

Canaan Dog



A recent re-introduction to the United Kingdom, the Canaan Dog is generally accepted as the national breed of Israel. A few have been registered here in past decades, but it is only in the last few years that the breed has begun to be exhibited at our shows.

He stands up to 61 centimetres (24 inches) at the shoulder, which means he is at the upper end of the medium-sized dogs. He has his origins in the feral dog of the Middle East, the pariah dog, and selective breeding is evolving a distinct breed type. The current breed standard is based closely on that of the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI). He is an effective guarding dog, alert and versatile, and that no doubt, as time goes on, he will settle to a definite British pattern.

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 Canaan Dog?

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
- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- Breed Club Patella scheme
- Check for Cryptorchidism

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