

## Afghan Hound



Glamour in the dog world comes in many forms, but the Afghan must be in the top ten of anybody's list. The breed standard talks of strength and dignity as well as an Oriental expression with which the dog looks at and through any stranger.

The silky coat is to many the greatest attraction of the breed, but those in the showing only look the way they do because someone has regularly put a great deal of experienced effort into grooming.

One of the typical sighthounds of the world, the Afghan - who, as his name implies, comes from the mountains of Afghanistan - is a hunter and will chase electric hare or the neighbour's cat, so basic training, especially the re-call, is not easily accomplished.

The first Afghans arrived in Britain in the early 1900s and one, called Zardin, won in spectacular style at the 1907 Crystal Palace show. The breed is also known as the Tazi, supporting its resemblance to a Russian breed of that name.

Temperamentally the Afghan has a tendency to be aloof with those he doesn't know, but has great affection and faithfulness for his owner.

### **What about Health Issues?**

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 puppy 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 on the Kennel Club's website at:**

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth)

Puppy buyers 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.

### **And what health screening is relevant for the Afghan Hound?**

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