

Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Those who have read Sir Walter Scott's *Guy Mannering* will recognise the name Dandie Dinmont. This fictional character gave the breed its name. The colours by which these dogs are known, mustard and pepper, were adopted from the names of Mannering's dogs. The Dandie looks sedate but can move extraordinarily quickly. He is a most intelligent chap with a will of his own, and he is not the most obedient of pets.

Devoted to children, he can melt the hardest of hearts with his soulful expression and enjoys, and asks for, plenty of attention.

The breed comes from the same root stock as many others from the north of England and the borders between England and Scotland. The Dandie was developed in the 1600s for badger and otter hunting.

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 Dandie Dinmont 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.