

# Breed Overview

## The Weimaraner (vy-ma-RAH-ner) or (WY-ma-rah-ner)

### Physical Description

The Weimaraner is a medium-sized shorthaired breed of the general gundog type. The breed's hallmark is its silver-gray color, which is darkest along the topline, lighter on the sides and legs and lightest on the ears and across the skull.

In addition to its unique color, several distinctive physical traits can be observed in the modern breed. The head is characterized by flat cheeks, rather deep median line of the forehead and pronounced occipital bone. No other sporting breed has ears quite like the Weimaraner's long, thin, high-set ears. In addition the Weimaraner's devotion to owners is a consistent motif in the literature as is the breed's exceptional tracking ability.

### Traits

The Weimaraner is an excellent household companion, but needs to be taught household manners. Weimaraner puppies should be obedience trained. They are eager to please and willing to be good if owners take the time to teach them a few basic commands and supervise them closely until they understand expectations. The Weimaraner is considered the finest of all gundogs; the price is human companionship and a place in the home. This is not a breed that can be kept in the kennel between hunting seasons.

### Breed History

King Louis IX of France (1226-1270), better known as Saint Louis returned from the crusades in 1248 with a foundation pack of silver-gray hounds that became known as the *Chien Gris de Saint Louis* (Gray Hound of Saint Louis). The breed's continuity may be traced through the centuries in tapestries and paintings as well as descriptions in literature.

The introduction of firearms for bird hunting about the middle of the 18th century created a need for a new type of hunting dog—a “pointer” type with intense interest in birds and a lighter build for speed. Europeans developed versatile hunting breeds to track, search, and indicate location of various types of game; they had to retrieve anything they could carry and show the handler the location of larger game.

The first breed standard was published in 1894. The German Delegate Commission of the German Stud Book recognized the Weimaraner as a pure breed in 1896, and the German Weimaraner Club was founded a year later.

American sportsman Howard Knight imported the first Weimaraners. Although his first pair (imported in 1929) had been sterilized and several subsequent imports died of distemper, Knight finally acquired the male and three bitches that became the foundation of American bloodlines. The outbreak of World War II prevented additional imports until after the war.

### American Kennel Club (AKC)

The American Kennel Club (AKC) accepted Weimaraners into its registry on December 8, 1942, and the first Weimaraner class was held at the 1943 Westminster Kennel Club show. The newly

organized Weimaraner Club of America (WCA) celebrated its first annual meeting in Boston on February 21, 1943.

The Weimaraner is a breed for people who want a household companion that they may or may not wish to use as a personal gun dog. The breed has a strong protective instinct that is rarely evident until the need arises. Generally speaking, Weimaraners can be excellent with children and the handicapped, often controlling their boisterous behavior when they sense the need, although not all Weimaraners possess this control. They demand attention and insist on sharing every activity. This is a breed for people who are willing to invest the time and effort to teach a rambunctious puppy desirable household behavior. When time is taken, the Weimaraner will reward its owner with impeccable manners and whimsical companionship that make it one of the most delightful of all canine companions.