

Considerations before owning a Bavarian Mountain Hound

- 1 Do you really need a specialist blood tracking hound?
- 2 Bavarian Mountain Hounds need a great deal of mental and physical exercise. The breed lives for their work.
- 3 Bavarian Mountain Hounds need consistent, patient and thorough training from an early age.
- 4 Bavarian Mountain Hounds need a great deal of contact with their owner, to whom they develop an inseparable bond.
- 5 Bavarian Mountain Hounds can be a vocal breed.
- 6 Bavarian Mountain Hounds are a hound and not a gundog.
- 7 Bavarian Mountain Hounds demonstrate hound traits such as stubbornness and an independent nature. This is more obvious in dogs than bitches.
- 8 Bavarian Mountain Hounds can be very aloof with strangers, conversely they are very loyal and protective of their family.
- 9 Only buy a Bavarian Mountain Hound puppy which has been bred from Kennel Club registered parents that have been BVA hip scored and have passed the Society's Aptitude Test. Beware of inbreeding and cross breeding.



Puppies

Breeders of Bavarian Mountain Hounds in the UK should follow the Society's Ethics, which includes not breeding from hounds that are less than two and a half years old, hounds must be Kennel Club registered, BVA Hip Scored and have passed either the Society's Aptitude Test or a recognised European Schweisshund Test as proof of their working ability. Puppies should also be registered with the Kennel Club.

Bavarian Mountain Hound Society of GB

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- Breed Information -



History

Baron Karg-Bedenburg of Reichenhall, wanted a hound that could work the mountainous regions covered by his wards in Bavaria Germany, so he developed the Bavarian Mountain Hound in the 19th century. He found the much larger Hanovarian Hound too heavy and cumbersome for tracking large game in this environment.

The Bavarian Mountain Hound is the result of various hound crosses, most likely involving the Hanovarian Hound and Tyrolean Hound. Tracking in the rugged Bavarian mountains requires the most agile and determined cold trailing ability, and the Bavarian Mountain Hound fulfils this need with ease.

In the UK, Bavarian Mountain Hounds were first imported in the late 1980s. The breed's reputation for tracking grew amongst deer managers, stalkers, and gamekeepers, with the majority of the breed still being used for their original purpose today.

Classification

Within the UK, the Kennel Club classify the Bavarian Mountain Hound as a hound on the Import Register.

In Europe, with the FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale) the breed is classified as Group 6, Section 2 – Leash Hounds.



Temperament

Bavarian Mountain Hounds on the whole should be calm, devoted to their master, biddable, reserved with strangers and neither shy or aggressive.

Working

Bavarian Mountain Hounds are strong willed specialist hunting hounds who need to be worked regularly, so they are not a suitable breed for the general pet home. The breed are devoted to their job of tracking and locating large wounded game, and to train such a hound requires determination, patience and commitment from the owner.

Schweisshund Tests

The Bavarian Mountain Hound Society runs three levels of tracking tests, which are recognised by the UK Kennel Club:

- Aptitude Schweisshund Test
- Level 1 Schweisshund Test
- Level 2 Schweisshund Test

Each test involves an aged cold scent trail which increases in distance, age and difficulty through the levels.

To complete these tests, hounds need to be a minimum of six months old, and Kennel Club or FCI registered.

Health

Bavarian Mountain Hounds are generally a very healthy, long lived breed with few notable health problems.

Prior to breeding, all Bavarian Mountain Hounds should have been BVA hip scored and passed the Society's Aptitude Test.

Showing

Bavarian Mountain Hounds at present hold an interim UK Kennel Club breed standard and can only be exhibited at Kennel Club shows which hold a class for import registered breeds.