

## Australian Terrier



His origins in Australia are said to have been along similar lines to the Australian Silky Terrier, from the Toy Group, and to have been developed in the nineteenth century by Australians using native British terrier breeds. The likely antecedents of the Australian Terrier are Scottish and north of England terriers taken out by early settlers. The Australian Terrier gained approval in Britain in 1936 and is a cheerful, lively little dog. He is smart, but with a rugged 'hard-bitten' appearance, partly derived from the expression and size of his dark, keen eyes. He has a 'ready for anything' approach to life and enjoys exercise and plenty of play. He makes a good house-dog, and is watchful and vociferous at the approach of strangers.

The Australian Terrier is a very popular breed in the country from which he derives his name, and comes in two distinct colours - blue and tan, and all red. As puppies the blue and tan often carry a blue-black coat, which changes in colour when the puppy is about nine months old. The 'Aussie' is a good all-round family dog.

### **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 Australian Terrier?**

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.