

Cairn Terrier



Scottish in ancestry, this small, sturdy terrier is in every way a game little dog. He is very natural with a slightly shaggy, but not unkempt, appearance, and his double waterproof coat takes very little effort to look after. He has a particularly expressive head set off by dark, sparkling eyes which give a good indication of his character. With his small prick ears and shaggy eyebrows his expression can change from mischievousness to one of gentle devotion very quickly.

He loves people, is an able swimmer and a great hunter. Ready for any activity, he makes an ideal companion for a family, fitting in well with any lifestyle.

The first time a dog of this breed was exhibited was in 1909 and three years later the Cairn was recognised by the Kennel Club with challenge certificates on offer. Yet, in spite of this comparatively recent emergence in our showing, dogs of the Cairn type can be traced back some five hundred years and the breed's development runs parallel with that of the Skye, West Highland White and Scottish Terriers. In fact, when first exhibited in 1909, it was known as the Shorthaired Skye Terrier.

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.the Kennel Club.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 Cairn Terrier?

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme

This list is not necessarily comprehensive and you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.