Portuguese Water Dog

Although the Portuguese Water Dog's listed home country is Portugal, the breed shares a common background with other European water dogs and was taken to Portugal by traders, probably Moors, via North Africa. He is a fairly recent newcomer to the UK. The fishermen of his native Portugal employ his great love of water in service with their boats: he can be trained to retrieve lost nets and to swim from boats close in to the shore. He was at one time used as a hunting dog, and is also a keen guard.

He is a friendly dog, even if, as his standard says, he is self-willed. He needs firm handling when young to counteract this stubborn streak.

His coat is customarily clipped over the hindquarters and on the tail, leaving a profuse plume at the end. Unusually, there are two distinct types of recognised coat: one is long and loosely waved while the other is short and harsh with compact curls.

Breed Group	Working
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Large
How much exercise?	Up to 1 hour per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	Every day
Supposedly sheds?	No
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Small/Medium
Lifespan	Over 10 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Portuguese Water Dog?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Assured Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or
4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or
6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

Portuguese Water Dog Clubs

Name	Telephone	Email
Portuguese Water Dog Club Of Great Britain	01205 751647	whistbrae@btinternet.com

Portuguese Water Dog Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone	Email
Portuguese Water Dog Club of Great Britain Rescue	01724 798321	dogsrme@live.co.uk

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