





MILESTONES IN DOBERMAN PINSCHER HISTORY

1890

Karl Friedrich Louis Dobermann (1834-1894) of Apolda, Germany combines several breeds of dogs to create “Dobermann’s Pinschers.” He produced the Dobermann to serve as a guardian, accompanying him on his routes to collect taxes (a dangerous job at the time).



1908

The Doberman Pinscher was first registered with the American Kennel Club in 1908. It was not until 1922 that more than 100 were registered each year. By 1934, more than 1,000 were registered each year and in 1941 there were 1,637 Dobes registered and they were 15th in popularity among purebred dogs.



1921

Doberman Pinscher Club of America founded by George Earle III

1928

Ch. Big Boy of White Gate wins the first Best in Show for an American-bred Doberman at the Rhode Island Kennel Club show.



1939

Ch. Ferry v Raufelsen of Giralda is the first Doberman to win Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club show.

1944



25 Marine War Dogs give their lives liberating Guam. They served as sentries, messengers, and scouts.

**1952/
1953**

Ch. Rancho Dobe's Storm (grandson of Ch. Ferry v Raufelsen of Giralda [see right]) wins back-to-back Best in Shows at Westminster. He is shown here in 1952.



1950'S

1950's After Tess Henseler of vom Arthal Dobermans watched a performance by the Lippizaner horses of Vienna, she starts the Doberman Drill Team. Their performances venues include Madison Square Garden in New York City during the Westminster Kennel Club show.



1978

Am/Can Ch. OTCH Teraden's Sweet Gypsy Rose ROM is the first Doberman to achieve an obedience trial championship (OTCH).

1989

Ch. Royal Tudor Wild as the Wind UDTX wins Best in Show at Westminster.



1992 Ch. Brunswig's Cryptonite achieves 124 Best in Show awards. He remains the top winning Doberman in breed history.



1994 "Always Faithful," a memorial statue commissioned by the United Doberman Club is installed in Guam. It serves as a permanent remembrance of the courageous Dobermans that gave their lives in service to America and the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. The statue was created by accomplished sculptor, Susan Bahary.



1998 Ch. Toledobes Serengetti leads working group dogs with 81 Group Firsts and 23 Best in Shows. She remains the "winningest" Doberman Pinscher female of all time with 99 Best in Shows.



2001 Search and Rescue Dobermans assist with recovering human life at Ground Zero, site of the World Trade Center attack on 9/11. Shirley Hammond and her Dobe are captured in this photo.



2005

Cara's Red Sasha, IPO 3, wins the IDC World Championship. She is the only Doberman bred on American soil to achieve this feat. During the same year Cara's Top Shelf, SchH3, IPO3, placed fourth in the same competition and won the Italian Doberman Pinscher National. He is also the only American-bred Doberman to accomplish this.



2008

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America celebrates the Doberman Pinscher, faithful Americans for 100 years.



Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting <http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



BASIC CARE

In a summary, a Doberman needs:

- To live with his family inside the home—interacting and living next to and with all the family members. He is not an outside dog—under ANY circumstances! He must be a family companion and protector in the home with the family.
- A warm, safe, dry, comfortable place to live, including an extra large dog crate/kennel for training, housebreaking and when left alone. Blankets/comforters or other soft suitable material for the dog to rest/lay on is necessary to prevent sores/pressure sores/elbow and joint swellings.
- Premium or Super Premium food—excellent quality dog food for the Dobermans life time is critical. Dogs are carnivores and require high quality meal in their diet. Premium foods that contain large amounts of good meats are necessary for good health. These type foods are usually not found on the grocery store shelves, although Purina One and IAMS and Pedigree are available if you cannot find a specialty store that carries a big array of dog foods. Water is essential at all times. Most people feed their dogs twice a day, depending on their schedules. Feeding routines are flexible—just like our schedules.
- Kind discipline, training and Obedience make for a wonderful and happy pet. The Doberman needs training to know what he can and can't do in the home, around people and outside interacting with the world. They are intelligent and are easily trained and a joy to live with when properly taught—but they can be pushy, destructive and a real renegade if not managed and trained. They are truly like a child—it is up to the owner to prevent them from becoming unruly. They can be a problem if not trained.
- Quality Veterinary care. Spaying and neutering is necessary. Intact dogs of any breed are susceptible to many diseases, conditions and especially cancers of all kinds involving the reproductive system. Prostrate disease is extremely common in male Dobermans and the remedy is neutering anyway, so it will save your pet many painful episodes with his health. Mammary cancer is very common in females, but even more so in females that are not spayed. So for your Doberman's good health...spay and neuter. The only exception is if you and your breeder have decided to show your dog in conformation. All other competitive dog sports welcome dogs that are spayed and neutered. It will not make them fat and lazy—that's a myth. Vaccinations, boosters, worming, heart worm testing and preventative, flea & tick medications, health testing such as Thyroid, vWD and heart checks all are helpful in keeping your Doberman healthy and free from disease.
- They need care to keep them clean and healthy. The teeth need to be examined and cleaned if necessary. The toenails need to be Dremeled or Clipped when needed—usually once or twice a month. The coat needs to be examined and the Doberman bathed when needed. The ears should be wiped out with a little “baby oil” and a paper towel and the over all condition of the coat and body should be looked at every day for anything suspicious.

- They need exercise for good health and to release pent up energy. This makes for a happy and well adjusted Doberman. They are a very high energy breed and need to be active and allowed to exercise and play. A large fenced yard is critical to the well being of your Doberman. No matter how well trained your Doberman is, they are still DOGS with instincts that often over-ride their training. When they see a “rabbit” or something that catches their attention, they can put themselves in the pathway of danger, like a car, with horrible consequences.
- Dobermans need the love, respect and interaction with their family to be truly happy dogs. The breed is one that was “made” specifically to live with and be with the family. He is their protector and living with his family makes him more loyal and protective and ready to come to your rescue. He cannot live in the basement, garage, yard, kennel or any other isolated place away from his “people”. The Doberman needs love and touching and your hand on his head or a pat on his side. He will never be the dog he can be unless you let him be with you and let him love you back. Love him, take care of him, train him and let him know what you want him to do...he will be the dog of a lifetime...the dog only a Doberman can be.

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting
<http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us
on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



BEHAVIOR

The Doberman is a highly intelligent breed. He is, by virtue of his physical prowess and mental excellence, one of the most formidable of all the working guard breeds. He is a finely tuned protection “weapon”, capable of doing considerable harm and damage to his foes. Because of his temperament and physical superiority, the Doberman must be “managed” properly from puppyhood. This means kindly and patiently and respectfully nurtured along—issuing appropriate discipline when necessary to make the point or correct undesirable behavior.

Because many people don’t research and study the Doberman breed and the characteristics of his temperament, problems with behavior can occur. Be aware that the *Doberman Pinscher is not for every person or every family*. This is just the reality of the breed. It is a demanding breed and requires constant attention and guidance from the family. With the mobile society we live in, where often two people are working and out of the home for long periods of time everyday, the possibility that the Doberman will not be nurtured properly is a distinct possibility. This sets the scenario for trouble to follow.

The first year is absolutely critical to the proper development of correct behavior patterns and the establishment of the “order” that must be present in the family—which is the “people” call all the shots—the Doberman must comply and follow their lead. The family cannot be held hostage by an improperly raised and trained Doberman who thinks he is the alpha and is running “the show.” Poor behavior, lack of discipline and even dangerous displays of aggression toward family members and other acceptable people is the consequence of mismanagement of the Doberman in some manner.

Of course, there are exceptions, where the Doberman has a physical cause for behavior problems. But typically behavior problems follow improper training attempts or inappropriate or too severe discipline—or lack of bonding to the family because the Doberman is locked away and has not integrated itself within the family—and also the total lack of available time to spend with this Doberman that demands quality efforts to train.

Before you purchase a Doberman—do your homework. *Study* the breed—read everything available on Dobermans. Study and *read* about training methods and how Dobermans are different than the great majority of breeds. *Talk* to reputable breeders—go to AKC Dog Shows and establish contacts, so you can spend some time around Dobermans to observe and see how they act and react. *Observe* obedience classes and how they’re taught.

Get all the details worked out on how you are going to handle a Doberman puppy coming into your home, including the proper usage of a portable wire crate/kennel to use in the training process. Do all of this before you go look for a puppy.

If you have very small children—babies, toddlers and young school age children—getting a tiny Doberman puppy is not a good idea. Doberman puppies are high energy, bundles of sharp toe nails and teeth. Young children can be absolutely terrified by nipping puppies and the puppy can be a

absolutely terrified by running, screaming children that cause their mom's and dad's to harshly discipline the puppy for normal puppy behavior. This sets the scene for a very bad experience for both toddler/child as well as the young Doberman puppy and is frequently the start of major behavior problems that will follow.

The puppy gets locked up more because the kids are afraid and pretty soon the puppy is in the basement or garage or even worse—outside—and the puppy grows up with no family socialization—no house time—fear of children and possibly adults. Major problems start and are magnified once the puppy becomes an adult and the critical “imprinting” period of puppyhood is passed.

Many older puppies (6 months to 12 months) and young adolescent adults end up in Shelters, Humane Societies and Rescues across the Country because people cannot handle their Doberman. Or their Doberman is aggressive—or they are using the wrong training methods and they are afraid of their Doberman. Any number of scenarios can cause behavior problems in the Doberman.

Make sure you seek the advice and counsel of a Professional Behaviorist, a Professional Trainer who has experience with Dobermans, and seek advice from experienced breeders who can point you in the right direction for help.

Dobermans are formidable guard dogs that have the potential to do harm. Do not wait to seek Counsel to correct offensive/dangerous behavior.

Remember, YOU are in charge!

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting
<http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us
on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Newborn to six weeks

The NEWBORN Doberman puppy weighs, on average, between 10ozs. and 20ozs. They, like other canines, are born with their eyes shut and their ears tightly creased and basically closed. They nurse constantly, usually every 1 to 2 hours—taking in small amounts— which helps to sustain their metabolism and their growth. They grow rapidly, gaining steadily throughout the puppy stage, which is considered the first 12 months of their life. The Doberman is born with a tail and dew-claws on the inside of each front leg. Occasionally they also appear on the inside of the hind legs. At about 3 to 5 days, the tails are docked and the dewclaws removed by a Veterinarian. The tail is docked at about the second or third joint—the skin is cut, the bony vertebrae of the tail cut and the skin is stitched to close the wound. The same is done with the dewclaws. They are snipped off and the small little wound closed with a stitch, or tail and dewclaws can be glued with surgical glue used by the Veterinarian. The puppy is usually introduced to solid food at around age four weeks. At this time they have their small “baby” teeth and are able to stand and “lap” and chew soft food. At about 6 weeks, they are eating fully on their own and can be fully weaned away from their mother. At six weeks, most puppies weight around 8 to 12 pounds, and start to really grow taller and heavier.

Seven weeks to seven months

At 6 to 7 weeks the first vaccinations are given. These usually include DHPP, which are all the major infectious diseases that affect puppies and also PARVO which is a deadly disease of dogs, but especially of the young. It is highly contagious, as are Distemper and the others, and can quickly kill young pups through dehydration from vomiting and diarrhea. The 7 week old puppy is eating on his own about four meals, now. And he continues to grow and develop. Between 7 and 10 weeks—the Dobermans ears are cropped. This is an operation done by the Veterinarian that removes a large portion of the outside of the ear. The Veterinarian removes the outside part of the ear, and does this in a slightly curving line from the base of the ear, near the head and up to the tip of the ear. The ears are sutured and either taped over the head and covered with gauze, or are taped and glued to a wedge of foam, or a Styrofoam cup, or some other manner to keep the ears upright to allow for healing of the edges. The ears heal and after about 10 days, the sutures are removed and the ear can then be rolled and taped to train the ear to stand erect, rather than flopping down at the side of the head. It is important that the ears are taped properly and for the length of time that it takes to make sure they will continue to stand properly. The breeder is invaluable for this task and they should be able to help directly, or locate another person or breeder that can assist. Please follow the vaccination protocol that your Veterinarian suggests as these diseases can be deadly.

At 12 weeks, the Doberman starts the teething phase of its life. This continues for the next 3 months as the baby teeth fall out and the new permanent ones come in. Often you will find teeth on the floor, or the puppy will just swallow them. This is normal. During this time the puppy can have swollen, bleeding gums and want to chew everything it can. This is the time to provide real bones, rawhides, and other safe things for the puppy to chew on. Also, large stuffy toys that they can bite down on and help some of those teeth come through are helpful—*but do so under your supervision!* Puppies at this age chew and swallow anything and everything that they can fit into their mouth. Be careful!

Nylon bones, big rawhides are safe as long as they are large and the puppy cannot swallow them. This is a very critical time, and swallowing items may cause blockages and require surgery. At about 12 weeks, the puppy can usually be put on a feeding schedule of three feedings instead of four. By 5 to 6 months, the puppy will be eating twice a day, with maybe a snack of a couple biscuits in-between meals. You will need to observe the puppy's weight and body condition. The puppy should be neither too thin or too fat. You should be able to "feel" his ribs when you push in on the sides.

At 6 months the puppy has all or most of their permanent teeth. The ears should be standing, or if the crop is very long, still being taped. This is also the time to discuss with your vet when your puppy should be neutered if male – or spayed if female. It is important that you follow your vet's recommendation as this procedure can cause problems if done too soon. Many Vets feel 6 months is too early and leads to urinary incontinence. All **PET*** puppies should be spay/neutered. There is no need to keep intact any dog, unless you are a reputable breeder and are breeding the top animals of the breed for improvement. The vaccinations are complete by this age, and the puppy is old enough to start Obedience Classes or training to insure the puppy will be a good member of your family and society. A six month old puppy is about half to 3/4 the height that it will eventually be.

Seven months to one year

This time period is one of continued growth and maturing for the puppy. The females are usually close to their adult height. They will continue to fill out and mature over the next year. The males will continue to grow and mature over the next year and may grow taller until they reach their adult height. Remember the ideal height for males is 27 1/2 at the wither and 25 1/2 at the wither for females. The wither is the highest point of the Dobermans back, just behind the neck and before the back. The measurement is taken from the wither to the ground. The weight for both males and females will increase over the next year—very slightly for the females and more for the males. At 12 months, a Doberman is considered an adult. Filling out and maturing will continue for another year. A male is not considered at his prime until about age 3 + years and a female at about age 2 to 3 years.

One year through adult age six

The Dobermans lifespan is about 9.6 years, on average. The adult phase of their life is from one year old until the dog reaches about 7. During this mature phase the Doberman is at it's peak and prime. These years are when the Doberman is most active, and is doing most of the family activities, show events such as Obedience and Agility and just enjoying life with his people. The training and Obedience is done and life is good.

Seven years and older

At seven years old, the Doberman is considered a senior or a Veteran, according to the Show language. They are beginning or already have slowed down. Maybe they are showing signs of some arthritis or muscular aches & pains. For many, the spirit is willing, but the body is not able. They may need a different diet, and the medical needs will probably change. Heart problems and Cancer are major concerns. Don't forget to check the Medical Information on the DPCA web site to stay informed of the problems associated specifically to senior Doberman Pinschers. Teeth can also be a problem as the Doberman ages. Be aware of your Senior and check them every day for lumps, bumps and anything that looks different. Many Doberman start to gain weight as their activity level slows. Be aware that a Doberman in proper weight is the best condition for his overall health.

**puppies purchased NOT for conformation show*

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting
<http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us
on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



LIVING WITH A DOBERMAN PINSCHER

Living with a Doberman is a challenge that comes on a daily basis. No matter how old, you cannot ignore a Doberman, they are in your face, on your lap, they are a “helping you out kind of” dog, and yet, they do not seem to intrude into your personal space.

A Doberman is a working dog, he is ever alert and ready at all times to take care of his “family and environment” with tremendous adaptability to what to do in almost all situations.

Some sports to enjoy with your Doberman:

- agility •obedience •protection •flyball •tracking •freestyle frisbee

However, this is not a breed that is suitable for everyone. The moment a Doberman walks into your life it is important to set the rules and start training, even if it is as simple as teaching the puppy to sit and wait before eating.

The secret to successful living with a Doberman is to give him a daily function in the family environment, letting him clearly know what is expected of him, and remain constant in those boundaries for the rest of your dog's life. A Doberman needs to have variety, not just in the home, but where ever possible, give him a change of scenery, taking your pup with you to as many different places as possible creates a steady dog who will be able to discern when there is a ‘real’ threat and not just normal life happening. It is important to show your Doberman as many different people, atmospheres, environments and attitudes as possible, this allows the Doberman to be able to not only make some necessary decision himself, but will create a steady and firm temperament.

Exposure to these situations, coupled with fair discipline will help your Doberman bond to you and also be able to make decisions as to when he should or should not act, in the event that you are unable to give a command.

If started from the moment your Doberman enters the home, training can and should be rewarding. Of course, as with most dogs, there will be times that you, as a handler/owner, will feel frustration, but the secret to training a Doberman is to keep it ‘fun’, always be fair with corrections and be consistent. Some Dobermans cannot be trained every day, and ten minutes every other day will allow the Doberman to work through the new challenge. These are not dogs that can be ‘brow beaten’ to learn something new, and need time to let the imprinting take place.

Dobermans have very steady temperaments, but they do need to be shown or told what you expect of them, if you aren't consistent, you will confuse them. They are loyal, discerning and have a tremendous sense of humor.

A Doberman knows when to protect, when to growl, when to smile and when you're in need, your Doberman will be there.

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting <http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



FOUR COLORS OF THE DOBERMAN PINSCHER

The Doberman AKC Standard, which is the “blueprint” of the Doberman, explains in exacting details how the Doberman should LOOK and what his temperament should be and therefore how he should ACT. Part of the Standard describes the coloration of the Doberman.

There are **ONLY FOUR ALLOWED COLORS** for the Doberman.

- black and rust
- red and rust
- blue and rust
- fawn and rust

Any other color is a disqualification for selection of breeding stock through the Championship point system, whereby Dobermans, through Dog Show competition in Conformation Classes, accrue points by defeating other Dobermans to earn the Champion Title bestowed by the American Kennel Club. ONLY those Dobermans who accumulate the required points in Conformation can become a Champion and be considered one of the Breeds exceptional and noteworthy individuals. There are only approximately 150 to 200 Dobermans each year that are good enough to earn the title of “Champion”. These are out of all the tens of thousands of Dobermans born every year. All four allowed colors of the Doberman are eligible to compete for Championship points in AKC Conformation.

Besides the more common color’s seen in the Doberman—Black & Rust and Red & Rust—there are the “dilutes” of these two colors—Blue is a “dilute” of Black—Fawn is a “dilute” of Red. Each parent carries genes that determine color. In the Doberman we have the Black which is “dominant” over red. Each parent can carry Black Only or Black and the “recessive” Red or Red Only. Besides these “colors”, each parent can also carry a “dilution gene”. If both parents carry the “dilution gene” and in the process of the mating of two parents that carry dilution, the offspring gets a dilution from the sire AND a dilution gene from the dam—then the “dilute form” of Black/which is Blue – or of Red/which is Fawn can be expressed. So it takes dilution from **both** parents to have any puppies that are Blue or Fawn. This is really simple Mendelian Genetics.

The Blues and Fawns also have a higher incidence of coat and skin problems. This arises from the way the melanocytes are deposited on the hair shaft itself. These are what “color” the hair shaft. It is very irregular in pattern compared to the Blacks and Reds and the hair itself is softer and has a difficult time coming through the follicle and emerging through the skin. There is a higher incidence of ingrown hairs and staph infections because of the nature of the hair shafts themselves. Below is a very comprehensive website that explains the coat problems, including thinning and loss of the coats of dilutes.

Remember, these four colors are the only allowable colors that are acceptable according to the American Kennel Club and the Doberman Pinscher Club of America to be shown in Conformation. They are eligible for performance events.

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting <http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



THE ALBINO DOBERMAN

“Albino Is Not A Color”

In November 1976, a mutation occurred with the whelping of a cream colored Doberman. Her sire, dam, and litter-mates were normal colored black and tans. She had pale blue eyes, pink nose, eye rims, pads and membranes. Where tan markings would be they were Albino. She was bred to a dominant black male, producing 14 black and tan pups. A male and female were kept and all ran loose. Her son sired her next litter, which contained 2 Albino males. He was also bred to his sister and her litter contained 2 Albino bitches. Later, these Albinos were bred together producing all Albinos.

These dogs have been highly inbred and have multiplied at an enormous rate, and unfortunately they are being bred into our top show lines. While we can readily identify an Albino, we cannot detect the mutant gene which is carried by a great many of our normal colored dogs.

It has been proven that the Albino mutation is not related to our dilution genes (blue and fawn). In 1982, the AKC approved the DPCA's amendment to the Doberman standard disqualifying “dogs not of an allowed color.” This prevented the Albino's from being shown in the conformation ring, but unfortunately does not stop the continued breeding of these mutant Dobermans. The AKC had refused DPCA's request to cancel any registration of Albino Dobermans.

The DPCA employed the services of several noted geneticists, vets, and color experts as well as purchasing 2 Albino bitches for test breedings. They also conducted many scientific studies of hair, skin and eyes by professionals at leading universities. The results after a five-year study conducted by the DPCA and its consultants, concluded these mutants were correctly termed, “albino or tyrosine positive, partial albino or tyrosine negative which suffer from hypo-melanocytic disease. It is important to note here that partial albinos are still albinos. Albinism is a deleterious mutation which affects the whole body.

Why does the DPCA reject the Albino?

We know that these dogs are photophobic, (sensitive to sun light). They have vision problems resulting from abnormal development of the retina. They are prone to skin cancer and skin lesions. Due to the lack of pigment, they are extremely susceptible to skin damage from the sun. Poor temperament is a significant concern. Due to the intense inbreeding to obtain the mutation, the temperaments on a great many are totally unstable.

These problems range from fear biting to outright vicious attacks. Shyness is prevalent. Most are not suitable for homes with small children. Yes, there are exceptions, but hardly enough to make them acceptable to most families. In addition to the above problems concerning health and temperament, these dogs have a total lack of breed type.

The DPCA is utilizing a tracking system, called The “Z” List. This tracking system identifies any dogs that may carry this mutant gene. It enables ethical breeders to avoid breeding to animals with the defect.

While we can understand the attachment one can have for animals of all colors, sizes, shapes and pedigreed or not, we must realize that the Doberman Pinscher was a breed created for a purpose. A standard of excellence was drawn up describing what the ideal Doberman should look like, how it should act, and what colors it should be. Albino cannot be classified as a color. It is just the opposite. It is the lack of color. No recognized standard would call for a dog that is Albinoid. It is a genetic defect in all creatures.

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting
<http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us
on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is a Doberman the dog for everyone?

While the Doberman Pinscher is a great breed and those who love them will never want another breed, they are clearly NOT for everyone. Dobermans need a person who can be their “pack leader.” In order to do this a person must have an “alpha” personality. By this we mean the person must be able to take charge in a positive, but authoritative matter when the need arises. Too many people jump into owning a Doberman without thought as to what that “cute” puppy is going to be like when he reaches adulthood, has received little-to-no training, socialization or rule-enforcement and has suddenly emerged as an energetic, 90 pound male. Before you know it, the owner is trying to find the dog a new home because he is out of control.

How large is a Doberman? How much do they weigh?

Males can be anywhere from 26 to 28 inches and weigh between 75- 90 lbs. Females are generally 24 to 26 inches and weigh 65-75 lbs. The Doberman Pinscher standard describes the breed as “....a dog of medium size, with a body that is square. Compactly built, muscular and powerful, for great endurance and speed. Elegant in appearance, of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility and temperament. Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient.”

How long do they live?

They can live longer but in general they are relatively healthy until around age 8 - 10.

What do they eat and about how much?

Because of their high energy, they should be fed a high quality food containing a good balance of protein and fat with essential fatty acids. Most active Dobermans will require a higher level of fat and protein than many other breeds throughout their lives. Adults will eat from 2-6 cups of food a day depending on the individual dog’s metabolism and activity-level. Good quality, balanced food will help to keep the coat healthy and reduce shedding.

Where should they live/sleep?

A Doberman that gets a lot of exercise and interaction with family makes an excellent housedog, but he must have a secure area to run and play in or he should be taken on very regular romps to let off some steam. Because of their curious nature and high activity level it is best if young dogs sleep in a confined, secure place such as a crate. This ensures that the dog does not “accidentally” get into trouble when he wakes up and is unsupervised. Older, mature dogs that have proven themselves trustworthy housedogs can be allowed to sleep loose.

Dobermans cannot be outside dogs and they can not be ignored. An ignored Doberman will become bored very easily. The high intellect and curious nature of the breed will result in some very undesirable behaviours like barking, digging and general destruction both indoors and outdoors.

What are the grooming needs of a Doberman?

Maintenance of the Doberman is minimal compared to many other breeds but there are still some areas that require regular attention.

Good dental health is a must. Teach your dog early to enjoy having his teeth brushed with a toothbrush and toothpaste designed for dogs. Also, encourage him to chew on toys that are designed to clean teeth and stimulate gums.

Toenails should be kept short. It is best to do them once a week. Long nails can be hazardous. Also, if they are too long the dog will be walking on the nails, as opposed to walking on pads of the feet as they are supposed to, resulting in sore, splayed feet.

Shedding.....YES, their dark hairs do get on clothing and furniture! However, you can take steps that may help minimize this. Baths with a good quality shampoo that is mild on the skin, as well as regular, consistent grooming with a rubber grooming glove will keep the skin stimulated and the hair healthy plus it will remove the dead hairs before they fall off on the furniture. A good way to clean your Doberman without bathing too frequently is to make a mixture of 1/3 Listerine Mouthwash, 1/3 glycerine and 1/3 water and put it in a spray bottle. Spray the dog daily and wipe down with a soft cloth. This will keep the dandruff and shedding to a minimum and give your dog a sleek, shiny coat year-round. A healthy, parasite free, clean Doberman will shed less than one in poor condition.

How much exercise do they need; how frequently?

Canines are most secure and content with regular daily routines. A Doberman's daily routine definitely must include some form of exercise, preferably morning and evening. The ideal would be time to run and play in a secure fenced area; at least a half hour in the AM and PM. If you do not have the facilities for that, a brisk morning and evening walk or jog are essential. City dwellers will have to get more creative with providing their high energy, healthy pet a daily opportunity to blow off steam and to stay in condition, maybe a treadmill dog jogger, or a local basketball court where a ball or frisbee can be safely chased.

What toys and supplies do I need to buy?

Different dogs like different types of toys. Most Dobermans like toys that they can fetch. It is a good idea to teach your dog early on to chew on the proper toys that will result in good dental health. Hard nylon chew toys or sterilized bones are good for helping reduce the tartar on their teeth. Not all dogs like to chew on these types of things and they must be encouraged to do so. Some dog treats such as rawhide bones and rope toys should be given to the dog only when supervised. These types of toys can be dangerous if the dog eats them rather than just chewing them and most Dobermans are inclined to do this. Some dogs savour their treats and simply enjoy chewing them; others simply destroy them and swallow large pieces.

A crate is a must. It should be large enough for the dog to stretch out, stand up and turn around, but not so large that it does not provide the secure 'den' environment that dogs enjoy. There are various types of crates, usually wire or plastic. Different situations call for different crates. Wire affords good circulation, but may not seem as secure to the dog as a plastic crate. Plastic crates are required by the airlines.

Collars with tags marked clearly with the address and contact numbers should be worn by dogs when they are outside. Even safer is a microchip implanted under the skin registered with the AKC's Companion Animal Recovery program. Most veterinarians can provide this service. Be careful of

loose fitting collars and dangling tags when the dog is confined to his crate as there is the possibility of it becoming tangled in the crate and causing harm to the dog. A “choke style” collar is very dangerous when a dog is crated. Only snug fitting, flat collars with nothing dangling or protruding to catch wires should be used. Use discretion with these items.

Are they good with children?

The breed is usually excellent with children when raised with them in an appropriate manner. This is due to their high level of intelligence and their innate desire to function with and for people. They seem to understand that infants and very young ones need care and protection and tend to be tolerant of little ones’ play. This is not to say that an exuberant pup will not knock a toddler down in play or accidentally bite to grab a toy. When visiting a new litter you may find the dam aggressive and protective of her brood and should respect that for what it is. You also may encounter a Doberman alarmed at the antics of small children which should be explainable by asking if the dog has ever been exposed to youngsters. Aggression toward or fear of people of any size or age is not typical Doberman temperament and should be avoided in any dog you may have in your home.

Are they easy to train?

Yes, very, IF you know what you are doing. The Doberman is very intelligent and eager to please. They will work hard for positive reinforcement. They are not generally stubborn or hard-headed. They pick up new exercises very quickly. Due to their high intelligence level, the biggest challenge is to keep them focused, and not let them get away with ‘inventing’ variations to the exercise being taught. Because of the breed’s extreme sensitivity to people the trainer must always be watchful of their own body language and reactions to issues that come up during a training exercise. As a general rule, a calm demeanour providing quick and clear reward for desired behaviour, while ignoring or, if necessary, offering simple verbal correction for undesired behavior, will net you an enthusiastic and talented working partner.

Should I crate train my Doberman?

ABSOLUTELY!! The crate was designed with the Doberman in mind!! If introduced properly and in a positive manner, it becomes a safe haven and a secure ‘den’ for any breed of dog. This way the dog has a place to go when things get too hectic and he needs a break. When he has to travel, his ‘home’ can come with him and he is not unsettled by the situation. He is protected from himself when there is no one to supervise him. It is very unfair to leave a young, unsupervised Doberman alone in the house and expect him to be good! When you come home and he has done something wrong, nobody is happy! When he is safely in his crate and you come home you know that you can enjoy your dog and he can enjoy you without the trauma of a big, unexpected mess. Last, but certainly not least, if your dog is ever ill and is required to stay in a crate, either at home or at the vet, it will help his recovery if he is comfortable resting in his ‘den’ rather than feeling like he is trapped in a cage he is not used to.

Since Dobermans are considered working dogs, is it unfair to purchase one if I just want a companion and don’t have a “job” for it to do?

Dobermans are most commonly thought of as protection companions. This breed was developed with protection in mind and Herr Louis Dobermann, originator of the Doberman Pinscher, succeeded admirably at what he set out to do. They are also excellent for companionship, for watching over their territory or for almost anything you set your mind to. What is not fair to this breed is to ignore them and sentence them to a sedentary life with limited human companionship. If you can find activities in your life which afford the dog the opportunity to work with and for you, you will

have a happy and well-adjusted animal no matter what that activity may be. The temperament, physical and intelligence of this breed allow the Doberman to excel at just about any activity you are interested in that can include a dog.

How do I find a responsible breeder and what health issues should I ask about?

The DPCA provides Breeder Referral contacts and can furnish you with lists of breeders in your area and guidance through your search for a healthy dog with the characteristics you are looking for. The Doberman, unfortunately, like most breeds, has its share of genetic problems so there are many health clearances which breeders can and should provide. At a minimum ALL breeding stock should be tested and/or certified against:

- Cardiomyopathy - to include a Holter monitor EKG and an ultrasound or sonogram done by a veterinary cardiologist. Cardio tests should be conducted annually or 3 months before a planned breeding. This type of testing should be done in Dobermans as it is better than nothing and you can know that at the time of the breeding or the time of the test whether the heart tested normal; that there were no heart murmurs or abnormally skipping heart beats.
- Von Willebrands disease via DNA test (vWD) - a blood clotting disorder
- X-rays for hip and elbow dysplasia, certified by OFA at or after the age of 2 years
- Annual blood panels for thyroid, kidneys, and liver
- Annual eye exam done by a veterinary ophthalmologist (CERF exam)

Ask breeders questions about the health not only of the sire and dam, but of their siblings and parents, if known. How long did they live? What kind of surgeries have they had?

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting <http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



SO, YOU WANT A DOBERMAN PUPPY?

We thank you for your questions about Doberman Pinchers, and applaud you for not just rushing out, and buying on impulse.

You are right to question the different breeds of dogs, and how they might fit into your house, family, and life style.

Do you live in town or the country? What is your lifestyle, and how will a large, energetic dog fit into that? Dobermans are not known for tolerating temperature extremes. They are considered to be, basically, indoor pets. It can be good to speak with your neighbors before you acquire your new dog. Sometimes fears can be put to rest by discussing this with them first, rather than springing a surprise on them.

Dobermans need to be a part of the family, and don't much like to be left behind....just how on the go are you? Could you take the dog with you on errands? On vacations? Will you be able to handle a dog with this much high energy?

Do you have a fenced yard, or an enclosure? Who will take care of the dog's needs? Will you be working outside of your home? And if so - what will you do with a large dog while you are at work? Many breeders are reluctant to sell or place a Doberman into a home with no fenced yard. Mistakes can and do happen, and many dogs are still killed by automobiles. Investing in an enclosed, fenced area where the dog can eliminate is far better than leaving your dog loose and risking injury, death and potentially hefty veterinarian bills if an accident were to occur. To lose your Doberman to a preventable accident would be heartbreaking for the owners and the breeders. If you are a working parent, who will take care of the Doberman, give her exercise, and take her out to potty during the day? Who will be in charge of walking her in the A.M. rush? Late at night before bed? Who will give her that much needed daily exercise?

Puppy or older dog?

One reason many parents secure a dog is to "teach responsibility" to the child. But most children learn by watching, by example - not by being told to do things. This shifts the responsibility of care back onto a parent's shoulders. If you're a single parent, this can become more of a burden than one may at first realize - especially if you're considering a puppy!

If there are children in the home, an older Doberman may work better than a young puppy. Not every dog of every breed is going to emerge in a cookie cutter mold, personality-wise. A puppy might grow up to be very protective, so that if you have visitors, your Doberman might need to be monitored. When you take in an older Doberman, you have a better idea of what the individual dog is going to be tolerant of, and usually know in advance, what she doesn't find acceptable. You'll have more of a finished product, so to speak.

Do you have a dog trainer already lined up, to help you with problems, and training classes for your Doberman Pinscher? Walking nicely on the leash is fairly dependent on how well the dog is trained

to walk on leash. Generally, a well trained dog is a joy to live with, and many behavioral problems are solved, simply by thoroughly obedience training your Doberman. You'll want to have spent time watching different classes, and observing different techniques, talking to different instructors prior to bringing your new dog home. This is an area where comparison shopping is key, not money-wise, but quality-wise.

Do you have children?

I think the age of your children could be a very important factor in the decision to bring home a dog.... How old are they? Puppies and babies are not really a good combination. While many have an idealized vision of their family – dog and child – growing up together, it's more frequently a case of the blind leading the blind, and can have some problematic consequences. Again, a Doberman Pinscher is a high energy animal requiring time, patience and attention. Raising a puppy with a baby in your home, is a challenge that MOST people should not take on.

There are some medical conditions that can arise in Dobermans.... Some of those may come on as they get older. Are you aware of what these might be? Please do explore our web sites for more information on this, as well other Doberman related issues.

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting
<http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us
on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



FINDING REPUTABLE BREEDERS

How do you, as a prospective Doberman Pinscher owner, go about finding a “perfect breeder?” The best answer is to TAKE YOUR TIME and CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE EACH BREEDER!

A “BREEDER” is an ethical, intelligent and caring individual, whose involvement in the Doberman Breed is driven by LOVE for the Breed – they want to PROTECT & ONLY DO WHAT’S RIGHT for the Breed. They have invested years of their time and dedicated large sums of money to exhibit their Dobermans to the highest levels of achievement in the various venues that allow them to select only the “BEST and most SUPERIOR” Dobermans to continue the propagation of the breed.

A “BREEDER” cares about the QUALITY of the Dobermans they breed. They research pedigrees and search for the “right” BLOODLINES to combine. They are looking only for the very BEST that the breed has to offer – because only in this way will the Doberman Pinscher continue to improve and the problems that are innately there be corrected.

A “BREEDER” should be familiar with the Dobermans in the pedigrees they are using to enhance their breeding plan. Because they are concerned about HEALTH PROBLEMS in the breed, they test and screen and expect the other BREEDERS that they associate with and have business dealings with to care enough to do the same.

REPUTABLE BREEDERS want what’s best for the Doberman Breed, and so they associate themselves with Organizations that seek to “promote, protect and improve” the Doberman such as the DOBERMAN PINSCHER CLUB OF AMERICA (DPCA) and CHAPTER CLUBS that are associated with the DPCA. Many REPUTABLE BREEDERS are also associated with ALL- BREED KENNEL CLUBS in their area. This shows that the Breeder is involved and concerned about the over-all dog community.

TALK TO THE BREEDER at length. Ask about their AFFILIATION with the DPCA. It would be a good starting point that the Breeder you buy a puppy from belongs to the DPCA. The DPCA has a code of ethical guidelines that its membership abides by concerning breeding, puppy sales and other matters taken serious by breeders who feel a sense of responsibility for the puppies they bring into the world. Many DPCA members also belong to local Doberman Chapter Clubs – ASK THE BREEDER IF THEY BELONG TO THE DPCA OR A CHAPTER CLUB. If in doubt, contact the DPCA to inquire and check their MEMBERSHIP. This doesn’t GUARANTEE that every member is an exceptional BREEDER – but it does say that they care enough to pay their dues every year and take the oath to follow the CODE OF ETHICS in their dealings with their Dobermans and the PUBLIC as well as fellow members.

Ask about their LENGTH OF TIME in the Breed. Ask about their SUCCESS in the CONFORMATION, OBEDIENCE OR AGILITY VENUES. Ask how many CHAMPIONS they have bred and if the SIRE (father) and DAM (mother) of the puppies are CHAMPIONS. Ask to SEE the REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES of the DAM and the PUPPY REGISTRATION PAPERS (first step in permanent registration) for the puppies. If the REGISTRATION PAPERS are not

available make sure you have the FULL name and REGISTRATION NUMBERS FOR BOTH SIRE AND DAM. WITHOUT THESE, YOU CANNOT “TRACK” THE REGISTRATION PROCESS AND CHECK ON YOUR PUPPY’S REGISTRATION. A reputable Breeder will have all these papers in order for you to see and examine. Make sure you also have a copy of the puppy’s “PEDIGREE.” The PEDIGREE is NOT the REGISTRATION of the puppy. It only tells you the puppy’s lineage – its parents (Sire & Dam), it’s grand parents, it’s great grand parents, and so forth. Most breeders will give you a 4 or 5 generation PEDIGREE for your records.

People who are “BACKYARD BREEDERS” OR “BYBs” don’t care about all the showing and expense of truly promoting the Breed. They generally want to make money without having to invest their own time and “BLOOD, SWEAT and TEARS” into properly breeding and raising a litter of Dobermans. Most BYBs DON’T CROP the ears of their puppies. They usually sell them right after they are weaned and after their first shots so they don’t have the added expense and worry and work of cropping and taping a litter of puppies. EXAMINE the PEDIGREE and the REGISTRATION PAPERS closely. If the Sire and Dam and the Dobermans in the PEDIGREE are “CHAMPIONS,” each name will have a CH. in front of the registered name. An example would be: Ch. Red Boy’s Pretty Girl. If the Dobermans in the Pedigree and on the Registration Papers have other working degrees, they will come after the name of the Doberman, such as: Ch. Red Boy’s Pretty Girl, CD, NA, TT

If the Pedigree and the Registration Papers don’t have the “CH.” or working titles such as “CD, CDX, NA,” the Doberman is NOT a Champion and does NOT have working titles. LACK OF these titles is often a “RED FLAG” and it may mean the Breeder is simply not concerned with improving the breed. Not all Quality Dobermans necessarily have a title either in Conformation or in the Working venues. Some have the CH. and no working titles. Some have a working title but no CH. title. But when you see the pedigree FULL of dogs that have obviously been taken out and campaigned for their titles, it says the breeder cares about these venues that enhance the testing of the dog’s abilities.

Don’t be fooled into thinking that some of the “Registry” letters in front of a Doberman’s REGISTERED NAME is a “TITLE” of some kind. Unscrupulous breeders often put these in FRONT of the name of the Doberman because they are trying to fool the buyer into thinking it is the same as a CHAMPIONSHIP bestowed by the AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB or the CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB!! “BEWARE”!! It will look like this: CKC, FCI Mr. I’m Lookin Good. The letters SEEM like they mean something impressive, but the breeder is just trying to make it appear that the dog is more than it is! SO, BE CAREFUL!! ASK QUESTIONS!! A successful Breeder should have MANY PHOTOS of their Dobermans from the SHOW OR WORKING VENUES. If there are just a bunch of cute photos of “Susie” lounging in the grass, or sleeping on the sofa – “RED FLAG”.

Contracts are encouraged by the DPCA CODE of ETHICS, because they spell out the terms of the sale of the puppy. It is clearly stated what each party is expected to abide by and there are no assumptions by either the buyer or seller. When you talk to a Breeder and they say they have a contract for the sale of their puppies, this is a good thing, as it is protection for both parties. Many “BYBs” don’t worry or care what happens after the puppy is sold. They have their “money” and “BUYER BEWARE !”

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting
<http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us
on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>



“WARLOCK” DOBERMANS

What IS a “Warlock” Anyway?

The quest for Warlock Doberman Pinschers began years ago as an “urban legend” initiated by less than scrupulous breeders. As a result, many today define the “Warlock” as a Doberman Pinscher in giant-form with familial ties to a long-deceased, but famous Doberman named Ch. Borong the Warlock (more about him later!). This definition is laced with a host of inaccuracies, myths and out-right lies.

While there appears to be quite a demand for these oversized Dobermans, the fact remains that our breed is *medium-sized* by design. The larger the Doberman – above the ideal height of 27 1/2 inches at the shoulder for males and 25 1/2 inches at the shoulder for females – the greater the loss of agility and speed. These traits are necessary for a guard dog that needs to be able to maneuver with ease to protect or pursue possible assailants. In fact, these characteristics are considered so inherent to the breed that its standard – a “blueprint” that informs what a Doberman Pinscher is, how it looks, moves and behaves – emphasizes size in the first few lines. The standard reads:

“The appearance is that of a dog of *medium-sized*, with a body that is square. Compactly built, muscular and powerful, for great endurance and speed. Elegant in appearance, of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility and temperament. Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient.”

What Inspired the Warlock Doberman Myth?

There was a Doberman male in the 1960’s named Ch. Borong the Warlock. He was famous and, in his day, highly sought-after by Doberman breeders as a stud dog. As a result, he produced many offspring.

A number of reputable breeders that had this male in their pedigrees advertised their “Warlock” bloodlines. “BYBs” or BACKYARD BREEDERS – who primarily focus on making a quick “dollar” from their litters rather than serving as good stewards of their breed – realized that this was a selling point and started using the word “Warlock” as part of their sales pitch. The term took on a life of its own.

Suddenly “Warlock” was positioned as synonymous with better bloodlines, higher quality, and of course, bigger and better watchdogs. The term stuck and has since evolved as a direct reference to the giant Doberman – one that because of its supposed “rarity” and implied value as a guard dog could command a higher price. In fact, many of these so-called Warlocks were actually offspring of Dobermans bred to Great Danes or Rottweilers – not purebred dogs at all.

Guidance for Puppy Buyers

There are breeders today that continue to advertise to the public about having “Warlock” Dobermans. People think they are RARE, SPECIAL, MORE VALUABLE AND PAY LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY for these Dobermans. Please be advised – there is no such thing as a Warlock Doberman – other than what an exploiter or backyard breeder makes up.

The “WARLOCK” is a GIMMICK used to sell puppies to the unsuspecting public. NO REPUTABLE BREEDER WOULD EVER ADVERTISE THEIR PUPPIES OR ADULTS AS “WARLOCKS.” Please AVOID any breeder or kennel that advertises “WARLOCK” Dobermans.

Learn more about our organization and the Doberman Pinscher breed by visiting <http://dpca.org/> or you can connect with us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>

About the Doberman Pinscher Club of America

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America is a nonprofit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. It is a national club composed of more than 2,000 members from almost all of the 50 states. It also has many members in foreign countries and is the “parent” organization of 58 Chapter Clubs located throughout the United States. The DPCA is a member of the American Kennel Club and, as such, is the only national Doberman breed club which is recognized and sanctioned by the AKC. The major objective of the Club is to encourage and promote purebred Doberman Pinschers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.