



American Hovawart Club - Overview

Dear Hovawart Enthusiast,

Thank you for your interest in the American Hovawart Club! We hope you will find the overview of our club and its mission helpful in making your decision to join us.

About us

A group of Hovawart enthusiasts came together in 2003 to start the American Hovawart Club (AHC). After completing the club's founding documents, including our Constitution and Bylaws, Code of Ethics, and Breeding Regulations, the AHC became an organized Hovawart breed club in 2004 and held its first annual event that same year.

Many of the AHC members' dogs were bred in the States by U.S. breeders. Over the years, our members have also imported dogs from overseas and rescued Hovawarts from puppy mills and shelters, allowing our club to develop expertise in these areas.

Our club has attracted members who are open, friendly and respectful to all Hovawart owners and their dogs, and many friendships have developed, often across different states and even countries. Our member dogs are family companions first, but many of our members also enjoy various dog sports with their Hovi's. We have members participating in Tracking, K9 Nosework, SAR, Therapy, Agility, Rally-O, hunting, and more.

Annual Hovawart Breed Show

Once a year, we hold our Annual Breed Speciality Event, where participants can show their dogs before a knowledgeable Hovawart breed judge and get an assessment of their dog's conformation and temperament. These are important requirements for anyone wishing to breed. We invite European judges to come to our shows because their experience with the Hovawart breed is currently unmatched in the U.S or Canada. The shows are open to members and non-

members. All member and non-member dogs are eligible to win their class, Best Dog, Best Bitch, or Best in Show titles.

Most participants choose to show their dogs, but it is not a requirement. There is also no requirement to be an experienced dog handler, or show dog for that matter. Few of our members actively train themselves or their dogs for conformation shows. If you are new to the breed, or are still deciding about adding a Hovi to your family, these events are an excellent way to meet several Hovawarts and chat with our members about their experiences with the breed.

In addition to conformation and temperament testing, we aim to provide other activities, seminars, or demonstrations as time and resources permit. To date, we have offered at least one of the following activities at each show:

- Obedience or tricks training sessions
- Tracking or SAR demonstrations
- Seminars on breeding, canine first aid, or canine conditioning, canine body language

We hold our events in different U.S. locations each year based on members that volunteer to host in their area, hoping to give everyone an opportunity to participate without long distance travel. To date we have held events in PA, MN, VA, WA, MS, OR, OH, LA, MO, and DE.

All Hovawart dogs can participate, including altered dogs or dogs without registration documents. The more Hovawart dogs we see, the more we all learn about the breed and the more fun we have.

Many times we have had some surprise objects at our events that had been donated by sponsoring companies or members of our club. These donations have included agility tunnels, dog toys, dog treats, first aid kits, books, dog leashes, gift certificates, gift baskets and more.

Breeding in the AHC

Our members are serious about doing right by the Hovawart, and about growing our club responsibly through carefully planned breedings to the FCI breed standard. We only breed dogs who have met or exceeded the breeding requirements set by the AHC - including but not limited to conformation, temperament, and health testing - and whose puppies can reasonably be expected to contribute positively to the health and temperament of the breed.

Our breeding requirements, at minimum, meet the requirements of the reputable Hovawart Breed Clubs around the world and we exceed the requirements of many clubs worldwide.

To breed Hovawart dogs that are healthy in body and mind, our breeders along with the Database Administrator perform extensive research into all breeding pairs before a breeding is approved. All breeding dogs in the AHC must have an FCI recognized registration.

We welcome all Hovawart enthusiasts who support our mission to work in the best interest of the health, temperament, working ability, and conformation of the breed, whether or not you plan to breed your female Hovawart or use your male at stud.

Your membership

We strive to provide our members - and persons interested in joining the club – with timely, well thought-out, and accurate information, to the best of our ability.

For those members interested in breeding and whose dogs have FCI recognized registrations, the AHC Database Administrator will assist with research and advice. The AHC has access to a database of more than 71,000 Hovawart dogs, dating back many generations and decades. The database contains information on dogs from all over the world, which may include results of health and temperament tests, conformation, titles earned, and more. The AHC contributes to the maintenance of this global database, which in turn helps us research possible breeding combinations and provide advice on the lineage of puppies our members may be looking to import.

Members receive four newsletters per year, in printed form by mail if preferred, or online via our website at www.americanhovawartclub.org. There is a small discount for members who receive their newsletter online only. We encourage members to participate throughout the year by sending articles or photos about their Hovawart, or any subject to do with dogs, such as health topics, training, fun activities, and so on to the club's newsletter editor.. Everyone enjoys reading stories about what our Hovies are up to.

AHC Board members maintain the club's website at www.americanhovawartclub.org, where we would be happy to give a shout-out to your Hovi for titles earned, litters, or any other news.

The AHC maintains a closed-group Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.americanhovawartclub.org/>, which can be joined by both club members and non-members. A lot of fun photos and stories get posted on our site. The site is currently being moderated by an AHC board member.

Other member benefits include discounted fees for conformation and temperament testing at our annual event and discounts on Hovawart items for sale by the club.

Becoming a member

We hope we have answered most of your questions about the AHC. If you have questions about the Hovawart breed not addressed here, we encourage you to read "A Hova-What?" at www.americanhovawartclub.org. For any remaining questions, please write to us at ahc.cosec@gmail.com.

If you would like to join us, please fill in our membership application form below. Thank you for your interest. Best wishes from the AHC Board of Directors.

Beatrice Foster – President

Francesca Hanks – Vice President

Ben Phillips – Treasurer

Stacey Mack – Corresponding Secretary

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American Hovawart Club – New Membership Application

Mailing address: AHC Treasurer - C/O Ben Phillips, 549 Kline Ave, Pottstown, PA 19465
 Please make checks payable to American Hovawart Club.

Member details

Name:		Phone:	
Mailing Address:		Email:	
Signature:		Date:	
Please list other Hovawart club memberships		At this time, are you interested in breeding?	

Hovawart details (please add pages if needed)

Registered Name (if applicable):					
Call Name:		Country of Origin:			
Sex:	M / F	DOB:		Color:	BLK / BG / BLND
Altered:	Y / N	Tattoo:		Microchip/ID:	

Membership type (please select one)

	\$43 Single Membership 4 online newsletters, one vote			\$60 Family Membership 4 online newsletters – two votes
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Attached documents

	OFA Hip results (or results from another country's certifying organization)
	OFA eye certification (or results from another country's certifying organization)
	Degenerative Myelopathy results
	Certificates for conformation, temperament testing, working ability, and so on
	Thyroid results (full panel)
	Description of known health or genetic issues in your dog / dog's ancestry (hips, thyroid, tail anomalies, eye or heart problems, missing teeth, and so on.

Do you and your Hovi enjoy any of these activities? (Circle all that apply)

Obedience	Rally-O	SAR	Tracking	Tricks	Hiking
Jogging	Herding	Agility	Therapy	Swimming	Dock Diving
Fly Ball	Companion	Schutzhund	Conformation	Other:	