

Name _____

A Perfect Mix

Thinking of adopting a dog? Consider the kind of dog who suits you best. Do you want a pet who's big or small? One who's a hot tamale or a couch potato? What's your type? For many people, the perfect dog is a mix of different breeds. A mixed-breed dog (or "mutt") might have a mom who's a Dalmatian and a dad who's a boxer. Every mixed-breed dog is one of a kind!

Experts say mixed breeds are often the friendliest, healthiest dogs. Sixty percent of dogs who live past the age of 17 are mixed breeds! One of the nicest things about mixed breeds is that they tend to have a great combination of features. Their personalities usually reflect what's best about two or more different breeds.

So, let's say you're thinking of adopting a mixed-breed dog. What would be a cool combination? If you like a big, furry detective, you might like a dog who is part bloodhound, part chow. What would you call her? A *blood chow*? A *chowhound*?!

Look over this list of purebred dogs. What might be some neat combinations of breeds? Choose one combination and write a personality profile of that dog below. How might your mixed-breed dog look and act? How would you combine the breed names? Draw your marvelous mutt on the back of this page.



boxer

strong, energetic, learns quickly, loves children



fox terrier

plucky, brave, devoted, keen



bearded collie

patient, considerate, graceful, friendly



bulldog

calm, bold, vigorous



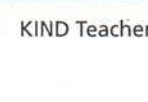
Great Dane

dignified, noble, powerful



toy poodle

active, clever, easy to train



bloodhound

gentle, good detective, hard-working

whippet

quiet, elegant, friendly, fast

German shepherd

confident, loyal, smart

Pekingese

courageous, sensitive, independent, sometimes jealous

Doberman pinscher

lively, alert, trustworthy, loving

giant schnauzer

high-spirited, watchful, reliable, active, robust

golden retriever

bright, friendly, trusting, good with kids, playful

