

Australian Silky Terrier



As his name implies this dog originated in Australia and, at one time, was known as the 'Sydney Silky'. A certain MacArthur Little was an early prominent breeder and when he moved to Sydney with his kennel of dogs the name Sydney Silky was born. Although he is in the Toy Group he is far from being a quiet little lap dog. His background comes from a mixture of Australian and Yorkshire Terriers, and he retains many of the qualities of these breeds. He is friendly but independent, smart and curious, energetic, affectionate, and has lots of stamina. Primarily he was bred to be a household pet, and he fills this role admirably. His glossy, silky coat, which is five or six inches long, is easy to look after and a few minutes' daily brushing, with a quick comb and parting down the back, gives him a well groomed appearance.

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 Australian Silky Terrier?

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.