

Boston Terrier



A real Yankee-doodle-dandy. Although he owes a little of his ancestry to the British Bulldog, the breed actually came into being in the late nineteenth century in the eastern states of America. His short, square muzzle identifies him as a 'Bull breed' and his small erect ears combined with his well defined colouring add to his smart appearance. Dapper and classy, he is a real eye-catcher when out and about.

The Boston is derived from original pit fighting dogs and is one of the few breeds 'made in the USA'. It was in 1893 that a mix of bull and terrier types produced the first pair of dogs which were to become the foundation of the Boston Terrier.

He is good-tempered and a happy housedog - if a little boisterous. His short coat is easy to care for and his intelligence is highly developed.

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 Boston 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
- DNA test – HC-HSF4

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