

Borzo



An aristocrat of a dog, with his bearing, his size and his proudly carried head. The wolf hunter of Russia, his name means 'swift' in his native country, and though he may not perform his original function any more, he is still built on lines of speed and grace. The earliest seen in Britain were presented by the Tsar of all the Russias to Queen Alexandra and the breed soon caught on.

Temperamentally not a breed for the masses as he is sensitive and aloof in his view of mankind; to his owners he is faithful with an undeniable courage.

His long silky coat with its slight wave comes in a host of different colours, and requires dedicated application from the groomer if it is not to be allowed to deteriorate into tangles. The slightly domed and narrow skull with the almost straight, but slightly convex, topline to the nose gives the dog a refinement which is unique in appearance. He is a dog of striking quality.

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

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 Borzoi?

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.