

## Database Search Tips

The Dog, People and Litter search facilities allow a good deal of flexibility in finding data. However, it is important to know how they work as well as some tips and hints to help you find the data you are looking for.

### Basic Search Information

Some important information and features about searches:

- Some search pages may allow combinations of search arguments while others may not. Make sure you look at the page closely for this information.
- Typically if you leave a search box blank, that means records will be returned from the search without regard to what is in that field. **Blank means ALL.**
- Searches are **not** case sensitive. You do not have to worry about capitalization being correct.
- Some search fields may offer an option of “**Begins With**” or “**Contains**”.  
“*Begins With*” means that the search will look for records with the characters you are searching for at the beginning of that data field (position 1 of the field). For example, if you entered the characters **big** in a search field and selected *Begins With*, the search would return all records where that field began with the letters **big** (like bigpaw or bigfoot).  
“*Contains*” means that the search will look for records with your specified character string anywhere in that data field. For example, if you entered the letter **e** and selected *Contains*, the search would return all records that contained the letter **e** somewhere in that field. This would typically be a lot of records and not a search you would normally do.
- If a field does not have the option to select *Begins With* or *Contains*, it is a *Contains* search by default.
- **Wildcards.** You may use an asterisk (\*) in your search string to specify any sequence of characters before the next character in your search string. For example, if you specified **h\*og** in your search string, the answer set returned could include the following data:  
hairy dog  
happy dog  
healthy dog  
hog  
hot dog
- **International Characters.** The database can handle most characters used in various European countries such as á, í, ñ, or ö. If a name contains one or more of these characters, you do not need to consider that when typing your search string. The search facility will return all records with the similar character representation in that position of the data.

### Dog Search

Dogs are usually the hardest records to search for due to a variety of reasons including:

1. Many unusual names
2. Frequent use of slang
3. Intentional (or unintentional) misspellings of words
4. Inconsistent use of apostrophes

To help overcome item #4, the Dog Search will automatically use a wildcard for the apostrophe s combination. This will help find dogs that you may not have thought were spelled that way. Additionally, the following tips may help you find dogs:

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- A. Avoid using apostrophes in searches if possible.
- B. Dog names are stored in the database without titles. Do not search for “*CH Dog Name*”, just search for “*Dog Name*”.
- C. Avoid using the ‘V’ or ‘Vom’ in your search character string as the name can be spelled either way.
- D. Try using a **Contains** search and just use a portion of the dog’s name that seems likely not to be accidentally misspelled. For example, if you think a dog’s name is Rosewood Deerpark Oso Hotzo and you search on that name but come up with no matches, you should try searching on part of the name that doesn’t have very unusual words. We would suggest trying to search on “Deerpark O” (without the quotes) and select **Contains**. You may get a dozen or so dogs to select from but you would have a good chance of finding the dog you were looking for. By the way, the actual name for the dog listed above is Rosewood Deerpark Oso Hozho so you can see how the spellings can be just a little different than you might think.

### People Search

Unusually spelled names are typically the hardest to find. Some of the same tips apply as for dog searches:

- A. Avoid using apostrophes in searches if possible.
- B. Try using a **Contains** search and just use a portion of the name that seems likely not to be accidentally misspelled.

### Litter Search

Breeder names may not always be linked or even known in the database. Some suggested search tips include:

- A. Try searching with an exact whelp date or birth year.
- B. Try searching by looking up either the sire or dam.