

# Rottweiler Club of New South Wales Inc

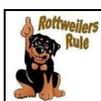


## Promoting Responsible Ownership



For a list of current RCNSW  
Office Bearers, Email Addresses and  
Club Obedience Training Night Information  
Please Visit  
[www.rcnsw.com](http://www.rcnsw.com)

**Planning a holiday? Take your dog with you or make sure they  
are in the care of a responsible person**



# Rottweiler Club of New South Wales Inc



**THE ROTTWEILER CLUB OF NSW AIMS TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT, DEVELOPMENT & WELFARE OF THE ROTTWEILER THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP**

## **A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ROTTWEILER AS TAKEN FROM THE ANKC WEBSITE**

### **A BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

The Rottweiler is considered to be one of the oldest breeds of dogs. Its origin goes back to the Roman times. These dogs were kept as herder or driving dogs. They marched over the Alps with the Roman legions, protecting the humans and driving their cattle. In the region of Rottweil, these dogs met and mixed with the native dogs in a natural crossing.

The main task of the Rottweiler now became the driving and guarding of the herds of cattle and the defence of their masters and their property. The breed acquired its name from the old free city of Rottweil, and became known as the "Rottweil Butchers Dog". The butchers bred this type of dog purely for performance and usefulness. In due course, a first rate watch and driving dog evolved which could also be used as a draft dog.

When, at the beginning of the twentieth century, various breeds were needed for the police service, the Rottweiler was amongst those tested. It soon became evident that the breed was highly suitable for the task set by the police service and therefore they were officially recognised as police dogs in 1910.

### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

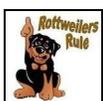
The Rottweiler is a medium to large size, stalwart dog, neither heavy nor light and neither leggy nor weedy. His correctly proportioned, compact and powerful build leads to the conclusion of great strength, agility and endurance.

### **CHARACTERISTICS**

Rottweiler breeders aim for a dog of abundant strength, black coated with clearly defined rich tan markings, whose powerful appearance does not lack nobility and which is exceptionally well suited to being a Companion, Service and Working Dog.

### **TEMPERAMENT**

**Behaviour and Character.** Being good natured, placid in basic disposition and fond of children. he is very devoted, obedient, biddable and eager to work. His appearance is natural and rustic, his behaviour self assured, steady and fearless. He reacts to his surroundings with great alertness.



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## SO YOU WANT TO BUY A ROTTWEILER

### A LITTLE INFORMATION WHICH MAY HELP WITH YOUR DECISION

Not everyone is suited to own a Rottweiler. Ideally a Rottweiler should be owned by a mature, reasonably active; adult who processes the time and willingness to provide their dog with the training, socialising and exercise that is vital for producing a calm well adjusted companion.

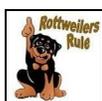
### POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ **A male Rottweiler can be up to 68cm at the shoulder and weigh approximately 50 – 55kgs. Bitches are smaller and lighter weighing around the 40kg mark. A healthy fit Rottweilers lifespan is approximately 10 to 12 years. This means that your little puppy will grow into a sizable adult which you will have a responsibility to for many years.**
- ❖ **The Rottweiler has great strength, mentally and physically, therefore is not suited for frail or weak people.**
- ❖ **The Rottweiler is not suitable for nervous, easily intimidated people as they need a strong leader that they will respect.**
- ❖ **The Rottweiler is a working dog that needs plenty of exercise. To leave a bored dog in a backyard by itself for long periods at a time is just asking for trouble. When bored they will find something to keep themselves amused this is usually something undesirable such excessive chewing, digging, barking and pulling clothes off the line. If your lifestyle suggests that you have little time to exercise and train your dog then a Rottweiler is not for you.**
- ❖ **If you are just looking for an alarm system to leave in your yard then a Rottweiler is not for you.**

### WHERE TO PURCHASE YOUR PUPPY

As a prospective puppy buyer it is very important that you do your research and ask lots of questions before you buy a Rottweiler. The information you gather will enable you to make an informed decision. If you rush into buying a Rottweiler you may regret your decision later. Talk to several breeders to help determine what style of dog or bitch would suit you and your family. Indeed, after meeting lots of Rottweilers and their families you will know if a Rottweiler is the right dog for you. Get as much information from the breeder as you can. This should include information on the pedigree and any hereditary problems or faults within that particular bloodline.

The Rottweiler Club of NSW can provide you with a list of breeders who currently have litters. Call our puppy information officer on (02) 4684 1282. In the event that no puppies are listed with the puppy information officer then you will be given a list of club breeders so that you can contact as many as you like.



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## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN BUYING A ROTTWEILER

### **WHY DID THE BREEDER HAVE THIS PARTICULAR LITTER?**

Matings should always be planned. Just because someone has a bitch or dog does not mean they should be bred. In fact, only first class breeding stock with health clearances should be mated. There are many so called “breeders” around that don’t have the knowledge to be able to make sound decisions in regards to genetic influences etc. Look for a breeder that can discuss their breeding program. They should be able to tell you why they bred from this pair and what qualities they are hoping to obtain from the mating.

### **HOW LONG HAS THE BREEDER BEEN BREEDING AND /OR INVOLVED IN ROTTWEILERS? HOW MANY LITTERS HAVE THEY BRED?**

Experience within the breed is essential. Knowledge of what constitutes good breeding stock and then selectively breeding is what produces sound puppies. You might say a breeder has to start somewhere, and yes this is true but make sure they have done their home work first or have the guidance of a more experienced breeder.

### **BUYING SIGHT UNSEEN OR DOES THE BREEDER ENCOURAGE PROSPECTIVE BUYERS TO VIEW THEIR STOCK AND WHOLE LITTERS**

It is never wise to buy a Rottweiler sight unseen unless you know and trust the breeder 100%. Preferably view the pup’s Sire (father) and Dam (mother), as well as the rest of the litter. If the whole litter is not available to view, ask why. Are there problems the breeder doesn’t want you to see or is it simply that the other pups have already gone to their new homes? Remember a Rottweiler with hereditary diseases, conformation faults or poor temperament should not be bred from as to do so simply passes on the undesirable trait to the next generation. Viewing the parents can give you an idea if they are well adjusted, socialised dogs that are more likely to produce puppies that will fit easily into their new homes. Also check how the puppies have been housed? How much time is spent with them? Are the pups bright eyed, happy and clean? Do they rush happily to meet you? A shy, timid puppy is not showing the true Rottweiler temperament. Rottweilers that are shy, timid adults could become fear biters so be aware. It is paramount that puppies are brought up with lots of handling and different experiences so that they are properly prepared for their new homes and accept human activity as normal.

### **DOES THE BREEDER HAVE A KENNEL PREFIX REGISTERED WITH DOGS NSW OR THE EQUIVALENT IN THEIR STATE?**

If not then they are not a registered breeder and registration papers will not be available. A registered breeder has to abide by a code of ethics

### **DOES THE BREEDER BELONG TO A ROTTWEILER CLUB IN THEIR STATE?**

Membership of a breed club shows a serious interest in the Rottweilers, their welfare and their future. In addition, the Rottweiler club of NSW members have an even stricter Code



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of Ethics to comply with. This helps protect all parties: you, your breeder and the Rottweiler.



## **ARE BOTH THE PARENTS X-RAYED FOR HIP AND ELBOW DYSPLASIA AND DO THEY HAVE AN EYE AND MOUTH CERTIFICATE?**

Hip and Elbow Dysplasia are problems which can effect most large breeds of dogs. The Rottweiler Club of NSW is actively trying to lower the incidence of these diseases via active participation in an assessment scheme, and the enforcement of the Club's Code of Ethics. An example of this is not to allow Rottweilers with high hip or elbow scores to be bred from. This means for hips a dog and bitches combined score must not be over 20 and one hip must not score greater then 12 and either animal must be graded below 4.

Breeders within the Club must comply with this scheme. Breeders who do not belong to a Rottweiler club can have any score and UNREGISTERED BREEDERS don't need to x-ray at all as they have no rules to comply with.

It is a requirement for registered breeder to have dogs and bitches x-rayed before breeding with them. The parents must be tested under official programs (AVA Scheme or designated Radiologists) and positive identification is required in the form of a unique Tattoo or microchip. The hip results must show both the score and the grading, the elbow result must show the grade. The original certificate must be produced for verification.

### **EYE AND MOUTH CERTIFICATE**

It is also a requirement for a registered breeder to obtain an eye and mouth certificate completed by a vet, which shows that the dog or bitch is clear of eye and mouth problems, such as Ectropian/Entropian eyes or incorrect bite (mouth): overshot undershot or missing teeth. A Rottweiler is to have a scissor bite with 42 teeth. Ask to see all these certificates as dogs with these health problems are not to be bred with.

### **HOW OLD IS THE SIRE AND DAM?**

A sire should not be under 12 months old. There is no restriction to the upper age limit of a sire. A dam should be between 24 months and 8 years at the time the litter is born.

### **HOW OFTEN HAS THE DAM HAD A LITTER**

A Bitch should not be bred more than twice in any successive 12 month period. In the event a bitch is bred twice in a 12 month period, then she should not be bred from for the next 12 months after the second litter.

### **DOES THE BREEDER OFFER A GUARANTEE?**

If so, what does it cover? The breeder should fully explain what is covered by any guarantee

### **ARE THE PUPPIES VACCINATIONS UP TO DATE?**

The breeder should have had the pups vaccinated at 6 weeks; this gives the vaccine plenty of time to take effect before the puppies go to their new homes. The breeder



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should supply a vaccination certificate which will have the next vaccination due date recorded on it. They should also explain what vaccine your puppy received.



## **DOES YOUR PUPPY COME WITH WRITTEN INFORMATION FOR YOU TO TAKE HOME?**

It is important for a breeder to give you information on what your puppy is currently being fed and how the diet changes as the puppy grows, how it is wormed, heartworm, vaccinations and other information like basic obedience. This helps ensure a smooth transaction to the puppy's new home. It also helps the new owners to have something to go back to as some information is forgotten with all the excitement of picking up a new puppy. You should also receive a copy of the dog's microchip information which has been transferred to you and sent to council. The registration papers will be given to you at this stage unless the breeder is still waiting for their return from the controlling body

## **WILL THE BREEDER CONTINUE TO ASSIST YOU AS THE PUPPY GROWS INTO AN ADULT, AND THEREAFTER IF REQUIRED?**

A responsible breeder will be available should you have any questions regarding your puppy as it grows into adulthood and thereafter. A responsible breeder would have already taken the time to interview you to make sure that you are aware of what is required of to bring up a healthy, well adjusted dog. They would have also asked about the basic requirements you have to offer the puppy as in fencing, shelter and time.

A responsible breeder will want you to stay in touch, ask questions and let them know how you and your puppy are going. An issue that may really concern you may be easily rectified by the breeder. **BUYERS BEWARE OF BREEDERS THAT WON'T WANT TO KNOW YOU AFTER YOU HAVE PICKED UP YOUR PUPPY**

## **AT WHAT AGE CAN YOU COLLECT YOUR PUPPY?**

A puppy should not leave its litter mates until it is 8 weeks old. Younger puppies do not have their full health protection or correct behavioural patterns established yet.

## **DO YOU SELECT THE PUPPY OR DOES THE BREEDER PICK IT FOR YOU**

Either is acceptable, and may depend on whether you want your pup as a show prospect or as a pet (be sure you understand which it is to be). Some breeders pick the puppies for the buyers and try and match which puppy's temperament they feel suits that particular buyer.

## **HOW MUCH WILL A PUPPY COST?**

These amounts are set by the breeder and can vary drastically. You can expect to pay less for a pet (with limited register papers) than for a show/breeding prospect (with main register papers). The club is aware of prices for a pet between \$500-00 and \$1000-00 and advises prospective buyers to shop around. Please avoid buying your puppy from a pet shop or commercial puppy producer (puppy farmer) this only encourages them to pump out even more puppies, often in poor conditions, at usually exaggerated prices without the benefits that you receive from going to a registered breeder. Eg. High prices, no



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papers, no after sale assistance, no health schemes and breeding from poor stock- the list goes on.



## **DO I BUY A SHOW OR PET QUALITY DOG?**

You only need to buy a show quality puppy if you are really interested in showing or breeding from your dog. Be sure with your decision as you will pay extra for show quality puppy that is, at the time of purchase, of a high enough standard to exhibit or breed from. You must remember that a lot of things contribute to a show/breeding quality puppy. They must have no disqualifying faults, in the way of no white markings, no kinks in the tail, no eye problems, have a scissor bite. Then once their adult teeth come through at approximately 7 months they must still have a scissor bite with all 42 teeth (any missing teeth means no showing and no breeding). Then between the ages of 12 months and about 22 months they need to be hip and elbow x-rayed and scored and obtain an eye and mouth certificate to ensure that they are structurally sound and can be bred from. If all this goes well you still are not guaranteed of owning a world beater.

There are 4 specialty shows held in NSW every year and this can be a great place to visit as you will get to see many different dogs from different kennels and have the opportunity to talk to many breeders

On the other hand if you are after a pet quality puppy you will pay less as sometimes, not always, the puppy has a fault which would prevent it from being shown or bred with but would not affect it in any other way. In some cases the pup has show potential but there might not be enough show home enquiries, in this instance the breeder sells the puppy to a pet home. Main Register puppies have blue registration papers and limited register puppies have orangey red registration papers. Remember only registered breeders can supply these papers.

## **TAIL DOCKING IS PROHIBITED IN NSW.**

Current laws now prohibit the docking of any dog's tail. Please do not ask any breeder to dock the tail of any puppy, as they would be committing an offence if they did so.

For further information please visit this link:

<http://www.ricecrc.org/reader/aw-companion/tail-docking-guide.htm>

Traditionally, tail docking was performed within days of the puppies being born. This was prior to their neurological development and caused no harm or distress to the puppies. If a tail is docked at an older age, this is no longer 'docking' but an amputation.

All forms of docking and amputation are now prohibited by law in NSW for routine, prophylactic or cosmetic reasons, and no ethical breeder or vet will perform this surgery. If the animals wellbeing is at stake-i.e.: dog or puppy has irreparable tail damage, then vets are permitted to perform an amputation, however this must be well documented.



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Please respect the laws and don't promote or request the illegal docking of tails



## **YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES AS A NEW OWNER**

As a Rottweiler owner you have to accept certain responsibilities. With the threat of breed specific legislation it is very important that you take these responsibilities seriously as what you do with your Rottweiler will reflect on the breed as a whole

The Dog Act states that as a dog owner your dog must be micro chipped and transferred into your name (your breeder should have done this and given you a copy). You must register your dog with your local council by the time it is 6 months old. You must have adequate fencing that prevents the dog leaving your property unless under your control and on a lead. You can be held liable if your dog rushes at or attacks a person or animal. You must pick up your dogs droppings so it is wise to take a plastic bag or nappy bag with you on walks. You must have your yard designed so persons can reach your front door. These are a few of your legal requirements and the fines can be harsh if you don't comply. You must also attend to your dog's health needs as well as supplying adequate shelter, a constant supply of fresh water, a suitable diet and regular exercise.

Remember your dog will not get enough exercise by itself. Daily exercise and training are a must to achieve a happy and healthy Rottweiler. Your puppy will need free puppy play (on a non slip surface) and your adult needs you to walk it, ideally for at least an hour a day. Swimming can also be a great exercise just start slowly until your dog gets use to the water. If you think your lifestyle is too busy to adhere to these basic requirements or you can not afford the extra expense of owning a dog then please do not buy one.

## **TRAINING YOUR ROTTWEILER**

The Rottweiler is a working breed and will need firm (not aggressive) guidance and training. Apart from the behaviours learnt from its mum and litter mates, it is vital for your Rottweiler to receive early socialisation. This includes exposure to people and many different experiences. Even before your puppy receives all it's vaccinations you can take it out to see the world by carrying it. You can also have visitors to introduce your puppy to. You need all new experiences to be pleasant, non stressful and non threatening so they learn from positive experiences. As these early teachings are not forgotten you are laying down the foundations on how your dog will react to certain situations as an adult.

The Rottweiler needs a firm consistent leader that is in charge of the dog not the other way around. As pack leader you must win most games you play with your dog.

Remember you own the toys, food etc and should be able to take them away and give them back without your dog complaining and this is something you should start as a puppy. Tone of voice is a very important training tool low tones for undesirable behaviour and high tones for desirable behavior. Short training sessions, so your dog doesn't become bored, with plenty of praise and always finish on a good note. Some dogs



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respond well with food rewards but make sure you're only giving a food reward for desired behaviour and you're not just shoveling rewards at them. Use what works for you. A correctly bred Rottweiler doesn't need to be trained to protect (guard) as this is a natural instinct of the Rottweiler. Please never train your dog while you are tired or angry your dog will get confused and aggression breeds aggression. For Rottweiler Club Training Sessions visit [www.rcnsw.com](http://www.rcnsw.com).



## HEALTH ISSUES

Regular exercise, grooming and good diets are essential for the health of your dog. **Grooming** includes checking of the ears (making sure they are clean and have no discharge), brushing which will loosen and remove hair ready to be dropped (this will help stop hair ending up on your floors also) and will distribute natural oils through the coat making your dogs coat healthier and shiny. Nail clipping (this should be started at an early age so your dog is use to it) be careful not to cut the quick. Ask your breeder to show you how these things are done if you're not sure. A bath about once a month (unless very dirty in between) also keeps your dogs coat healthy. Don't forget also to wash any bedding regularly

Your dog will also need to be **wormed** regularly, your breeder should tell you when your puppy's next all wormer is due, Adults are wormed approximately every 3 months. Worming isn't only important for your dog's health; it is also important because some parasites can be passed on and cause human health problems. You also need to think about **heartworm** prevention. Heartworm is contracted by your dog from mosquitoes and they require year round protection. There are daily heartworm tablets, monthly heartworm prevention or when your puppy is older, about 12 months, your vet can give it a yearly heartworm needle. For convenience there are some products available that treat heartworm, intestinal worms, mite, lice and fleas all in one application but these products usually do not treat ticks or tape worm so you would have treat for tape worm about every 6 months and treat for ticks with a different product. Your breeder and vet can help you with more advice.

**Vaccinations** As discussed, your breeder should have given your puppy its 1<sup>st</sup> Vaccination at about 6 weeks it will be due again around 12 weeks and it is recommended to give a third at 16 weeks as Rottweilers seem to be highly susceptible to the Parvovirus. You can also get you dog vaccinated against kennel cough which is normally given with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination (C5). This is recommended as kennel cough is like our flu and highly contagious.

**Barking Problems in adults** A lot of excessive barking problems can stem from boredom so try taking your dog out for more exercise.

**Puppies crying at bed time** The first few days after you get home you will probably notice you puppy screams the house down when put to bed. This is normal for most; after all they are in a strange environment away from mom and litter mates. Decide where your pup is to sleep (warm & draft free) and when you put it to bed if it starts to cry do not go to it. Some puppies scream for hours, unless you think your puppy is hurt do not go to it.



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If you feel you have to check your puppy is ok because of the noise go to it and in a firm voice say “NO” and walk away and do not go back. If you do keep going back you will just re enforce this behaviour and every time you put puppy to bed it will scream. Usually if you are patient and don't go to your pup every time it cries it will settle into a routine and know it is time to sleep. Remember to toilet your puppy before it goes to bed and as soon as it wakes up.



## EXPLANATION OF SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS KNOWN IN THE ROTTWEILER

Health problems can occur with the Rottweiler, as with any breed. Buying a puppy from a registered breeder that breeds selectively can help to limit the possibility of your puppy developing health problems at a later date due to conditions inherited from its parents.

**HIP DYSLASIA** The term refers to the shape and fit of the Ball of the Femur with the socket of the hip. Some signs to look for are discomfort when running or running holding is back legs together (bunny hopping), discomfort when rising or if your dog seems to be unwilling to use its hind legs.

As discussed the Rottweiler Club of NSW members are obliged to adhere to the strict guide lines and can only breed from stock that has been x-rayed and falls within the set parameters.

### **OSTEOCONDritis (OCD) / ELBOW DYSPLASIA**

This condition usually shows up between 4 and 8 months in rapidly growing puppies. It presents as a lameness and pain in the joint. It can be difficult to diagnose so do not rush into surgery. It is also now a requirement that registered breeders have **all Rottweilers elbows x-rayed before breeding.**

### **CRUCIATE LIGAMENT**

Limping in the hind legs doesn't necessarily mean your dog has hip dysplasia. The anterior cruciate ligament is located in the stifle (Knee) of the dog and is important as it helps keep the knee strong and stabilized when moving. If the ligament tears the knee becomes unstable, inflamed and causes joint damage. This tear can occur due to degenerative changes in the ligament or from an accident which has damaged the ligament. Surgery is required to repair the damage but quite often the knee is never as strong as it was before the tear.

### **ENTROPIAN AND ECTROPIAN**

Entropion is when the eyelid and the eye lashes roll into the eye causing irritation and sometime ulcers and Ectropion is when the eyelid rolls outward causing irritation. Both these conditions require surgery to correct. A registered breeder can not breed with stock that show any of these conditions and must obtain a vet signed eye certificate before using a dog for breeding.

### **TEETH PROBLEMS**

A Rottweiler is required to have a scissor bite to be bred from and a registered breeder must obtain a mouth certificate sign by a vet before breeding can commence. A scissor bite is where the top teeth fit closely over the bottom teeth. There are variations to a scissor bite for e.g.: being undershot, overshot or having a wry mouth these conditions



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don't usually affect the dog except for the fact that it is not permitted to be bred with. A Rottweiler must also have a correct dentition of 42 adult teeth. 20 upper and 22 lower teeth. Missing teeth do not cause the dog problems except this also renders them not suitable to be bred with.



## **BLOAT**

Bloat is a condition where the stomach over-distends with gas and can twist. Large breeds with deep chest are susceptible to this condition. Early signs are restlessness and stomach pain. Then they may begin vomiting, usually saliva, or retching and their discomfort increases until the dog becomes weaker with laboured breathing. The dog can collapse and die, this can happen very quickly so it is a matter of urgency to get your dog to the vet.

## **HEAT STRESS**

Can kill your dog. DO NOT leave your dog in a car even for a short time. Cars heat up very quickly and become furnaces even in the shade. Cool by placing the dog on a cool wet surface and increase the air circulating around, possibly with a fan. Heat stress can cause organs to start shutting down and if this doesn't kill your dog it can cause brain damage.

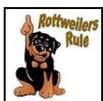
There are many illnesses that can affect a dog; this information is not meant to scare you but to make you aware. Not every little thing will require a vet but use your common sense. You as an owner, hopefully, will spend much more time with your dog than anyone else so are much more likely to know when something isn't quite right.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

There are an infinite amount of subjects and questions regarding Rottweiler ownership making it impossible to cover everything in this informational handout. If you feel you still have any questions or concerns please contact your breeder or the Rottweiler Club of NSW and we will do our best to answer your enquiries.

If after careful consideration and research you find the Rottweiler is the right companion for you and your family, remembering they are not a toy or a child substitute and require a strong pack leader that will keep them safe from harm, then please contact a registered breeder or The Rottweiler Club of NSW who will endeavour to help you find your new companion. Please take your time in choosing a puppy, all puppies are cute, but you need to be happy with your decision so you can have a long, rewarding relationship with your Rottweiler.

**GOOD LUCK**



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THE ROTTWEILER- MORE THAN JUST A DOG!

