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.

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

THE KENNEL CLUB
ACCREDITED BREEDER SCHEME

Assured Breeders

Name	Member since	Phone	Email	Accolades
Mrs J B Johns Wisbech, Cambridgeshire	30/09/2006	01945 430139	gemsonpwd@aol.com	SB BC B
Mr G & Mrs R Walmsley Ashbourne, Derbyshire	28/10/2005	01335 324498	robengerpwd@aol.com	BC B
Mrs K Wilton Winchester, Hampshire	28/02/2011	01962 820411	merrowbelle@hotmail.co.uk	BC
Mrs C & Mr B Matton Gravesend, Kent	26/02/2013	01474 352 890	pawtraitgrooming@live.co.uk	BC
Mr D & Mrs A Samuelson London	18/06/2012	0208 7421612	annasamuelson@hotmail.co.uk	BC

Name	Member since	Phone	Email	Accolades
Miss S McGill Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	30/09/2010	01159 332263	winterkloud2000@yahoo.co.uk	SB B
Mrs J Creffield Ipswich, Suffolk	02/07/2004	01449 744250	melfieldk9@btinternet.com	E SB BC B

Accolade of Excellence
Denotes a significant contribution to a breed.

Studbook Achievement
Bred at least 3 dogs listed in the Studbook.

Breed Club Membership
Current member of one or more breed clubs

Breeder Experience
5 or more litters registered with the Kennel Club

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