

Pets Around the World: Which Dog Breeds Are Most Popular in Each Country?

Have you ever wondered which dog breeds are the most popular in different parts of the world? 🐶🌍

While mixed-breed dogs hold a special place in the lives of many families in Brazil, the French Bulldog tops the registration rankings in the United States, the Labrador Retriever remains a favorite in Canada, and the Poodle leads pedigree registrations in Japan.

But there is an important point to keep in mind: there is no single worldwide ranking that can tell us which dog breed is the most popular on the planet.

Each country has its own way of measuring popularity. Some use kennel club registrations, while others look at dogs living in households, surveys of pet owners, or even online search behavior.

That is why, in this Crescendo Juntos article, we are going on a journey around the world to discover the dog breeds that stand out in different countries. 🌍🐾

The Countries We Will Explore

Below, we have gathered some of the countries that stand out when it comes to preferences for specific dog breeds:

-  Brazil
-  United States
-  United Kingdom
-  France
-  Germany
-  Japan
-  Australia
-  Italy
-  Spain
-  Portugal
-  Canada
-  Mexico
-  Argentina
-  South Korea
-  India

Important: The data below should not be interpreted as one single worldwide ranking. Methodologies vary from country to country. Whenever possible, we indicate whether the information comes from official registrations, pet-owner surveys, or market research.



Brazil: Mixed-Breed Dogs Hold a Special Place

When talking about the most popular dogs in Brazil, it is impossible to leave out SRD dogs — Sem Raça Definida, or mixed-breed dogs, commonly known in Brazil as *vira-latas*.

According to Petlove's 2025 PetCenso, mixed-breed dogs represented 26% of the dogs in the analyzed database. They were followed by:

1. 🐶 Mixed-breed dogs — 26%
2. 🐶 Shih Tzu — 17%
3. 🐶 Yorkshire Terrier — 6%
4. 🐶 German Spitz — 5%
5. 🐶 Lhasa Apso — 3%
6. 🐶 Golden Retriever — 3%
7. 🐶 Miniature Pinscher — 3%
8. 🐶 Dachshund — 2%
9. 🐶 Pug — 2%
10. 🐶 Maltese — 2%

Petlove's survey is based on its own pet database and therefore represents the animals registered within that ecosystem — not necessarily every dog living in Brazil.



What does this tell us about Brazilian dogs?

Brazil has an interesting combination: on one hand, there is a huge presence of mixed-breed dogs; on the other, small breeds such as Shih Tzus, Yorkshire Terriers, German Spitz and Lhasa Apsos are also very prominent.

This also shows why “most popular breed” and “most common dog” are not necessarily the same thing.



United States: French Bulldog at the Top

In the United States, there is a well-known annual ranking published by the American Kennel Club (AKC).

According to the 2025 registration data, the French Bulldog once again took first place.

The Top 5 were:

1. 🏆 French Bulldog
2. 🏆 Labrador Retriever
3. 🏆 Golden Retriever
4. 🏆 German Shepherd Dog

5. Dachshund

The French Bulldog reached the No. 1 position in 2022, ending the Labrador Retriever's 31-year reign at the top. In 2025, the French Bulldog completed its fourth consecutive year in first place.



Fun Fact

The Labrador Retriever remains extremely popular in the United States, even though it is no longer No. 1 in the AKC rankings.

This shows how a change in ranking does not necessarily mean that a breed has become less loved by families.



United Kingdom: Labrador and Cocker Spaniel Among the Favorites

In the United Kingdom, data from The Kennel Club also provides insight into breed preferences through puppy registrations.

During the first quarter of 2025, the top ten were:

1. Labrador Retriever
2. Cocker Spaniel
3. Golden Retriever
4. French Bulldog
5. Miniature Smooth-Haired Dachshund
6. Staffordshire Bull Terrier
7. German Shepherd Dog
8. English Springer Spaniel
9. Miniature Long-Haired Dachshund
10. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

The survey also recorded strong growth in Jack Russell Terrier registrations, which increased by 76% compared with the same period of the previous year.



An Interesting Detail

The United Kingdom shows a very different combination from the United States: the Labrador remains at the top, while the Cocker Spaniel and different varieties of Dachshund also stand out.

France: Golden Retriever and Australian Shepherd in the Spotlight

France has an important official source for tracking pedigree dogs: Centrale Canine, which manages registrations for the LOF — *Livre des Origines Français*.

Official French data makes it possible to track the evolution of pedigree dog registrations in the country.

Among the breeds that stand out in recent data are the Golden Retriever and the Australian Shepherd.

There is an important caveat here: French figures should be presented according to Centrale Canine's methodology because pedigree registrations do not necessarily represent the total number of dogs of a particular breed living in the country.

This distinction is important for our project because we want to compare countries without mixing different types of data.

Germany: Labrador, German Shepherd and Other Popular Breeds

In Germany, the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH) maintains statistics on puppies registered by breed.

The country also has surveys from other organizations, such as TASSO, which use different databases.

Germany is therefore a great example of how two sources can produce different rankings without necessarily meaning that one of them is “wrong.”

Dog breeds that frequently appear among the most registered or most represented in German databases include:

- Labrador Retriever
- German Shepherd Dog
- Golden Retriever
- French Bulldog
- Chihuahua

For our map, the most accurate approach is to indicate the source and the type of data being used rather than presenting a single “winner” as if it represented every dog in Germany.



Japan: Poodle Leads the Registrations

Japan has some of the most interesting data for this comparison.

According to the Japan Kennel Club (JKC), the Poodle led pedigree registrations in the country in 2025, with 69,342 registrations.

The Top 10 were:

1. 🏆 Poodle — 69,342
2. Chihuahua — 46,221
3. Dachshund — 30,615
4. Pomeranian — 22,853
5. Miniature Schnauzer — 15,268
6. Maltese — 9,960
7. French Bulldog — 9,578
8. Yorkshire Terrier — 8,086
9. Bichon Frise — 8,037
10. Shih Tzu — 7,930

The Golden Retriever ranked 11th, while the Shiba Inu ranked 16th.



Why Is Japan So Interesting?

The Japanese ranking is quite different from the North American one.

While Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers are especially prominent in the United States and Canada, small companion breeds dominate Japanese registrations.

This gives us a great idea for a future article:

“Why are small dogs so popular in Japan?”



Australia: Labrador and Golden Retriever Among the Most Common

Australia also presents an interesting picture because different surveys produce different results.

In an analysis by Royal Canin Australia, based on its own database of approximately 79,000 dog owners, the Labrador Retriever ranked first, followed by the Golden Retriever and French Bulldog.

The list from that database was:

1. Labrador Retriever

2. **Golden Retriever**
3. **French Bulldog**
4. **German Shepherd Dog**
5. **Cavalier King Charles Spaniel**
6. **English Cocker Spaniel**
7. **Border Collie**
8. **Rottweiler**
9. **Pug**
10. **Chihuahua**

Royal Canin itself points out that its data represents its community of pet owners and does not necessarily represent the entire Australian dog population.

And This Difference Matters

This is exactly the type of comparison that makes our project interesting.

One survey may place the Labrador at the top, while another source using a different methodology may produce a different result.

The data should always be accompanied by an explanation of how it was collected.

Italy: Traditional and Companion Breeds

In Italy, registrations from ENCI — Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana are one of the main references for pedigree dogs.

Among the breeds that stand out in recent surveys are:

- **English Setter**
- **German Shepherd Dog**
- **Golden Retriever**
- **Labrador Retriever**
- **other companion and working breeds**

The presence of the English Setter is particularly interesting because it shows how a breed historically associated with hunting can continue to have a strong presence among registered dogs in the country.

Spain: English Setter, Poodle and Dachshund

In Spain, the Real Sociedad Canina de España (RSCE) provides registration data that helps us understand national preferences.

According to data released by the organization, the English Setter ranked at the top, followed by:

1. English Setter
2. Poodle
3. Dachshund
4. Golden Retriever
5. German Shepherd Dog

The RSCE registered 49,935 pedigree dogs in its Spanish Book of Origins and Canine Breed Registry in the cited survey.



A Fun Fact

The growth of smaller dogs has also attracted attention in Spain. The RSCE connects this trend to the fact that a large portion of the Spanish population lives in apartments.



Portugal: Labrador Among the Most Sought-After Dogs

Portugal is an interesting case because we can find both surveys about officially registered dogs and data related to public interest.

In a ranking updated in August 2026 based on search behavior, the Labrador Retriever ranked first, followed by the French Bulldog and Shih Tzu.

Other surveys aimed at the Portuguese public also highlight breeds such as:

- Labrador Retriever
- Poodle
- French Bulldog
- Portuguese Water Dog

There is another particularly interesting piece of information: official dog registrations in Portugal analyzed in a study based on SIAC showed that mixed-breed dogs represented 39.6% of the registered population, followed by the Portuguese Podengo and Labrador Retriever.



In Other Words...

Depending on the question, the answer can change:

“Which breed is searched for the most?” may have one answer.

“Which breed has the most registered dogs?” may have another.

And that is exactly what we want to teach our readers.

Canada: Labrador Has Been at the Top for 32 Years

If there is one country strongly associated with the Labrador Retriever, it is Canada.

According to the Canadian Kennel Club, the Labrador was once again the most registered purebred dog in the country in 2025 — reaching the impressive milestone of 32 consecutive years at the top.

The Top 3 were:

1. **Labrador Retriever**
2. **Golden Retriever**
3. **German Shepherd Dog**

The Canadian Kennel Club also highlights the Labrador's long history connected to fishing and working activities in the Newfoundland region.

Mexico: Mixed-Breed Dogs Also Deserve Attention

In Mexico, we should not turn an internet survey into a definitive national ranking.

Recent sources highlight mixed-breed dogs, Chihuahuas and Schnauzers among the best-known or most popular dogs, but methodologies vary considerably.

The Chihuahua naturally has special significance for the country because the breed is associated with the region of Chihuahua, Mexico.

But there is an important distinction:

A breed can be a cultural symbol of a country without necessarily being the most numerous breed in that country.

That is one of the most interesting ideas behind our Pets Around the World series.

Argentina: A Strong Relationship with Dogs

In Argentina, especially in major urban centers such as Buenos Aires, companion animals play an important role in family life.

However, we did not find a recent national database comparable to the AKC, JKC or CKC statistics that would allow us to confidently state:

“This is the most popular dog breed in Argentina.”

Therefore, rather than inventing a No. 1 breed, we prefer to present Argentina as a country with a strong presence of dogs and a deep cultural connection with companion animals.

This choice is part of our methodology: when the data is not comparable, we tell the reader.



South Korea: Maltese and Poodle Stand Out

In South Korea, the 2025 Korea Pet Report, published by KB Financial Group, provides data about animals living in households.

Among dogs, the results showed:

1. **Maltese — 20.4%**
2. **Poodle — 18.9%**
3. **Mixed-breed dogs — 15.1%**
4. **Pomeranian — 12.8%**
5. **Bichon Frise — 7.0%**
6. **Chihuahua — 5.3%**
7. **Shih Tzu — 5.1%**

The report estimated that there were 5.91 million households with companion animals in the country at the end of 2024.



An Interesting Pattern

Once again, we see a strong presence of small companion dogs — an interesting contrast with the Labradors and Golden Retrievers that appear so frequently in rankings in some Western countries.



India: Labrador Among the Major Favorites

In India, the Labrador Retriever repeatedly appears among the most popular breeds in recent surveys.

Lists published in 2025 place the Labrador in first position, frequently followed by breeds such as:

- German Shepherd Dog
- Golden Retriever
- Beagle
- Boxer
- Pug
- Rottweiler
- Pomeranian

Here, too, we need to add an important caveat: this is not an official national ranking equivalent to those published by the AKC or JKC.

For that reason, we use these figures as an indication of a trend rather than an absolute classification of every dog in India.

So, What Is the Most Popular Dog Breed in the World?

This is probably the question you would ask after looking at our map.

And the answer is:

 **There is no single worldwide champion.**

And that is not a boring answer. In fact, it is exactly what makes the comparison so interesting.

Depending on the source and methodology, we may be measuring:

-  registrations with breed organizations;
-  dogs living in households;
-  surveys of pet owners;
-  internet searches;
-  estimated population of a specific breed;
-  cultural importance of a breed.

These are different things.

For example:

United States: French Bulldog leads AKC registrations in 2025.

Canada: Labrador Retriever leads CKC registrations for the 32nd consecutive year.

Japan: Poodle leads JKC registrations in 2025.

Brazil: Mixed-breed dogs rank first in the PetCenso 2025 database.

South Korea: Maltese ranks first in the KB Financial Group survey.

There is no contradiction here.

Each piece of data is answering a different question.

Why Are Some Dog Breeds More Popular in Certain Countries?

A breed's popularity does not happen by chance.

It can be influenced by several factors.



City and Housing Size

Smaller breeds may adapt more easily to certain urban lifestyles, although size alone never determines whether a dog is suitable for apartment living.



Climate

Temperature, humidity and environmental conditions can influence the choice of a breed and the care it requires.



Lifestyle

A family that enjoys hiking and outdoor activities may look for a different type of dog than someone who has a quieter daily routine.



History and Culture

Some breeds have a very strong historical connection to a particular country.



Popular Culture

Movies, television shows, social media and celebrities can also increase interest in certain breeds.



Family Tradition

Sometimes the explanation is very simple: a particular breed may have been part of a region's family culture for decades.



The World Map of Dog Breeds

This is where our Pets Around the World concept comes in.

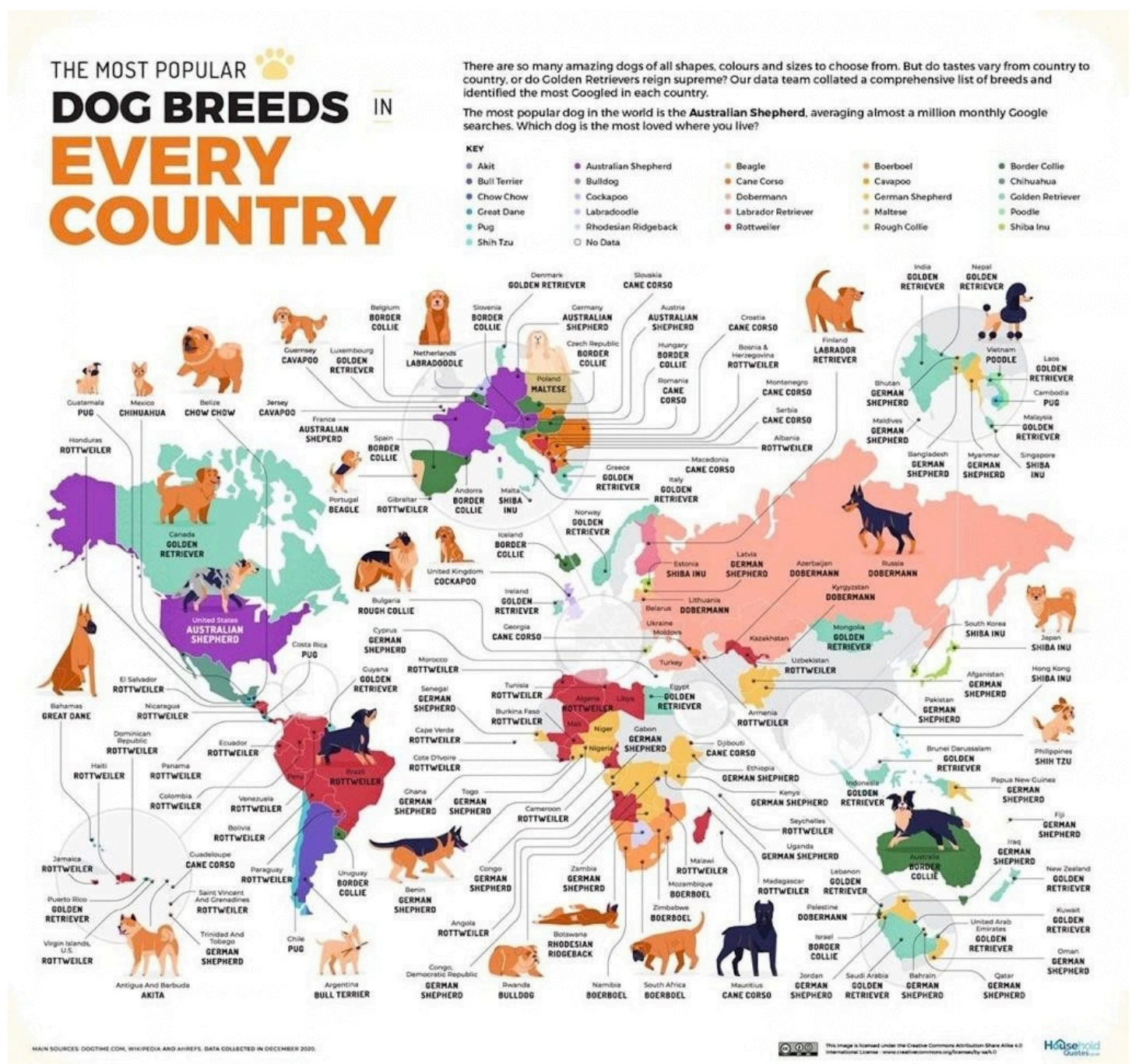
Instead of creating a map that simply says:

“This is the most popular breed in each country.”

we prefer to present:

“Dog Breeds in the Spotlight Around the World”

This allows us to update the map over time without turning data from different sources into a misleading worldwide ranking.



Brazil

In the spotlight: Mixed-breed dogs, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terrier and German Spitz.

United States

In the spotlight: French Bulldog, Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever.

United Kingdom

In the spotlight: Labrador Retriever, Cocker Spaniel and Golden Retriever.

Japan

In the spotlight: Poodle, Chihuahua and Dachshund.

Canada

In the spotlight: Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever and German Shepherd Dog.

South Korea

In the spotlight: Maltese, Poodle and mixed-breed dogs.

And so on.

Data may change as new statistics are published. Crescendo Juntos will update this page periodically.

What Do the World's Most Popular Dogs Have in Common?

One of the most interesting things is seeing how some breeds cross borders.

The Labrador Retriever, for example, has a strong presence in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Portugal and India, among many other countries.

The Golden Retriever also appears repeatedly across different markets.

Breeds such as the Poodle, Shih Tzu, Chihuahua, French Bulldog and Dachshund show how dogs of different sizes and characteristics can win the hearts of families around the world.

But this does not mean that there is one breed that is universally suitable for everyone.

The most popular dog is not necessarily the best dog for a particular family.

Every dog has individual needs related to exercise, nutrition, space, socialization, training, grooming and veterinary care.

Popularity Does Not Mean “Best Breed”

This is a point we want to make very clear at Growing Together.

If a breed ranks first in a particular country, that does not mean it is:

- more intelligent;
- more affectionate;
- healthier;
- easier to care for;
- better with children;
- better for apartments;
- or better for you.

Popularity is simply information about how many people chose a particular type of dog within a specific population and methodology.

Choosing a dog should take into account the family's lifestyle and the animal's actual needs.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Most Popular Dog Breeds in the World

What is the most popular dog breed in the world?

There is no single standardized worldwide ranking. The answer depends on the methodology being used, such as pedigree registrations, pet-owner surveys, estimated populations or internet searches.

What is the most popular dog breed in the United States?

According to the American Kennel Club's 2025 registration statistics, the French Bulldog ranks first, followed by the Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever.

What is the most popular dog in Canada?

The Labrador Retriever led Canadian Kennel Club registrations in 2025 and reached 32 consecutive years in first place.

What is the most popular dog breed in Japan?

According to the Japan Kennel Club's 2025 registrations, the Poodle ranked first, with 69,342 registrations.

Is a mixed-breed dog a breed?

No. SRD stands for *Sem Raça Definida*, meaning a dog without a defined breed. The term is used for dogs that do not belong to an officially recognized breed or that have mixed ancestry.

Does being a popular breed mean it is good for every family?

No. A breed's popularity does not determine whether it is compatible with a particular family. Before choosing a dog, it is important to consider space, routine, available time, exercise, training, care requirements and the individual characteristics of the animal.



Which One Would You Choose?

From a small Chihuahua in Japan to a Labrador in Canada, from the beloved Brazilian mixed-breed dog to companion dogs in South Korea and French Bulldogs in the United States, one thing becomes clear:

Dogs may be very different, but the relationship between people and pets crosses borders. ❤️

In the end, there is not just one “most popular” breed.

There are millions of different stories between people and their dogs — and those are the stories we want to discover here at Growing Together.