

THE BRITTANY - FACTS ABOUT THE BREED:

- **The Brittany is not a Spaniel**, and since 1982 the official AKC name of the breed has been the "Brittany". Like the other pointing breeds within the sporting group, the Brittany uses his keen nose, natural intelligence, and athletic ability to cover great parcels of ground to hunt upland game birds. When the Brittany's nose finds a bird or covey of birds, he locks up "on point", and the stylish posture with great intensity leaves no doubt as the capability of this breed as a fine hunting companion. Upon establishing point, the well trained Brittany waits for the handler/hunter to walk in front of him and flush the birds, shoot, and give a command for the retrieve. Only when released, does the Brittany break his stylish point, make a snappy retrieve of the downed bird, and then happily take off in pursuit of more birds.
- **The Brittany was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1934**, after dogs from France were imported to the United States. There are two distinct "types" of Brittany's now in the US, the French and the American. The AKC will register a dog of French origin, but if it has black in the nose or coat, the dog may not be entered in conformation shows. The AKC standard for the breed (established by the American Brittany Club, and approved by the AKC) considers black in the nose or coat to be a disqualifying fault.
- **Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD) is found in approximately 16%** of the 600+ Brittany x-rays submitted to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) each year. The actual incidence is even higher, because owners of dogs with poor hips as diagnosed by a local veterinarian usually do not send those x-rays to OFA, knowing the dog will not "pass". CHD is a degenerative disease that can cause pain and lameness, and is a serious concern for responsible breeders. Ask to see OFA certifications on both sire and dam, before you consider purchasing a puppy. For more information about CHD, visit the OFA at www.offa.org.

AKC Popularity Ranking (150 breeds), Individual Dog Registrations & Brittany Title Statistics:

2002 Ranking	Selected Sporting Breeds	# of Individual Dogs Registered by Year				
		2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
1	Labrador Retriever	154,616	165,970	172,841	154,897	157,936
2	Golden Retriever	56,124	62,497	66,300	62,652	65,681
	(All Pointing Breeds Below)					
22	German Shorthaired Pointer	12,174	12,884	13,224	12,325	12,927
29	Weimaraner	8774	8964	9126	8124	8119
30	Brittany	7846	8465	9230	8646	9252
46	Vizsla	3106	3235	3224	3005	2902
59	Irish Setter	1816	1905	1946	1886	1960
76	German Wirehaired Pointer	1240	1333	1317	1417	1254
84	Gordon Setter	866	965	976	969	1107
93	English Setter	617	721	689	684	722
100	Pointer	535	519	521	524	583
115	Spinoni Italiani	242	180	55		
	Brittany % of all pointing breeds	21.1%	21.6%	22.9%	23.0%	23.8%

- **Brittanys boast more Dual Champions (CH & FC titles) than all other sporting breeds combined.** There are over 460 Brittany DC's since the first in 1938, including 89 in the last eight years. Several Dual Champions have Best in Show wins, or National Field Champion titles.

Titles	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
Dual Champion (DC)	11	8	13	21	3	12	13	8
Champion (CH)	181	147	154	170	166	173	173	170
Field Champion (FC)	55	57	80	76	73	51	48	70
Amateur Field Champion (AFC)	43	40	43	43	42	27	36	26
Master Hunter	14	14	12	9	22	18	22	12
Senior Hunter	37	36	26	27	26	26	39	29
Junior Hunter	180	188	158	136	144	180	195	175

- **An average litter has 6 to 7 puppies**, yet litter vs. individual dog registrations indicate that less than 4 puppies per litter are AKC registered. Registration offers many benefits, for just a one-time fee of \$15.
- **There are two major Brittany rescue organizations**, American Brittany Rescue (ABR) and the National Association of Brittany Rescue (NABR). Both volunteer organizations are overwhelmed with purebred Brittanys in need of permanent homes with families who understand the active lifestyle of the breed. Visit www.americanbrittanyrescue.com or www.brittanyrescue.com and complete an online adoption application if you are interested in fostering or adopting a Brittany currently in Rescue.
- **The American Brittany Club (ABC)** was founded on May 16, 1942 in Detroit, Michigan. Today the ABC serves as the parent organization to more than 80 local and regional Brittany clubs with over 2600 members around the United States. The ABC is a member of the American Kennel Club, and is the recognized breed sponsor by the American Field.
- **The ABC National Amateur and Open Field Trial Championships and National Specialty Show** are held in Arkansas each year beginning the week of Thanksgiving. These events attract over 400 dogs and their owners, from all over the United States, and last for two full weeks. The 2003 National Specialty Show will be in Fort Smith, AR, November 29-30. The Field Championships are near Booneville, at the J. Perry Mikles Wildlife Area; the Amateur will be November 24-28, and the Open will be December 1-5.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT or READ:

www.brittanybreed.info/index.html

<http://clubs.akc.org/brit>

www.brittany.org

www.brittanyrescue.com AND www.americanbrittanyrescue.com

"The New Complete Brittany", by Maxwell Riddle (Howell Book House, NY, 1987)
"A New Owner's Guide to Brittanys", by Beverly Millette (T.F.H. Publications, NY)
"The Book of the American Brittany", by Rheta Cartmell (available only thru the ABC)

If you are interested in obtaining a Brittany puppy, the best place to meet Brittany breeders is at a dog show or field trial. (Almost all breeders of show & field trial prospects will place some puppies in a loving "pet home".) The AKC web site (www.akc.org) provides complete upcoming event information, nationwide. For shows, find out what time the Brittanys are scheduled, and after the Best of Breed dog is chosen, introduce yourself to the exhibitors. If you'd like to check out a field trial, contact the Field Trial Secretary for directions to the grounds. You'll find most Brittany owners are nice people, and excited to share their enthusiasm for the breed with new fanciers. Be patient in your search, as many breeders have waiting lists. If you're ready to add a Brittany to your family right now, please consider adopting a Rescue Britt. Filling out an online adoption application will put you in contact with a volunteer in your area.

If you or someone you know owns a Brittany and would like to join a local or regional Brittany Club, please contact the club secretary. All local and regional club secretaries are listed on the ABC's web site. Annual membership is just \$25, and includes a 50+ page monthly magazine.

Thank you for your interest in the Brittany, and especially for your careful consideration before buying or breeding. Brittanys live to be 12-15 years old, and deserve a lifetime home with a family (or individual) that appreciates the active lifestyle of this marvelous breed.

This information is presented by Vicki Rittner, a long time Brittany enthusiast and occasional breeder.

Vicki and her husband Marc have seven Brittanys, ages 0 to 12 years.

Past and present dogs owned by the Rittners have earned CH, FC, AFC, and MH titles.

Their dogs have competed in field trials in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Arkansas, Alabama, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California.

The Rittners live in the Los Angeles area and in addition to the dogs, include two Tennessee Walking horses as part of the family.

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