



## Kathy Santo K9 Living | Dog Facts to Chew On

- There are a total of 619 dog parks in the US and 483 in Canada (© 1998 - 2003 Dogpark.com®)
- The dog is believed to be the first animal species to be domesticated, having lived with humans for more than 14,000 years. (The Humane Society of the United States)
- The world's largest annual dog show is Crufts, founded in 1891 by the British traveling salesman Charles Cruft. The centenary show, held at the National Exhibition Center, Birmingham, UK, on January 9–12, 1991, attracted a record 22,993 canine entries. (Guinness Book of World Records)
- There are nearly 400 domestic dog breeds (San Diego Natural History Museum).
- According to the American Kennel Club, the top ten most popular dog breeds are:
  - Labrador Retriever: Labs have a double coat—a soft, downy undercoat, and a harder guard coat which help them keep warm and dry while swimming.
  - Golden Retriever: The first three dogs of any breed to achieve the AKC Obedience Champion title were all Golden Retrievers.
  - German Shepherd: In World War I, 48,000 German Shepherds were enlisted in the German Army, to carry messages under fire and across minefields.
  - Beagle: Beagles are mentioned in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales in the 14th Century.
  - Dachsund: Dachsund is German for "badger dog," as the breed was developed in order to hunt for badgers.
  - Yorkshire Terrier: The smallest mature dog on record was a Yorkie standing only 2 \_" high at the shoulder.
  - Boxer: It's German name means "bull biter."
  - Poodle: Although the Poodle is the National Dog of France, it originated in Germany as the Water Dog, or Pudel.
  - Chihuahua: Archaeologists have found remains of Chihuahuas in human graves in both Mexico and the United States.
  - Shih-Tzu: The Shih-Tzu was bred from Lhasa Apso and Pekingese lapdogs in Tibet.
- There are approximately 68,000,000 owned dogs in the United States. (American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA) 2001-2002 National Pet Owners Survey and the HSUS)
- 20% of owned dogs were adopted from an animal shelter. (American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA) 2001-2002 National Pet Owners Survey and the HSUS)
- Dogs can sense odors at concentrations 100 million times lower than humans can. They can detect one drop of blood in 5 quarts of water. As a result of this gift, they can help humans in tracking, rescue and drug and bomb detection. (San Diego Natural History Museum).
- The first assistance dogs were developed in Germany in the 1920's as guide dogs for veterans who lost their sight in WWI. Today, assistance dogs serve 20,000 people in the U.S. (San Diego Natural History Museum).
- Approximately 8-12 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year and approximately 5-9 million are euthanized (60% of dogs and 70% of cats). Shelter intakes are about evenly divided between those relinquished by owners and those picked up by animal control. These are national estimates; the percentage of euthanasia may vary from state to state. (ASPCA 2003)
- In addition to the reasons for relinquishment, a 2003 study by the National Council on Pet Population Study & Policy (NCPSP) collected data on the pets being relinquished. According to the study:
  - The majority of the surrendered dogs (47.7%) and cats (40.3%) were between 5 months and 3 years of age.
  - The majority of dogs (37.1%) and cats (30.2%) had been owned from 7 months to 1 year.
  - Animals acquired from friends were relinquished in higher numbers (31.4% of dogs; 33.2% of cats) than from any other source.
  - Most dogs (96%) had not received any obedience training.

