

How to read a dogs pedigree

A **dog pedigree** is basically a family tree. It shows a dog's ancestors—usually parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents—and often includes titles, registration names, and health or breeding information.

1. Start with the dog itself

The dog you're looking up is usually:

- at the **left side** or **center**
- listed with its **registered name**
- sometimes also with:
 - registration number
 - date of birth
 - color
 - breeder/owner

2. Read generation by generation

The pedigree branches backward:

- **Sire** = father
- **Dam** = mother

Then:

- sire's sire = paternal grandfather
- sire's dam = paternal grandmother
- dam's sire = maternal grandfather
- dam's dam = maternal grandmother

Each column farther back is another generation.

3. Understand common titles

Names often include abbreviations showing achievements.
Common examples:

- **NFC** = National Field Champion
- **NAFC** = National Amateur Field Champion
- **FC** = Open Field Champion

- **AFC** = Amateur Field Champion
- **MH** = Master Hunter
- **SH** = Senior Hunter
- **JH** = **Junior Hunter**
- **WD / WDX** = Working Dog / Working Dog Excellent
- **CH = Champion This could be a show championship if looking at an AKC pedigree or a Field Trial Championship if looking at a UKC pedigree**

These titles suggest the dog was successful in field events.

4. Look for kennel names

A kennel name is the breeder's line or program name, often appearing at the beginning or end of the dog's registered name.

Example:

Sunnybrook's Silver Star

"Sunnybrook" may be the kennel name.

This can help you identify bloodlines and breeders.

5. Check for repeated names

If the same dog appears more than once, that means **linebreeding** and/or **inbreeding**.

- **Linebreeding**: repeating a strong ancestor to keep desirable traits
- **Closer repetition** can increase predictability, but also may increase risk of inherited problems

Repeated names are important if you're evaluating health, temperament, or breeding quality. This is not a negative breeding practice as long as the dog being seen more than once in the pedigree is a good dog.

6. Watch for health information

Some pedigrees include health clearances or test results, such as:

- **OFA** = Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
- **CERF/CAER** = eye certification
- **DM clear** = clear of degenerative myelopathy mutation
- **HIP/ELBOW certified**
- **Cardiac clear**

A pedigree with titles is nice, but **health testing matters just as much or more!** Not every breeder has the resources or the training skills to title a dog in trials or tests. However, every breeder can

ensure the dogs they are breeding are healthy. They can also take their dog to the field and see how it performs in hunting scenarios without participating in field events.

7. Learn what the pedigree can tell you

A pedigree may help you see:

- consistency of champions
- likely breed type or temperament trends
- possible inherited strengths
- repeated ancestors
- whether the breeder tracks health and performance

If the pedigree shows a family history of dogs that have done well in the field, then you have a better chance of getting a dog that will do well in the field. The pedigree can show that the pups ancestry has been clear of genetic issues such as hip dysplasia, eye problems, and other genetic issues.

8. Know what it cannot tell you

A pedigree alone does **not** prove:

- the dog is healthy
- the dog has a good temperament
- the breeder is responsible
- the dog is right for your home

You still need health records, breeder transparency, and information about the actual dog. A registered dog does not mean it is a healthy dog. Just because the general description of the breed describes the perfect dog for you, does not mean your pup will fit the description. Go look at the parents and see if you like their personality and temperament.

What to look for if you're evaluating quality

A good pedigree review usually asks:

- Are there **health clearances**?
- Are there **performance titles** relevant to the breed?
- Are the same dogs repeated closely?
- Do the ancestors match the traits you want?
- Is the breeder able to explain the pedigree clearly?

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB • FOUNDED 1884

Certified Pedigree

Sire NFC FC CROSSWINDS WATCH THIS
SS07323002 (08-24) LVR & WH AKC DNA
V10180345

NOTTINGHAM'S MR NASH
SS52122603
ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL MALE WH & LVR
Date Whelped: 03/17/2025
Breeder: TIMOTHY L. BAKER

Dam NOTTINGHAM'S DUNNEGAN
ELEGANT ONE MH12 MHA
SR99284001 (05-22) OFA38G LVR & WH



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Shirley H. Goffe
Executive Secretary

The Seal of The American Kennel Club affixed hereto certifies that this pedigree was compiled from official Stud Book records on October 7, 2025.

FC CRANEY HILL DALMORE DUDLEY
SR70487002 (11-16) LVR & WH AKC DNA
V10127589

BAYVIEW WILLOW PRO
SR69125803 (10-15) OFA40G OFEL40
BLK & WH

AFC DUNNEGAN'S ZIPPER SH
SR64469603 (05-13) OFA27G OFEL27
WH & LVR

AFC NOTTINGHAM'S ADAMSMARK
SHE'S THE ONE MH12 MHA
SR72612201 (09-17) OFA31G LVR & WH

NFC FC AFC ADAMSMARK 2ND CHANCE
SR36511701 (03-12) LVR & WH AKC DNA
V595901

CRANEY HILL SHANGHAI LIL
SR18214202 (06-07) LVR & WH

FC AFC CROSSWINDS HEIR TO CAMELOT
SR36728107 (07-09) OFA26G LVR & WH AKC
DNA V732500

CROSSWINDS WARPAINT
SR29301104 (08-08) WH & BLK

AFC BUCCLEUCH DUSTY OF ARDYLE
SR54633001 (10-10) OFA51F LVR & WH
(UKG) AKC DNA V605509

AFC EDWARDIANA HAPPY MH
SR49568301 (01-11) LVR & WH (UKG) AKC
DNA V615012

NFC FC AFC ADAMSMARK 2ND CHANCE
SR36511701 (03-12) LVR & WH AKC DNA
V595901

NOTTINGHAM'S B8 MH
SR25983008 (08-09) OFA29G LVR & WH

FC AFC HIGHLANDER'S ROBB ROY MH
SN70460401 (04-06) OFA53G LVR & WH AKC DNA
V346204

AFC KILLARNEY'S HOT COCO
SN74050007 (11-06) LVR & WH

FC B'S PHEASANT FLUSHING BLAZE
SN40606408 (07-00) LVR & WH AKC DNA V252854

SKAAR'S QUEEN OF FLUSH
SR17912001 (10-04) OFA32G OFEL35 LVR & WH
(CAN)

FC AFC CROSSWINDS JAKE BENTLEY
SN64418403 (06-04) LVR & WH AKC DNA V326429

FC AFC HIGHLANDERS LADY GUENIVERE MH
SN52159901 (06-04) OFA56G LVR & WH

NFC FC AFC CROSSWINDS WARPATH
SR07574901 (01-05) OFA54G BLK & WH AKC DNA
V466586

ROYAL HEIDI
SN92581901 (01-06) LVR & WH

CHEWEKY WOLF
KCSB 3834CK (03-08)

ANNICKVIEW BREEZE
KCSB 4157CN

EDWARDIANA ROB
KCR AC03559707

EDWARDIANA GYPSY
KCSB 4217CP

FC AFC HIGHLANDER'S ROBB ROY MH
SN70460401 (04-06) OFA53G LVR & WH AKC DNA
V346204

AFC KILLARNEY'S HOT COCO
SN74050007 (11-06) LVR & WH

BURCLIFF'S SPUD OF NOTTINGHAM MH
SN15047507 (06-05) OFA24G WH & LVR

HIGH PLAINS KATY
SN63145403 (08-05) LVR & WH

Here's a picture of an AKC pedigree. You can see titles before the names which are competitive field trial titles. Titles at the end of the name are from Tests where dogs are not competing against each other but all are eligible to pass the test if they perform to the required level.

Under some of the names you will see OFA information. So under Nash's mothers name, you will see OFA 38 G This means the hip xray's were taken when she was 38 months old and the rating given was Good. The MH12 after her name shows she has passed 12 Master level hunt tests and the MHA is the Master Hunter Advanced title.

Some dogs in the pedigree do not have any titles partly because the owner wasn't interested in playing dog games. For instance, High Plains Katy was a dog owned by a

friend of mine. Katy was a nice hunting dog and came from great genetics. Her sire was an NFC. So we had a litter and got some nice pups.

Cheweky Wolf and Annickview Breeze are dogs that lived in Great Britain. Their offspring were imported to the US so there are no titles on the AKC pedigree. One needs to know how to research these dogs to have a better understanding of what they might produce.