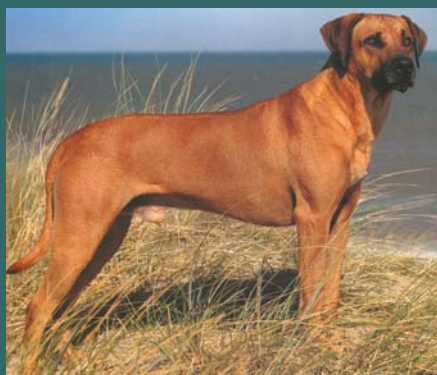




Read about the Breed

Rhodesian Ridgeback

Hound Group



The Rhodesian Ridgeback is Named for the Distinctive Hair Pattern on Its Back

Breed History:

- Originated from ancient nomadic "Hottentot" tribes in Ethiopia or the Sudan.
- Also known as the African Lion Hound, the Rhodesian Ridgeback was originally bred to hunt lions and other big game.
- Refined by European settlers in South Africa into the breed known today.
- The breed was admitted to the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1955.



Keys to the Breed:

- High Energy Indoors
- Special Exercise Needs
- Special Grooming Needs
- Good Watchdog
- Good with Kids

Breed Characteristics:

- **Appearance** — Ridgebacks have a dense, short, shiny gold coat of a light to reddish wheaten color. They are muscular dogs with a trademark ridge of hair that grows forward along the back.
- **Grooming** — They are remarkably clean dogs that require little grooming, shed very little, and have almost no odor. Regular use of a hound glove will remove dead hairs and keep their coat in good shape.
- **Exercise** — They are energetic dogs that need plenty of exercise and open space to run in. They also need a yard with fences taller than 6 feet, so they don't run off in pursuit of a squirrel!
- **Temperament** — Ridgebacks are hunting dogs with a high prey drive and are often stubborn and hard-headed. They tend to be good family pets and get along well with other dogs, but they need early obedience training and are not necessarily the best choice for novice dog owners.

Vital Stats:

- **Size** — Dogs (males) stand 24-27 inches, bitches (females) 24-26 inches
- **Weight** — Dogs average 85 lbs, bitches 70 lbs
- **Life span** — 10-12 years on average
- **Common Health Issues** — Pet shop puppies should be avoided due to hip dysplasia, dermoid sinus (opening of skin over the spine), and deafness
- **Breed Clubs** — The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the U.S.

Go to www.northwestpets.com for more breed profiles!

*AKC Standard Says:
"A mature Ridgeback is a handsome, upstanding and athletic dog, capable of great endurance."*