



A Snapshot of America's Mutts (...so far)

Since launching the Wisdom Panel™ test in 2007, Mars Veterinary™ has helped tens of thousands of owners make sense of obvious and not-so-obvious physical traits plus behaviors like digging, herding and barking that all come from the various breeds in a dog's family tree. Once an owner understands a dog's natural tendencies, it makes it possible to create a tailored training, exercise and nutrition program to fit his one-of-a-kind needs.

While the National Mutt Census aims to provide a more in-depth analysis of the nation's mixed breed dogs, initial breed data pulled from dogs tested over the past few years has yielded some clues to the makeup of the mutt population:

PURE BREED TRENDS VS. MIXED BREED TRENDS

Many popular American Kennel Club (AKC) breeds are commonly found in mixed-breed dogs. However, there are some major differences between popular AKC breeds and the breeds that are commonly found in mixed-breed dogs.

	Top 10 AKC Breeds	Top 10 Mutt Breeds
1.	Labrador Retriever	German Shepherd Dog
2.	German Shepherd Dog	Chow Chow
3.	Yorkshire Terrier	Labrador Retriever
4.	Golden Retriever	Boxer
5.	Beagle	Rottweiler
6.	Boxers	American Staffordshire Terrier
7.	Bulldog	Poodle (Miniature)
8.	Dachshund	Golden Retriever
9.	Poodle	Siberian Husky
10.	Shih Tzu	Cocker Spaniel

- Chow Chow is the second most prevalent breed detected among the nation's mixed-breed dogs – yet it is the 63rd most popular pure AKC breed
- American Staffordshire Terrier is the sixth most prevalent breed detected among mixed-breed dogs – yet it is the 70th most popular pure AKC breed
- Chinese Shar-Pei is the 14th most prevalent breed detected among mixed-breed dogs – yet it is the 47th most popular of pure AKC breeds

Expert Insights...



Many of the dogs tested from Mars Veterinary's expansive database were homed from shelters or rescue agencies. The tendency for certain types of mixes to be more commonly found in shelters (such as Rottweiler, Boxer and Chow Chow), probably accounts for the observed discrepancy between the list of most popular AKC breeds and the top 20 most popular breeds in mixed breed dogs. In addition, smaller dogs tend to be easier to home and are also less likely to be handed to shelters, which may explain the low number of smaller breeds among the most popular listed mutts.

Dr. Neale Fretwell, R&D Director at Mars Veterinary



Since peaking in 6th place on the AKC's most popular breed rankings in the 1980's, Chow Chows have experienced a gradual decline in popularity in the U.S. The same may be true of certain other breeds such as the Shar-Pei as popular breeds change over time. We believe that the mixed breed population is a reservoir that can reflect previous generations of purebred dog populations rather than current population. These breeds are often found at the grandparent or great grandparent level in tested mixed breed dogs and, therefore, represent genetic ancestry from dogs that probably lived 10-20 years ago.

Dr. Angela Hughes, veterinarian and Mars Veterinary genetics expert

MOST UNCOMMON BREEDS IN A MIXED BREED DOG

Of the more than 170 breeds detected by Wisdom Panel Insights, the following breeds are least likely to end up in a mixed breed dog:

1.	Black Russian Terrier
2.	Polish Lowland Sheepdog
3.	Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)
4.	Ibizan Hound
5.	Lakeland Terrier

REGIONAL FUN FACTS

- Alaskan Malamute lives up to its name – it is the most popular breed detected amongst mixed-breed dogs in Alaska.
- The “First Dog” might be a Portuguese Water Dog, but that is not the first breed amongst mutts in Washington D.C. That honor goes to the German Shepherd.
- Arizona is known for its hot temperature and arid climate, but that doesn't stop the heavy furred Chow Chow from being the most popular mixed-breed in the Grand Canyon State.

All data above is based on data from the tens of thousands of dogs that have already been tested using the Wisdom Panel dog DNA test.

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