

Fox Terrier (Smooth)



The Fox Terrier in both forms, Smooth and Wire, is known throughout the world but is from British origins and probably owes its existence to the same types of dog which produced both the Bull Terrier and the Black and Tan (now Manchester) Terrier. Uniformity of type was established in the late 1800s and the original standard for the Fox Terrier was drawn up in 1876.

An active and was lively breed, likened in the standard to a short-backed, well made hunter, covering a lot of ground. One of the most lively and alert of terriers, refinement to his present show excellence has not allowed him to become one whit unsound. Capable of standing up to any amount of exercise, always ready to deal with rats, rabbits, and, of course, foxes. Not the dog to let loose on a hillside covered with sheep, but ideal for family life in town or, properly controlled, in the country. Small enough to be carried if necessary, but tough enough to appeal to the man in the household.

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 Fox Terrier (Smooth)?

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.