

## Mixed-Breed Dogs



Whether you call them mutts, Heinz-57 or designer dogs, **mixed-breed** dogs are truly special.

Purebred dogs are a big deal to many people (AKC has over 100 recognized breeds to suit any lifestyle) but there are millions of **mixed breed** dogs that die in animal shelters each year because there are no homes available.

Each **mixed-breed** dog is unique; one of a kind. Even if you meet a similar dog, no two are quite the same. Purebred littermates are genetically unique, but your **mixed-breed** dog truly stands alone. It can be fun guessing the breed origins of your \*bff. If you really need to know, ask your vet about DNA testing which can identify up to three breeds.





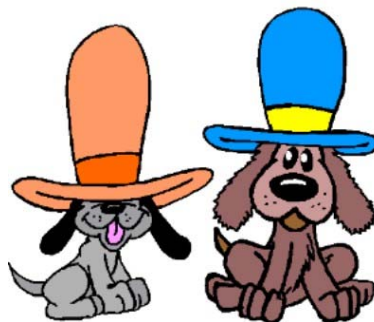
**Mixed-breed** dogs do not generally come with a long list of hereditary problems. Not to say your mutt will be perfect, but **mixed breed** dogs are less likely to possess breed-specific hereditary health and behavioral problems. For instance, if your dog is a Great Dane mix, he could still have hip dysplasia, but it may be less severe because the breed has been diluted. And a Doberman mix may be less likely to have aggression problems than a purebred (though not all Doberman's are aggressive.)

Though any dog may have serious hereditary problems, it really seems worth the risk to get a mutt. However, while the mystery of a mutt can be exciting, it is important to prepare yourself for a few surprises along the way.

It's up to you whether you decide to get a purebred or not - there is no right or wrong decision. Follow your heart.

No matter what type of dog you choose, your life will be forever changed!

Your **mixed-breed** dog will hold a special place in your heart – you will never find another quite the same.



\*best forever friend