


The indispensable guide for you and your Rottweiler

# Rottweilers

FOR  
DUMMIES®

A photograph of two Rottweilers. The dog on the left is looking towards the camera with its mouth open and tongue out. The dog on the right is looking slightly to the right with its mouth open and tongue out. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

**Richard G. Beauchamp**

*In cooperation with the pet experts  
at Howell Book House™*

**A Reference for the Rest of Us!™**

*The indispensable guide for you and your Rottweiler*

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# ***Rottweilers For Dummies***<sup>®</sup>

**by Richard Beauchamp**



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# About the Author

**Richard G. (“Rick”) Beauchamp** has been successfully involved in practically every facet of purebred dogs. He has bred them as well as trained and handled them professionally in the show ring. For many years, he owned and managed a publishing house devoted almost entirely to books and periodicals about purebred dogs. He is a published author of numerous breed and all-breed dog books and has lectured extensively on purebred dogs throughout the world.

As a breeder-exhibitor, Rick has been actively involved in breeds of nearly all the Variety Groups, including top winning Chow Chows, Dachshunds, Salukis, and Irish Setters. His Beau Monde Kennel has produced outstanding Boxers, Cocker Spaniels, Poodles, Wire Fox Terriers, Bull Terriers, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and Chinese Shar-Pei.

As a judge of all breeds with the Federacion Cynologique Internationale, Rick has had the distinct pleasure of judging Rottweilers at championship events many times in Mexico, throughout the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the Orient, Central America, and South America. Rick now judges throughout North America for the American Kennel Club, the Canadian Kennel Club, and the United Kennel Club.



In his *other* life, Rick has had a lifelong interest in film and theater and spent several years as a copy editor and reporter for the television and film industry's bible, *Daily Variety*. He lives in Cambria, California, which is situated midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

# Dedication

This book is dedicated to the Rottweiler breeders, exhibitors, and owners who, through the years, have worked hard to preserve and enhance the great qualities the breed was created to possess @md bravery, loyalty, and devotion. It goes without question that there are other breeds who may possess any one or perhaps even all of these same characteristics, but I am quite confident that none could possibly combine them so well and so uniquely as does the Rottweiler.

# Author's Acknowledgments

No words will ever be able to express my appreciation for those wonderful books with dog heroes in them written by the late Albert Payson Terhune. His books not only inspired a love of all nature but a fascination with the magic of the written word.

The enthusiastic and supportive people at IDG Books have helped tremendously in translating my fascination with purebred dogs and the words we use to describe them into what I sincerely hope is a helpful guide to understanding and appreciating the many fine qualities of the Rottweiler breed.

I particularly wish to thank my editor, Elizabeth Kuball, who assisted me so well in consolidating all the bits and pieces of my experience with dogs in general and the Rottweiler in particular into this book.



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When you need answers to questions you have about any aspect of raising or training your companion animals, trust that Howell Book House/Wiley has the answers. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and we look forward to helping you maximize your relationships with your pets throughout the years.

The Howell Book House Staff

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# Introduction

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In *Rottweilers For Dummies*, you'll be introduced to all the good, the bad, and the ugly that surrounds the breed. Too many books written about purebred dogs do nothing but try to convince you that the breed is not only faultless but suitable for every household in America (or anywhere else in the world for that matter). I seldom find this to be true of any breed, and I know this doesn't describe the Rottweiler. So you won't find me twisting your arm and trying to convince you that a Rottweiler is right for you. In fact, if anything, I'm as honest as possible about this challenging breed. That way, if you're still eager to get one of these wonderful dogs, you'll be prepared for any drawbacks and able to handle them well.

Rottweilers are one of the smartest, most trainable breeds I have ever known. Not only is the Rottweiler capable of learning just about everything any other breed can master, the Rottie also has the energy, the strength, and the enthusiasm to carry it all off. A Rottie is smart, affectionate, protective, and easy-going around those he loves.

Along with all those perfect dog qualities I've attributed to the Rottweiler, there are a few drawbacks. Among them is the fact that those same qualities have made the Rottweiler one of the most popular breeds in the world. The breed's popularity, as well as population, have



soared over the past decade. This popularity puts the breed into the hands of people who are completely incapable of providing the training and care a Rottweiler needs.

The Rottweiler whose owner has neglected training is nothing but a big nuisance. Without the proper training, a Rottweiler can become an unruly brute. A Rottweiler wants — and needs — a leader in his life. If an owner doesn't provide that leadership, the Rottie assumes the role himself, and a Rottweiler acting on his own volition can be difficult — if not downright dangerous.

The information in *Rottweilers For Dummies* will help you decide if you should even consider taking on the responsibility of Rottweiler ownership. If the answer is yes, you'll find plenty of valuable information, tips, and suggestions that will assist you and your Rottie along the road to a mutually delightful relationship.

## **So Who Am I?**

Nothing in this book came by way of divine inspiration. Everything in *Rottweilers For Dummies* is the result of my own years of trial and error with purebred dogs or through the kind intervention of my many mentors through the years.

My interest in purebred dogs goes back as far as I can remember and has led me through practically every facet

of these wonderful animals: breeding, exhibiting, professional handling, publishing, writing, and judging. All that experience has also assisted me in presenting lectures to dog fanciers around the world.

For over 30 years, I owned and published *Kennel Review Magazine*, and doing so associated me with some of the most learned dog men and women the world over. As a breeder/exhibitor, using the Beau Monde kennel prefix, I have bred nearly 100 American Kennel Club champions in a number of different breeds.

My judging assignments have taken me to practically every major dog showing country in the world, which has given me the opportunity to judge Rottweilers in almost every instance. I now judge for the American Kennel Club, the Canadian Kennel Club, and the United Kennel Club in North America.

# How This Book Is Organized

*Rottweilers For Dummies* is divided into five parts. If you're just starting to think about getting a Rottweiler, try starting out with Chapter 1. If you already own a Rottweiler and have a specific question or problem, dive into the chapter that best suits your needs right now.

# **Part I: Getting to Know Rottweilers**

In this part, you'll get a feel for Rottweilers as a breed. Then you'll set about to determine whether a Rottweiler is right for you. Everyone's needs and personalities are different, and before you head out to the nearest breeder to find a Rottweiler pup, you owe it to yourself and the dog you may bring home to do some serious soul-searching.

## **Part II: Searching for Your Soul Mate**

The chapters in this part are geared toward helping you figure out what you actually want in a Rottweiler. You may be sure a Rottweiler is right for you. But Rotties vary just like people do. So knowing your lifestyle and priorities is just as important at this stage in the game as it is in determining what breed you want.

You also need to know where to look for your new best friend. So I guide you through the process of finding a reputable breeder and tell you which ones to steer clear of altogether.

Finally, you get to the fun stuff: picking out a puppy. Sometimes looking at the pups in a litter makes you want to bring them *all* home. So in this part I let you know which traits to look for in a puppy, physically and emotionally.

# **Part III: Living with a Rottweiler**

In this part, you plan ahead so that you have all the toys and tools you'll need before that plump little pup arrives. And you also get tips on introducing your Rottweiler pup to his new home. Finally, no puppy would be a puppy without the need for training. So you'll figure out which behaviors to start working on with your Rottweiler from the very first day. And you'll also get tips on which behaviors your dog should know as he grows into adulthood. You even get suggestions for going the extra mile with your dog and going through more formal obedience training with a professional trainer.

Living with a Rottweiler? Here I make it one of life's greatest joys.