

The Turkish Shepherd Dogs in America:

A Brief Timeline



-1960

Before World War II, the USDA imported **Anatolian Shepherds/Coban Kopegi** from Turkey for their Sheepdog Project. Those dogs were disbanded due to the war, but ranchers imported their own Turkish dogs to the US in the 50s and 60s.



<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/anatolian-shepherd-dog/>

1968

First pair of to-be registered **Anatolian Shepherd** dogs imported to the US by the Ballard Family.



1970

ASDCA Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America was Founded

First **Anatolian Shepherd** litter whelped in the US by the Ballard Family



<https://asdca.club/club/>

1978- 1979

In 1978, the first **Akbash** (a pregnant bitch) was imported to the United States by the Nelsons.

In 1979, the Akbash Dog Association of America was founded.



<https://www.akbashclub.com/history>

1985- 1989

In 1985 the first **Kangal Dog** was imported to the United States by the Nelsons.

In 1989 the **Kangal Dog** breed was accepted by FCI.



<https://www.ukcdogs.com/kangal-dog>

1991- 1996

In 1991 ASDI Anatolian Shepherd Dogs International, Inc. was founded.

In 1993 UKC recognized the **Anatolian Shepherd** breed.

In 1996 AKC recognized the **Anatolian Shepherd** breed.

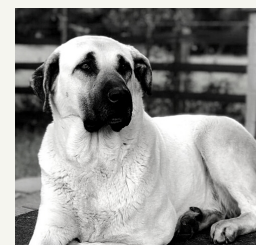


<https://www.ukcdogs.com/anatolian-shepherd>

<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/anatolian-shepherd-dog/>

1998

UKC recognized both the **Kangal Dog** and the **Akbash** breeds.



<https://www.ukcdogs.com/akbash>
<https://www.ukcdogs.com/kangal-dog>

NOW

We see multiple camps of belief in regards to the validity of Turkish Shepherd breeds due to the fact that the Turkish people did not claim their dogs were a breed until foreigners took interest in naming and preserving them.

We have an opportunity to work together as admirers and enthusiasts to honor the history of the timeless Coban Kopegi, meaning ALL of the traditional Turkish Shepherd dogs. The existence of one type, landrace, or breed doesn't negate the others. The Anatolian Shepherd Dog meets the requirements of a "breed," as do the Akbash and Kangal Dog.

Division and infighting only serve to divide focus and effort. When we work together, the dogs win.

