



WHY BREED IS ONLY FUR DEEP



BIEWER TERRIER
The AKC recognized four new breeds in 2021.

Today's dog breeds are relatively new

For thousands of years, people bred dogs to perform certain tasks, such as herding, guarding and hunting. These dogs were selected by temperament and skill, and their looks varied.



25%+
of AKC breeds have only been recognized since 2000.

Most of the 197 dog breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club are less than 200 years old and defined by appearance, not behavior or personality. They are descendants of a small number of ancestors chosen by members of organizations such as the Kennel Club (United Kingdom) and Westminster Kennel Club (U.S.) largely for their uniform physical traits.



1859

Year the first dog show was held in Newcastle, England, and the origin date for modern dog breeds.

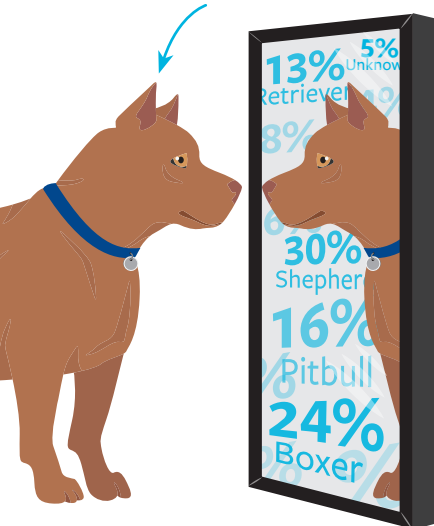


19,300
Number of genes that make up the entire dog genome.

Breed doesn't determine personality

Although many people select breeds hoping for specific personality traits, researchers have discovered as much variation in temperament within breeds as between breeds.

Dogs labeled pit bulls are most often mutts.



You can't always identify a dog's breed by appearance

Several studies have found that breed labels assigned to dogs of unknown parentage seldom correlate with genetic test results.

- **90% of dogs** labeled as a particular breed by 17 different adoption agencies were misidentified. Many shelters now consider it best practice not to guess at breed.
- **2/3 of dogs labeled "pit bulls"** in two shelters actually had less than 50 percent pit bull (American Staffordshire terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier or American pit bull terrier) DNA.

50%+
of the estimated 70-80 million American pet dogs are mixed breeds.



"A person looking for a pet is looking for an individual, not a breed."

—JANIS BRADLEY, NATIONAL CANINE RESEARCH COUNCIL

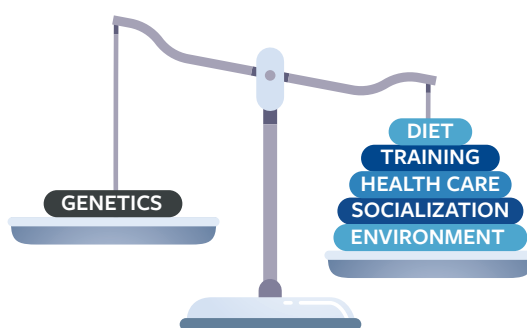
LESS THAN 1%

of genes determine a dog's appearance, and those genes aren't linked to behavior.



Breed, like beauty, is largely fur deep

So much more than inherited genes determine personality and behavior, such as training, socialization, diet, health care and environment.



Don't be misled by breed myths and stereotypes: The best way to choose a dog is by observing their personality and behavior.

