

## German Pinscher



A medium-sized, smooth coated dog of German origin. He is the middle-sized member of the family, fitting in between the larger Dobermann, and the smaller Miniature Pinscher. The breed was officially recognised by the German Kennel Club in 1879 with type set around the start of the twentieth century. Pinscher is the German word for terrier but the German farmers' terriers were larger than terriers in England and were too long in the leg to go to ground, though they did make an effective guard of the home.

A stylish dog of sturdy build and elegant lines, his smooth, glossy coat requires minimum attention. He is responsive and obedient, a little distrustful of strangers, and this makes him an excellent watchdog.

### **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](http://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 German Pinscher?**

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.