



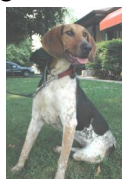
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Dog Adoption – Hound Dog Traits – Hound Dog Adoption

Hound Dog adoption - Heartland Animal Shelter frequently rescues foxhounds and coonhounds, which are bred as hunting dogs in some of the rural areas in Kentucky and southern Indiana and Illinois from which many of our dogs come. Breeds that have passed through Heartland include the American English Coonhound, American Foxhound, Black & Tan Coonhound, Bluetick Coonhound and Treeing Walker Coonhound. For the sake of this article, we'll refer to them as hound dogs. These are beautiful, energetic dogs that can make wonderful family companions but, if you're thinking about a hound dog adoption, you need to understand the main hound dog traits.

- **Hound Dogs are hunters that track by scent** – An important Hound Dog trait is that Foxhounds and coonhounds are scent hounds, developed to track and trail prey by following their noses. They are natural hunters that love to follow a scent and should be constrained or under your control at all times, either leashed or within a securely fenced yard. Although some can be trained to stay by your side off leash, many (if not most) will just run off after a scent. Never forget after a hound dog adoption that a free running hound may end up as a stray in another shelter – or, worse, be hit by a passing car.
- **Hound Dogs are pack animals** – Because of this Hound Dog trait, it's important to remember they need the companionship of other dogs and people and don't like being left alone for long periods of time. Hound dogs are generally good with other dogs and children, although they may exhibit strong hunting instincts with other small animals and should not be left alone with small pets such as cats and rabbits. Remember after a Hound Dog adoption that while some are a bit aloof, most love human contact and are affectionate with their people.
- **Hound Dogs make great family pets if they have a secure area to roam** – Consider a hound dog adoption if you are able to give them plenty of vigorous exercise and mental stimulation daily. Because of their energy and social nature, hound dogs make great family pets and do their best when they have a large yard where they can run and sniff and work off their energy – especially if not used for hunting. Keep them stimulated because hound dogs may bark or bay and can become destructive when bored or lonely. Because of these hound dog traits, they are not ideal dogs for apartments or condos.
- **Hound dogs are independent and may be hard to train** – Hound dog traits that make training difficult include their high intelligence, their independent nature, and their stubbornness. They respond well to treat- and praise-based training; they do not respond well to punishment-based training. If you move ahead with a hound dog adoption, be gentle but firm, and make sure your dog knows who is – and who is not – leader of the pack in your household.

Information sources: [ASPCA Complete Guide to Dogs](#) by Sheldon L. Gerstenfeld, DVM; [Dogs for Kids: Everything You Need to Know About Dogs](#) by Kristin Mehus-Roe; Dogtime.com (American Foxhound); [The Illustrated Directory of Dogs](#) by Juliette Cunliffe; and Northwest Coonhound Rescue.



Key words - American English Coonhound adoption, American Foxhound adoption, Black & Tan Coonhound adoption, Bluetick Coonhound adoption and Treeing Walker Coonhound adoption.

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