

Congratulations on Your New Border Terrier

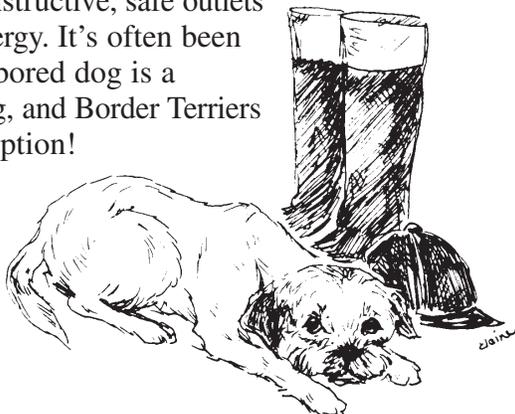


Beneath the charming, sometimes scruffy appearance of our Border Terriers beats the heart of a hunter. Its heart is also loyal to his master and willing to please if given the chance to do so. Your Border Terrier also has a quick, clever mind and an often independent spirit. Building a solid, trusting relationship with your new dog begins as soon as you bring him home from the breeder's, and time invested in getting off to a good start will pay off for the 12, 15 or even more years that your Border Terrier will share your life.

The Border Terrier gets its name from the region where it was developed, in the border country where England and Scotland meet. There, the hill foxes preyed upon livestock, and farmers needed a dog small enough to go to ground after the fox, but tough enough to hold its own in a quarrel if the fox would not bolt from its den. They also needed a dog with enough leg under him to keep up with the horses and hounds on the hunt in the rugged hill country.

The Border Terrier was developed to meet these needs, with its physical and temperamental characteristics carefully selected to produce a game dog who is "hard as nails and driving in attack" in the field, yet also a biddable companion to its master and able to work effectively with other dogs.

Today, more often than not, Border Terriers are first and foremost our companions. They are happy to work with us in nearly any role we ask of them—from cherished pets to therapy dogs, breed champions, working terriers, or performance and companion event competitors. That said, they do retain the strong hunting instinct they were bred for, and need to have constructive, safe outlets for their energy. It's often been said that a bored dog is a naughty dog, and Border Terriers are no exception!



Our terriers' versatility enables them to be successful in many fields; our challenge as owners is to provide them with the opportunities to live up to our expectations and to their potential.

Raise a healthy, happy pup

During its first weeks of life, your pup has learned to eat solid food, communicate with its mother and littermates, interact with people, and other basic skills. When your pup comes to your home, you will take over as the primary teacher. You'll take the lead, and you'll have lots of help along the way.

Your dog's **breeder** is a wonderful source of information about your dog and the breed in general. If he or she lives nearby, you can visit for tips on grooming, training, and basic health issues. They may also be able to connect you with other Border Terrier breeders and owners who will be able to offer tips, experience, and support.

All puppies should be permanently identified (microchip or tattoo) either by the breeder or the new owner and have their information registered with **AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR)**. AKC CAR provides recovery services 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year. Visit www.akccar.org or call 1-800-252-7894 for information on this valuable resource that could ensure your dog's safe return should he escape or be lost.

You will need to find a **veterinarian** you are comfortable working with. Your puppy needs to have his vaccination schedule supervised, as well as regular checkups, preventative care, and arranging for spaying or neutering.

You will also need to make sure that your pup has frequent and varied opportunities to encounter new people, animals and situations. A **dog club** or **trainer**



can provide a good opportunity to get your pup started on training and socialization, and connect you with other “dog people” in your area. Look for a club or trainer who understands that terriers are wonderful students, even though they may have a different way of learning than do the sporting, herding and other breeds.

Because of their versatility, Border Terriers can participate in a wide variety of events such as earthdog, obedience, rally, agility, flyball, and tracking. Information on these events and how to get started can be found on the American Kennel Club (AKC) Web site at www.clubs.akc.org.

Exercise—Border Terriers are happiest when they have plenty of opportunity to exercise their bodies and minds. They will instinctively chase small animals that they deem prey; so they need to be walked on leash and exercised in a securely fenced area. Far too many Border Terriers have fallen prey to the automobile as a result of their desire to chase and hunt. Training and exercising together builds the bond between you and your dog, and your vigilance is his best protection from his own instincts.

Grooming—Border Terriers have a wiry outer coat and a soft undercoat that protects them well. The wiry coat should be “stripped” a couple of times yearly, and weekly brushing should keep your pup’s coat in good condition.

Food—Your dog’s breeder or your veterinarian may recommend a specific food for your dog and can help you find other quality foods available locally. Border Terriers are well known for their appetites and are often quite happy to overeat. Even an extra pound or two is significant for a small dog’s health and well-being, so keep a close eye on your pup’s diet. Because they have large teeth for a small dog, Borders can easily chew and consume chew toys/chew sticks that may be recommended for a small dog. This puts your Border at risk of choking or intestinal blockage.

Following your breeder’s recommendations and supervising chewing activity will prevent a possible tragedy.

BTCA

The Border Terrier Club of America (BTCA) is an excellent source of information and ideas for you and your Border Terrier, including information or links to information on many of the topics touched on in this leaflet.

There are currently more than 800 BTCA members across the United States and abroad. There are also Regional Border Terrier Clubs—there may even be one in your area. Even if you do not anticipate competing in any events with your Border, joining a local club can provide a wonderful opportunity to meet with and learn from other Border enthusiasts. You will soon find that most Border Terrier people are happy to share their knowledge, experience, and stories with other Border folks.

Border Terrier events tend to be great social occasions, and whether you participate or just hang out, they can be a great day out for you and your dog.

Many BTCA members individually or collectively support health research for Border Terriers through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation will help ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research for the Border Terriers, see www.akcchf.org or call toll-free 1-888-682-9696.

Visit Us!

We encourage you to come and visit us at the Border Terrier club of America Web site:

www.btcoa.org

