

## **“The past is the stage upon which the future is portrayed”**

What to know about a dog's family tree:

SOM and DOM titles are very important in any pedigree, as this proves the dog is recognized by the CKC (CANADIAN Kennel Club) or AKC as having PRODUCED good quality puppies who have gone on to earn championships (something a puppy-buyer might want to know, even when looking for a pet).

A male attains a SOM (Sire Of Merit) title (written at the end of the dog's registered name) only after 7 of his offspring have finished their show championship title, and a female attains a DOM (Dam Of Merit) title (at the end of the registered name) after 4 of her puppies finish their championships. The SOM or DOM title is not an easy title to get, since many good puppies end up in "pet" homes, and owners may be reluctant to show them, or were given limited registration which prevented them from showing their quality dog.

SOMC refers to a Sire of Merit in Canada. DOMC refers to a Dam of Merit in Canada. If the title is "SOM" or "DOM" it usually refers to an American title, although many Canadian breeders use the SOM/DOM in their dogs' Canadian pedigrees.

To attain Legion of Merit status:

Males who are Sires of Merit (sire of 7 or more champions) can qualify for Legion of Merit status if they have produced 4 or more offspring who have attained Sire or Dam of Merit status (producers). Females who are Dams of Merit (dam of 4 or more Canadian Champions) can qualify for Legion of Merit status if they have produced 3 or more offspring who have attained Sire or Dam of Merit status (producers).

CH titles (at the beginning of the dog's registered name) are also important, as this proves the dog itself is recognized by the AKC or CKC (Canadian Kennel Club) as a Champion - a dog of good quality in comparison to the written breed "blueprint" (standard). Therefore...the more champion titles and SOM/DOM titles a dog has in its pedigree, the more certain you can be that the dog has excellent qualities which have been proven in the ring as well as the whelping box... and will most likely pass these superb genes to its offspring.

