

# The American Foxhound

## Tori Houle, Lifestyle Contributor and Junior Editor

Tori has more than 2 years of experience in the pet health industry and is junior editor of IDEXX's Pet Health Network team.

### Background

The American Foxhound is one of the oldest American breeds yet one of the least known. They originated in Virginia and Maryland in the early 1700s. The forbearers of American Foxhounds came to America in 1650 when Robert Brooke sailed for the Crown Colony and brought with him a pack of hounds from all over France and England. These hounds would serve as the foundation for other American breeds as well.

The American Foxhound was developed to act in four distinct capacities: a field trial hound that would be used for speed competitions, a hound with a good voice to call to the hunter during fox hunts, a trail hound, and a pack hound used by hunting clubs and farmers with packs of around fifteen or twenty dogs.

The American Foxhound was recognized as a breed in 1886 by the American Kennel Club.

### Sizing up

- Weight: 65 to 75 lbs.
- Height: 21 to 28 inches
- Coat: Short and dense
- Color: Any color
- Life expectancy: 8 to 15 years

### What's the American Foxhound like?

The American Foxhound is an extremely friendly and intelligent breed who loves his family, but being left alone with no human companion or canine friend can distress him. This dog was bred to run and can go for miles so exercise is very important. American Foxhounds are capable of getting along with almost any other pet as long as they're introduced at a young age and grow up with them. Because of their intelligence, they are excited to learn and even more excited when their efforts will be rewarded with a yummy treat.

Training right from the start is essential with any dog or new puppy. Socialization is a great benefit of training your dog around other people or other animals.

The American Foxhound's coat is short so it's relatively easy to groom with a weekly brushing.

### Health

The American Foxhound is generally a healthy dog but watch out for any of the following:

- [Hip Dysplasia](#)
- [Ear infections](#)
- Thrombocytopathy (platelet disorder)
- Pelger-Huet anomaly (white blood cell disorder)

### Takeaway Points

- The American Foxhound is a great family dog and gets along with children.
- The American Foxhound loves to explore and run so a fenced in yard is recommended.
- The American Foxhound does not like to be left alone for long periods of time.
- The American Foxhound does tend to shed quite a bit so if you have allergies this may not be the breed for you.

*If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian -- they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.*