

AKC 125th Anniversary Issue

As part of the celebration of the American Kennel Club's (AKC) 125th anniversary a special issue of the AKC Gazette was published. To celebrate each individual AKC recognized breed, all Gazette columnists were asked to write a 200 word history of their breed. For the first time all breeds would appear in the same issue of the Gazette along with a historical photo of the breed. Here's our Weimaraner column:

Weimaraner

Weimaraner Club of America, formed 1942

AKC recognition: 1943

Secretly developed, linked with nobility, closely guarded from the outside world, we're not talking about a plot for a new action movie. No, it's the earliest history of the Weimaraner. While theories abound about what breeds were used in its development, the truth remains cloaked in mystery and hidden in the hunting history of central Germany's Thuringian forests.

Although the breed characteristics were developed in the early nineteenth century it was not until 1929 that the first Weimaraners reached US shores. It took more than a decade of Herculean efforts by US sportsman Howard Knight to be granted permission from the German Weimaraner Club to bring the first reproductively viable specimens to this country.

World War II gave impetus to getting quality dogs out of Europe and into the relative safety of the US. In the 1950s the Weimaraner became the "dog de jour" and reached the heady heights of being proclaimed the new wonder dog. Outlandish claims of super hunting prowess, uncanny intelligence and trainability over popularized the Weimaraner. As time passed, reality reasserted itself and today the Weimaraner has its place as a versatile hunting breed, an excellent companion and dog sport competitor.