

# Does breed really matter?

**By Jeff Murphy**

Growing up I always remember having pets in our house, whether that was fish, hermit crabs, hamsters, rabbits, cats or dogs. We only ever had one pure bred dog and that was a poodle that a friend of the family sold us at a real discount. I was in first grade and Nipper was my first dog and we were inseparable, that was until I came home from school one day and found out that he was hit by a car.

Since then I have had five other dogs, all but one have been mixed breeds and they have all had their own personalities and qualities that made them special. We currently have two dogs. Remington who is a 1 ½ year old mix of Black Lab and Shiba Inu and Big Ben who is a 6 ½ month old AKC Black Lab.

I had bought Remi from an Amish farmer and thought that I could train him for hunting, unfortunately his stubborn Shiba Inu personality has put that thought to rest. He does love to retrieve and being in the water, but he will only retrieve when he wants and he will not pick up a dead bird. Now part of that is my fault and my training technique, but I have talked with people and found that the other part is his personality.

Big Ben on the other hand is a totally different story. I got Ben while TCO was doing a waterfowl seminar in NY at a Gander Mountain store. A lady was sitting outside the store selling pups. I walked past them and stopped and held them several times. When we came out later she had one left and had dropped the price. So after Dave and I talked to my wife on the phone Ben came home with us. Unlike Remi, Ben is always wanting to be near me, wanting to please me and is much further in his training at 6 mos. old then Remi is at 1 ½ yrs old. This is partly due to me learning from my training mistakes and also Ben's personality and the qualities of his breed.

As you look at all the different breeds of dogs, they all have been bred for a specific reason. This has caused me to stop and think about Romans 12, where Paul talks about how a church is to work as a body works. We all have different gifts from God and should be using them to reach the same goal for the kingdom. What are the gifts God has given you? If you are not sure I would suggest that you talk to your Pastor and then find out how you can use them. If you know your gifts and see your church body needs you, then what is holding you back?