

The House of Sapphire

Kimonos of the finest silk flutter where not trapped beneath layers of flint slats connected by cleverly bound bamboos stalks in a protective chest armor. Material harvested from unique underground mushrooms complete the armor by forming an open skirt that went down to just above knees of legs that plodded along on blocks of wood bound to footpads with leather thongs: traditional Geta clogged sandals. Curved katana swords resting in intricately etched sheaths that carry the blessings of ancestors rest upon sashes wrapped about their bellies.

Such is how the Diamond Dog's House of Sapphire has amassed for war across the entire span of their winding history. While other Houses have sought to modernize their armies with new tactics and weaponry from the 'Upper World', the Sapphire Dogs have been loath to follow suit. Honor and ceremony hold a almost mystical strength of their own, say the Katana Dogs. Where guns jam, or magic fails, the sword arm remains strong as long as the will behind them is determined to carry forth their Pit Lord's will.

Despite their determined grasp on the past, the House of Sapphire has ironically been the most open to outsiders coming within their borders. Trade is entirely encouraged by a noticeable lack of tariffs the other Houses have erected; though woe to any traveler not well-versed in the ceremonies that are observed by these traditional Diamond Dogs. An incorrect posture while drinking offered tea is even enough to lead to expulsion from their lands in response to the dishonor brought upon their customs. Still those that have proven to be willing to observe their history will find the most loyal of friends that would lay their life down without a moment's hesitation if necessary.

Perhaps it is this acceptance of those not of their species that motivated the Sapphire Dogs' Pit Lord, Cobalt, to order the vast clan to mobilize for war on behalf of the Alliance. Vast armies of grim peasantry accompanied by their richer noble caste have come topside from their underground country of Caninena that hides beneath the hooves of the surface dwellers above. This call to aid their Griffon brothers being answered flies directly in the face of the progressive Diamond Dog Emperor; an insult to his insistence on trying to modernize his disparate peoples.

Still, the House of Sapphire walks a dangerous line. Pit Lord Cobalt Eyes acts of his own accord for the time being, along with the other Houses that have sought to pick sides for their own Lords' reasons. This places them in direct conflict with other Diamond Dogs that could potentially spill over to open warfare unless the Emperor relents on his position of remaining truly neutral in the face of a developing crisis.

Were that day to come, no matter how bitter the cost from loss of life, the House of Sapphire would be the first to heed his call. Even if it meant abandoning the Alliance entirely. For Cobalt Eyes and his followers, honor is placed above all personal feelings and agreements.



What it Means to be a Sapphire Dog: Your house wraps itself in the blanket of history like a protective coat. Though times change, there is no reason to cast aside the past that has guided your people for dozens of centuries. Bows and swords are your weaponry of choice, though technological wonders such as anti-air artillery and explosives have been used by peasantry that march along with the Sword Dog nobility to great effect in battles. You will honor the wishes of your Pit Lord, Cobalt, and seek to keep your long-time friends of the Griffon clans safe from the domineering armies fielded by the Pony Empire. Through your faith in tradition and the ancestors, you will prevail as your kind has since time immemorial in the lands of Caninena.

Alignment: A member of the Free People's Alliance, with a leaning towards Lawful Good.

Patron Deities: Like most of the other Houses, the Sapphire Dogs worship their ancestors. Great shrines have been erected to help guide their peasantry and noble dogs alike in these trying days.

Combat Role: Line Troops. Numbers carried forth by an ideology of following a code of honor to death makes sure these warriors accompanied by their supportive cadre of peasant followers carry forth their Pit Lord's will above all else. Heavy armor and weaponry that are present in Pony and Griffon armies are traded for maneuverability and a focus on individual combat. In the midst of battle it has been observed a single Sword Dog breaking apart entire formations on their own armed only with a sword and their blessed armors.

Appearance: A Dog of the Sapphire House's appearance varies depending on their caste status. Peasantry go to battle in little more than a kimono, while Katana Dogs wield magically blessed swords and are donned in armor that has been handed down for generations. Both kinds of warriors though inscribe their gear with personal prayers to the Ancestors, and exultations of their Pit Lord that leads them in the very same manners as the Dogs before and after them.

Character Creation

Unique Class: May play a Katana Dog Retainer

Ability Score Bonus: +1 to Integrity on top of regular race stats.

Trainings: You receive free skill training in History (+5). Proficient in Military-Grade Melee, Archery and Medium-Grade Armor

Starting equipment: 30 bits, Choice of one Archery weapon, Choice of one Survival equipment, Choice of Light or Medium Armor, Rucksack, a week's worth of rations.

Clan Strength: Ceremony – When flanking a character with a lower History score, a Sapphire Dog receives +1 to crit range.

Clan Weakness: Traditional – Any Sapphire Dog not equipped with a traditional Katana sword cannot receive flanking bonuses. The bonus from Ceremony still works, however.