

## Affenpinscher



This quaint little dog has a captivating monkey-like expression, and is one of the oldest Toy dogs in Europe, dating back to about the seventeenth century. Known as the Black Devil, he originated in Germany. Some think he is descended from wire coated terrier types of the Nordic dogs of which he is a miniature, while others see in the Affenpinscher something of the pug-like dogs from Asia which are found in Europe. Full of mischief, he is a lively little character, very affectionate, and his comical antics make him a most amusing companion. He has a rough, harsh-textured coat which requires very little care and no trimming. Dark, sparkling eyes, set off by a halo of hair which stands away from his face, give him his unique expression. He adapts to city or country living, and is an ideal size for house or flat.

### **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 Affenpinscher?**

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- Breed Club Scheme – Patella Test

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