

Kennel Clubs, dog registration and pedigrees

A dog registration in the AKC ([American Kennel Club](#)) the UKC ([United Kennel Club](#)), CKC ([Canadian Kennel Club](#)) or CKC (Continental Kennel Club) in that order are the better known registrations, as these are truly devoted to the betterment of breeds and have stood the test of time.

But, registration or "papers" should never be the defining point that causes you to choose one breeder or dog over another. AKC, UKC, or CKC are kennel clubs with incredibly strict requirements to register a puppy. AKC, UKC, or CKC are more designated for show dogs. Unless you are going purchase a puppy for show purposes you do not need to select a puppy that is AKC, UKC, or CKC registered. Puppies registered with lesser known kennel clubs are equally as good.

The world renowned internet encyclopedia Wikipedia, website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Kennel_Club corroborate the significance of a American Kennel Club (AKC) registry.

“The AKC is not the only registry of purebred dogs, but it is the one with which most Americans are familiar. For a dog to be registered with the AKC, the dog's parents must be registered with the AKC as the same breed, and the litter in which the dog is born must be registered with the AKC.”

“Registration indicates only that the dog's parents were registered as one recognized breed; it does not necessarily indicate that the dog comes from healthy or show-quality blood lines. Nor is registration necessarily a reflection on the quality of the breeder or how the puppy was raised.”

A kennel club is usually devoted to the betterment of purebred dogs, either for many breeds or for a single breed. They can be national or local, but their mission is to define breed standards and/or working standards, and to provide competitions that demonstrate how well the dogs meet those standards. It is a gathering place for people and dogs to meet and exchange ideas and concerns; they provide health and breeding guidance, standards for breeding, and work to protect the breed's welfare and betterment.

As previously mentioned, a function of a kennel club, and sometimes a breed club, may be to register dogs -- this simply means to keep records on specific dogs. It is not a certification of anything more than the dog's records are maintained by some recognized entity. While the AKC, UKC, or CKC are more specific in their registration requirements, and may have more "weight" in a buyer's mind than a lesser known organization, they remain only record keepers and do not guarantee the quality of the dog. Most of their information is provided by the breeder with little to zero investigation unless something appears questionable.

The most common registry method is to provide a temporary registration of a litter followed by a full or limited registration of the dog by its final owner. A full registration of a dog permits for registration of any litters produced by that dog. A limited registration indicates that the new owner shouldn't breed the dog, and any litters cannot be registered. Only the original breeder can change a limited registration to a full registration.

Clubs other than the AKC, UKC, or CKC may register dogs not "recognized" by these clubs. They should have a mission statement that promotes good breeding practices, a breed and/or work "standard", and should sponsor competitions that test the dogs to the standards.

Don't buy a dog simply because it is registered or "has papers" of AKC, UKC, or CKC. Here are some other kennel clubs/registries

American Border Collie Association

American Bulldog Association

American Canine Association (ACA)

American Dog Breeders Association (ADBA)

American Field Dog Registry

American Kennel Club (AKC)

American Pet Registry (APR or APRI)

Animal Research Foundation

Australian Shepherd Kennel Club of America

Boykin Spaniel Society

Continental Kennel Club (CKC)

Federation Cynological International (FCI)

Jack Russell Terrier Club of American (JRTCA)

Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America

National Greyhound Association

National Stock Dog Registry

United Canine Association

Universal Kennel Club

World Wide Kennel Club