



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL



Rottweiler Breed Identification Checklist

Rottweiler General Description: a Rottweiler is an above average sized dog. It has a broad skull with small pendant ears, and may have either a natural length or short, cropped tail. It is a powerfully built dog, giving the impression of strength, courage, and agility. Purebred Rottweilers are always black with rust markings; however, mixed breeds that are predominantly Rottweiler may have different coloring.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control considers a dog to be predominantly a Rottweiler if it possesses five out of the following eight characteristics:

- Head** is of medium length and broad between the ears. The forehead line seen in profile is moderately arched and the stop is well developed with strong broad upper and lower jaws.
- Ears** are of medium size, pendant, and triangular in shape. When carried alertly the ears are level with the top of the skull and appear to broaden it.
- Neck** is powerful, well muscled, moderately long, and slightly arched.
- Body** has a roomy chest and is broad and deep with a well pronounced fore chest and well sprung, oval ribs. The loin is short, deep and well muscled.
- Tail** may be docked or naturally long. If long, the tail is thick and strong.
- Hindquarters** include an upper thigh that is fairly long, very broad and well muscled. The stifle joint is well turned. The lower thigh is long, broad, and powerful, with extensive muscling leading into a strong hock joint. Viewed from the rear, hind legs are straight, strong, and wide enough apart to fit with the body.
- Coat** is a double coat. The outer coat is straight, coarse, dense, and of medium length and lying flat. It is shortened on the head, ears, and legs. There is a dense undercoat that normally does not protrude beyond the outer coat.

Rottweiler puppies have the same characteristics, though in juvenile or adolescent form. Muscles, along with breadth and depth of head and chest may be less developed.

