not make your walks too long. Early on, a pup should not walk for more than 15 minutes (that is 7½ minutes one way and 7½ minutes back). Don't forget to pause and take a break to "smell the roses" frequently during walks.

Pulling can eventually cause damage to neck, back, larynx and trachea. Teach your dog from an early stage that pulling against the lead will make you stop moving. When the lead goes tight, stop walking immediately. Do not move until the lead is slack. When pup does move with you say "Yes!" and give a tiny, tasty treat. This way the dog gets what he wants and so do you.

In dog training classes you will teach your dog to 'heel'. Your dog is walking close to you on your left side while he is continuously focusing on you. 'Heeling' is different from walking on a loose lead and is not something you do for a long time.

Learning to be Alone

A dog is a social animal. His ancestors lived in packs. You have to teach your pup to accept being left alone at certain times. He has to learn to understand that you will always come back and that you did not abandon him. Start the process early. Wait until your pup is tired and wants to sleep. Begin to leave him alone for just a few minutes. Stay close by though and come back only when he is quiet. When you approach him when he is barking, you are rewarding this behavior and the pup will conclude that when he barks long and hard, somebody will come. You only come to him when he is quiet and you make a big fuss of him. Gradually work up to longer periods of separation. Never comfort the dog when you leave him alone. Act as if this is perfectly normal. Put the pup in a place where he can do no damage. A crate is ideal. If you choose not to keep your dog in a crate and there is damage, do not punish your dog. As described earlier, punishment should be immediate and within two seconds of committing the crime. Otherwise, the dog will not understand why he is punished and will become insecure. He will take your coming home as a negative experience.

Car Travel

It is important for dogs to get used to traveling in cars from an early age. Unless you use a travel cage, it is best to have another person in the car that can take care of the pup, while you are driving. Place your pup somewhere in the car where he will be safe. Restrict his movement, so that he cannot fall and injure himself when you take a sharp turn or have a hard brake. Your pup should not distract the driver. If he is to travel on the front or back seat, use a special car harness or a travel cage. Take your puppy on many short trips to fun places, such as the dog park.

When your pup starts drooling, yawning and trembling, he could be car sick and may throw up. The dog should have an empty stomach when traveling. Bring some old towels, just in case. It may help to crack a window open (to equalize pressure changes) and keep the car cool. Some pups are very sensitive to car sickness, but usually will grow over it. Consult your veterinarian if car sickness continues to be a problem.

Never leave your dog alone in the car with warm temperatures. The temperature in a car quickly becomes tropical. In an environment of 122 degrees F or more, the dog can no longer release his body heat, will go into a coma rapidly and eventually will die.

Begging for Food

You decide if your dog is a beggar. Always feed your dog at the same time and the same place. Make sure guests do not feed him. The first few times it is cute, but eventually it can get downright annoying and your guests will not appreciate a slobbering dog (although they are partly responsible for it). If you do want to give your dog a treat, give him a bone or a dog snack after human mealtime.

Dogs and Children

Kids and dogs are usually great friends, but this combination can also lead to problems. A majority of dog bites each year are suffered by children. In most cases, the culprit is the handler. All child-dog play must be supervised, until the child is old enough to interact with the dog reliably. Teaching a child to be gentle and respectful of dogs and training a dog to be tolerant and respectful of children takes time and patience. Research has shown that children that own pets are developing in a more positive way, because they have empathy. They learn to respect animals and their sense of responsibility improves.

Dogs and children do not speak the same language. You cannot expect a dog to learn the children's language or vice versa.

Here are a few important rules:

NEVER leave dogs and children unsupervised.

- NEVER allow your children to come too close to the dog's food bowl, bed or crate.
- Make sure that the dog likes the child; do not send him away when you are caressing the child.
- Have your dog approach the children, NOT the other way around.
- Your dog is not a toy. Teach children at a young age to respect the dog.
- Teach the dog to accept the presence of children. Protect the dog from the children.

When a child goes too far, you interfere so that the dog does not have to.

The relationship between dog and child can be categorized according to the age of the child:

Babies

If your family is expecting a baby, use that period to train your dog well. Teach him to go to his place on command and to stay there. Or start using a crate. Also, begin to implement possible changes now (dog is allowed on your lap, but not once when the baby has arrived, or dog can now be in the nursery room, but not anymore when the baby is there). In this way the dog does not associate the negative changes with the newborn.

When the baby finally has arrived, it is important to let the dog know that a baby is fun. Do not isolate the dog when you are busy with the baby but give him a toy or a bone. Do not force the baby upon the dog but give your dog time to adjust to the new situation. Never leave babies and dogs unattended.

Toddlers between 2 and 6 years old

Toddlers consider a dog a fun toy that moves and makes noise. The dog will have to submit to some ear and tail pulling. You are responsible to keep this within limits. A dog is very appealing to a toddler and she will want to approach the dog. Make sure your dog gets his rest. For example, put the dog in a crate that the toddler cannot open. Most dogs do not like being hugged, do not allow children to hug the dog or put their face into the dog's face.

Often, the actions of toddlers are sudden and unpredictable, or unwelcome. The dog may be trying to communicate to a toddler that he is uncomfortable being used as a rug or a hobby horse. The toddler does not understand the dog, and if the dog cannot escape, a bite may occur. In this situation the dog reacted purely on his instincts. However, humans consider this behavior vicious and the dog ends up in a shelter or, worse, will be put to death.

So never leave toddlers alone with the dog!

Children between the ages of 6 and 12

Children at this age can learn to be somewhat independent when interacting with dogs, however, only when the handler is present. Children can play safe games with dogs, such as retrieve and search. Do not let them chase or play tug games that may over-excite the dog and lead to aggressive behavior.

Therefore, never leave children at this age alone with the dog.

Children older than 12

When children reach the age of twelve, they are able to behave more like adults. Children at this age can have a better understanding of dog behavior and be able to be more consistent in their actions than younger children.

Of course, these age groups are not absolute and depend on the developmental stage and character of the child, as well as the character and the training of the dog. Although the Stabyhoun is not a troublesome breed, always exercise caution when children are involved.

Activities with your Stabyhoun

Most people have a Stabyhoun for companionship. Often, dog owners have no time or the intention to substantially work and train the dog. However, if you would invest time in training your dog you will be rewarded with a happy, well-adjusted canine who is a much-loved member of the family.

Stabyhouns are known to have a mind of their own. The best thing you can do is sign up for an obedience class. Here dogs learn the basics on becoming good canine citizens, but more importantly, you learn to train your dog. Training class provides you the tools and skills you need to help integrate your puppy into your home. A Stabyhoun is not a happy dog when he is in the house all day and only goes outside for a short walk around the block. By training your dog and engaging him in activities, you are stimulating his physical and mental well-being. It is an excellent bonding experience for you and your four-legged friend.

Continued training beyond puppy class is highly recommended. It will be a pleasure for both you and your dog when he is well behaved and happy and when you share a certain activity. This joy will only increase over time.

Obedience Training

A puppy not only needs to learn the rules of the house and how to fit into the world, but they also should learn some basic commands. You cannot start early enough! In a puppy class (often called puppy kindergarten) everything is fun, relaxed and it is a good basis for further training. Once you finish puppy kindergarten, do not assume your job as a dog trainer is completed; your dog has not even reached the adolescent stage yet! You should continue to reinforce what your puppy has learned to ensure that he retains the training he received as a youngster. There are many different types and levels of training classes for adolescent and adult dogs, you will want your dog to learn basic cues such as polite walking on leash, a reliable recall, settling down on a mat or dog bed, waiting at doorways, and appropriate greeting of people. You could also participate in the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program. This program promotes responsible dog ownership and encourages the training of well-mannered dogs.

Agility

Agility is derived from the equine jumping tournament. An agility course consists of a set of obstacles laid out in a course. The obstacles can be jumps, tunnels, A-frames or weave poles. The handler directs the dog through the course in the right order. This sport requires teamwork between handler and dog and clearly, both have to be in great shape! There are several different organizations in North America that hold competitive agility trials.

Barn Hunt

Barn Hunt is based on the traditional roles of many breeds in ridding farms, barns, and homes of destructive vermin. Some breeds were specifically created to fill this role, and for many of those breeds, Barn Hunt provides an opportunity for responsible breeders to test proper working traits in their dogs. The competition takes places in a barn, with stacked hay bales, tunnels, and rats.

Competitive Obedience/Rally-Obedience

Competitive Obedience is obedience to the highest perfection. This form of canine sport is most similar to equine advanced dressage. Competitive Obedience is not a training method and there are no diplomas; it is a true competitive sport. Training methods for Competitive Obedience are used in other forms of canine sports too. The goal is to achieve an optimal bond between handler and dog, which is great for any combination in any sport. It takes hard work, lots of time, patience and devotion. The exercises are practiced in small portions and then put together in a later stage.

Canine Musical Freestyle/Rally-FrEe

Musical Freestyle is an entertaining performance by dog and handler choreographed to music – dancing with your dog! Creativity and training skills are showcased. Rally Freestyle Elements (Rally-FrEe) is a series of trained behavior from Musical Freestyle performed on a Rally-Obedience style course. Both sports promote positive reinforcement training methods.

Hunting, Field Trials, and Hunt Tests

The Stabyhoun is an all-round hunting dog. Most hunting dog breeds had the luxury to specialize in one discipline such as pointing, flushing or retrieving; the Stabyhoun can do it all! Originally a professional mole catcher, the Stabyhoun has no trouble adjusting to modern day hunting. And your dog has an innate passion for it. Stabyhouns are suitable for either upland or waterfowl hunting.

Both hunt tests and field trials test the dog's hunting skills. In field trials different types of hunting dogs compete against one another. Dogs are separated into two groups: the gun dogs and the hounds.

In hunt tests, dogs are evaluated individually based on their abilities in various hunting skills, such as pointing, flushing and retrieving. They do not compete against one another. Instead, they compete against the standard, receiving a qualifying or a non-qualifying score for their performance. They are awarded various levels of titles, with each title requiring more advanced performance. Field trials and hunt tests generally use dead prey called cold game. Some handlers who participate in field trials and hunt tests choose not to hunt wildlife or have no opportunity to hunt. Others are hunters who wish to test their dog's skills. Field trials and hunt tests are a great opportunity to work with your dog and use his natural hunting instincts. Moreover, the competitions usually take place in some of the most beautiful natural areas.

Three of the major organizations that test the talents of hunting dogs are the American Kennel Club (AKC), the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and the United Kennel Club (UKC). Many different competitions are held throughout North America each year.

The above mentioned organizations issue Hunt Test titles. The tests are designed to resemble actual hunting situations. The three titles are:

- **JH** - Junior Hunter - This is an AKC title that is earned by receiving 4 passes at the junior level in a licensed Hunt Test. This is the beginner's level in the AKC Hunt Test program.
- **SH** - Senior Hunter - An AKC title that is earned by receiving 5 passes (4 with a JH title) at the senior level in a licensed Hunt Test. This is the level at which most hunting retrievers run.
- **MH** - Master Hunter - This is an AKC title that is earned by receiving 6 passes (5 with a SH title) at the Master level in a licensed Hunt Test. This is the highest possible Hunt Test title offered in the AKC.

Gun Shyness

Hunting requires the absence of gun shyness. Despite the fact that breeders are working to desensitize with all kinds of sounds, a lot of puppies are gun shy. To prevent this from happening, visit shooting ranges with your pup until he is at least 1½ years old. Do fun games with your pup while shots are heard in the background. You need to be far enough away from the sound of gun shots that your dog can hear them, but still focus on you and fun. This distance may even be down the road from the gun range property. Give him treats. Leave the shooting range while your pup is still having fun. Your dog learns to associate shooting with something fun.

Fly ball

Fly ball is a team sport for dogs. It is a relay race with four dogs on a team. The dogs jump four hurdles and step on a spring-loaded box that shoots out a tennis ball. The dog catches the ball and then runs back over the hurdles. When he crosses the starting line the next dog goes. This is a sport for dogs that love balls. It is exciting for the handlers as well, because in tournaments winning or losing is a matter of tenths of a second.

Scent Work

Scent Work is a sport that mimics the task of working detection dogs to locate a scent and communicate to the handler that the scent has been found. There are several organizations that conduct scent work competitions, but it is also an activity that you and your dog can enjoy at home.

Tracking

This is essentially a competitive form of search and rescue. Tracking is a technique in which dogs are trained to follow the scent trail of objects or people in a specific area. The Stabyhoun has an extremely well-developed nose and is therefore well suited for this kind of work. Check the training method before you sign up for a tracking class. Some organizations use somewhat harsh methods that are not well suited for Stabyhouns. Your Stabyhoun is not a German Sheppard and requires a different approach in training.

It is clear: there are a lot of activities you can do with your dog, many more than the ones mentioned above. All dogs can be trained. Their individual personality might make training somewhat more challenging, but this will only make the bond between you and your dog stronger.

Breeding

At this point it probably hasn't even crossed your mind, but your dog could contribute to our wonderful breed by continuing the lineage. There is a limited availability of male Stabyhouns in particular. A large variety of male dogs for breeding is beneficial to the breed.

Do you have a female dog and some extra time? Having a litter is not easy. It takes lots of time and you need to be prepared to learn a lot.

If you consider breeding with your dog, it is important that you abide by the rules of the ASA. The Breeders Advisory Committee (BAC) of the ASA has set forth a Code of Ethics, to which you will have to agree in order to ensure the propagation of only physically and temperamentally sound Stabyhouns that conform to the breed standard.

The ASA will guide and assist you in preparing for your litter.

If you decide to pursue breeding, your dog has to meet certain of conditions as set forth in the ASA Code of Ethics:

- Your Stabyhoun must have received a very good, or excellent evaluation preferably from two qualified F.C.I. judges for the Stabyhoun or, at a minimum, the Breeders Advisory Committee (BAC) and one judge, whenever possible. Your dog also needs to be of excellent health physically and have a good temperament.
- Each breeding partner must be examined for the appearance of Hip and Elbow Dysplasia. The OFA hip grade should at least be F (Fair), which is equivalent to a B rating on the FCI scale in Europe, and "Normal" for the Elbows.
- Each breeding partner must be registered with the FCI in Puerto Rico, so that the pups will be recognized as pedigreed Stabyhoun internationally. The ASA also requires registration with the AKC for all Stabys. Pups or dogs brought into Canada from the USA will need a AKC DNA test if they are going to be used in the breeding program. The Canadian born pups that live in the USA are considered imported, so they will need a AKC DNA test. All imported pups from Europe will need to be registered with the AKC-FSS and the FCPR. The AKC DNA test will be needed for breeding also.
- Your dog should not suffer from other hereditary diseases, such as epilepsy, SRMA or heart problems.

If the BAC gives you a favorable rating, your dog is qualified to breed. Please consult the current Code Of Ethics for accurate breeding regulations.

If your dog is a female, the search for an ideal partner can begin. It is important that certain weaknesses in your dog are recognized; no dog is perfect! The weaknesses should be compensated by the strengths of the male and vice versa. It will be quite a puzzle to find a good partner for your dog. The BAC is happy to assist you in the search and must approve the final match. For more detailed information, please refer to the ASA Code of Ethics.



FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1^{er} B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

29.05.2015/ EN

FCI-Standard N° 222

STABIJHOUN



TRANSLATION: D.L. Striegel-Oskam (EN). Revised by Renée Sporre-Willes.

ORIGIN: The Netherlands.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 03.11.2014.

UTILIZATION: Pointing dog. The Stabijhoun is a very versatile dog. He is an all-round hunting dog and has a good reputation as a mole and polecat catcher.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 7 Pointing Hunting Dogs.
Section 1.2 Continental Pointing Dogs.
Spaniel type.
With working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Stabijhoun is related to the Drentsche Patrijshond and Heidewachtel. The Stabijhoun probably owes its name to its versatility. The word Stabijhoun is derived from the words 'sta mij bij' or 'stand by me', while Houn is the Frisian word for dog and is pronounced "hoon". The Stabijhoun originates in the Frisian forest area. In the early 20th century Stabijhoun and Wetterhoun were regularly crossbred with each other. Thereby, the unique varieties of each were threatened to be lost.

In 1938 a group of enthusiastic people of the Kynologenclub Friesland started purifying the two breeds again and in 1942 both breeds were officially recognized. Important names in this process were: J. Bos, T. van Dijk, B. de Graaf and W. Hoeksema.

The first standard was dated February 10, 1944. In 1947, the Dutch Association for Stabij and Wetterhounen (NVSW) was established. The NVSW represents the interests of The Frisian Breeds since 1947. The population of the Stabijhoun is currently (2013) more than 6000 dogs worldwide.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Functional and powerful built pointing dog. The body is slightly longer than its height at the withers. The overall picture is neither too robust nor too fine. The skin should fit tightly. The feathering on chest, collar, forelegs, trousers and tail gives the Stabijhoun the impression of being longhaired, but the coat should not be excessively long. Sexual dimorphism should be unmistakable.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The body is slightly longer than its height at the withers. It is important that the harmony and balance associated with a functional body is in accordance with the size of the dog. Elbow is approximately equidistant from ground to withers.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT: The Stabijhoun guard the yard and keeps it free of mice and rats. The previously common larger type Stabijhoun pulled the milk carts, while the smaller type made his name as a professional mole catcher. This talent made the Stabijhoun popular with the poorer farmers and farmhands. The moleskins were worth a lot of money as linings for the wrists of sleeves and other items. The Stabijhoun was carried in a basket on the bike so that they could cover long distances. The Stabijhoun is very independent and likes to go his own way. The Stabijhoun is affectionate but can also be very headstrong. Patience and a consistent education are essential. In the house or in the yard, the Stabijhoun is a quiet but vigilant dog. With strangers or in unfamiliar situations, Stabijhoun may be reserved at first, but should not be afraid.

HEAD

Dry, without pendulous lips or dewlap. The size of the head is in proportion to the body and sexual dimorphism should be clearly defined. The head exhibits more length than width. The length of the muzzle, measured from the nose to the stop is approximately equal to the length from the stop to the occiput. The expression is gentle, friendly and attentive.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: The skull is slightly rounded and also slightly rounded on the sides, not narrow, but should not give the impression of being broad or round.

Stop: The skull is sloping gradually to the foreface. Seen from the side, the stop seems more marked due to the developed brows.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Black in dogs with a black and white coat colour. Brown in dogs with a brown and white coat colour. Nose well developed with wide-open nostrils.

Muzzle: Strong, tapering gradually to the nose tip, without being snipy, viewed both from above and from the side (wedge shaped). The nasal bridge is straight and broad, and viewed from the side neither concave nor convex.

Lips: Tightly fitting, not pendulous and not showing labial folds. Jaws/Teeth: Powerful and complete. Scissor bite. Missing PM1 or M3 is allowed, as is also a duplicate PM1.

Cheeks: Barely pronounced.

Eyes: Set horizontally. Medium sized, slightly rounded shape with close fitting eyelids, without a visible conjunctiva. The pigment of the iris is dark brown for dogs with black and white coat and a lighter brown colour for dogs with a brown and white coat colour.

Ears: The ears are set in an imaginary line drawn from the nose tip through the inside corner of the eyes. When attentive, the ears should not protrude beyond the outline of the skull. The ear auricle is not strongly developed, so the ears are worn smoothly lying against the head. They are moderately long, reaching to the corner of the mouth, and have the shape of a trowel that is not round, but ends in a rounded point. The hair of the ear is a typical feature; at the base of the ear it is quite long then decreases in length gradually with the lower third of the ear being covered with short hair. The hair should be straight, but slightly wavy is allowed. Hair on the ears should not reach longer than the ear itself as it gives an untidy appearance.

NECK: Strong and rounded, of medium length, but not too long. The neck runs smoothly with a blunt angle to the back line, so that the head is usually carried low. The neck shows no throatiness or dewlap.

BODY: Powerful, clean cut and well muscled.

Top line: Smooth and strong topline.

Withers: Far enough back, strong, but not prominent

Back: Strong and straight.

Loin: Strong and muscular.

Croup: Slightly sloping.

Chest: Deep, reaching to the elbows. Viewed from the front rather broad, so that the forelegs are set wide apart. Ribs well sprung but not barreled. The ribs are deep and long, so the ribcage extends as far back as possible. Elbows must be tight to the chest.

Underline and belly: Smooth and reaching far enough to the rear. The belly only slightly tucked up.

TAIL: Length reaching to the hock joint. Not set high. The tail is usually worn down although the last third of the tail may turn up during rest or at a stand. During movement the tail lifts, but should never be worn on or over the back or in a

spiral. The tail is round and covered up to the tip with long, dense hair, without curls, waves, or feathering. Instead, the tail has a bushy structure, so the hair around is generously long and thick, giving a full and rich appearance.

LIMBS:

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Powerful, muscular and functionally angulated, so the legs are correctly under the body. Forelegs seen from the front standing a bit wide.

Shoulder: Shoulder blade close to the chest/body and well laid back.

Upper arm: Functionally angulated. Length is equal to or only slightly shorter than the length of the shoulder blade.

Elbow: Strong, straight and parallel.

Forearm: Strong, straight and parallel.

Carpus (Wrist): Powerful, in the front straight, metacarpus.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly sloping.

Forefeet: Strong, compact and slightly oval shaped. Toes well arched, closed and facing forward.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strong and functionally angulated, without exaggeration. When viewed from the rear, the legs are wide and hocks parallel.

Thigh: Of good width and length, well muscled and with functional angulations at hip and knee.

Stifle (Knee): Functionally angulated

Lower thigh: Of good length.

Hock joint: Straight, parallel and placed well apart, turning neither in nor out.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Of normal length.

Hind feet: Strong, compact and slightly oval shaped. Toes well arched, closed and facing forward.

GAIT / MOVEMENT:

Powerful, harmonious, with good drive and covering a lot of ground. Viewed front on the Stabijhoun moves a bit broad. During movement, the head is carried low. The tail is carried above the topline with a slight bow during action.

SKIN: Firm, well fitting, without wrinkles or folds

COAT

Hair: The coat is of medium length and straight on the body with a weather-resistant undercoat. At the most, a slightly wavy coat is tolerated on the croup. With the bushy hair on the chest, collar, trousers and tail, the coat gives the impression of being longhaired. Coat on the head, the front of the forelegs, and on the front of the hocks is short. The hair on the back of the front legs is longer and well developed. On the trousers and the tail, the hair is bushy rather than feathered. A curly coat is not allowed.

Colour: The Stabijhoun is a pied dog in black or brown with white markings, but also black or brown roans are accepted. The white may have roaning or ticking. The head is black or brown, with or without a blaze. Both of these colours occur with or without plates. Coats with a (distinct) saddle are tolerated. Tan marking or tricolor is disqualifying.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Ideal height at the withers: Males: 50–53 cm.

Females: 48–50 cm.

2 cm above and 2 cm below the ideal size is allowed.

Breed type is more important than exact measurements.

Weight: Males: 22–27 kg. Females: 18–23 kg.

FAULTS: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and its ability to perform its traditional work.

- Level bite.
- Too heavy in head, too wide or round in skull.
- Weak back or feet.
- Lack of sexual dimorphism.
- Curly tail or tail carried over the back.
- Strongly sloping pelvis.

SEVERE FAULTS:

- Spiral Tail.
- Standing and/or moving with legs too far in under body.
- Elegant or graceful appearance.
- Low- legged.
- Narrow front and flat ribs.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- Untypical, lacking breed type.
- Improper fitting eyelids.
- Overshot or undershot bite or wry mouth.
- Missing too many teeth.
- Kinked tail.
- Very curly coat (astrakan).
- Any other colour or the absence of white colour.

N.B:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.

ANATOMICAL FEATURES

