

Chinese Crested



These unique little dogs come in two varieties - the Hairless and the Powder Puff. The 'Hairless' have a crest of hair on their head extending part way down their neck, 'socks' covering their toes, and a plume on their tail. The rest of their body is, as their name implies, hairless, and moisturisers are frequently used to keep the skin fine and supple. The 'Powder Puff' variety is covered entirely with a veil of long soft hair. Both varieties come in a mixture of colours, and can be plain or spotted. This is most definitely a breed for the connoisseur.

While it is difficult to pinpoint their origin, it is said that they were owned by families of the Han Dynasty of China. The Chinese Cresteds were developed at this time as guardians of the treasure houses and, in a larger, heavier form, as hunting dogs. They were seen at shows in America from 1885 to 1926 but then were rarely ever seen for some fifty years. They are a fastidious breed, keeping themselves scrupulously clean, and have no 'doggy' odour. Affectionate and intelligent, with a strong constitution, they make unique and delightful companions and are good watch dogs.

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 Chinese Crested?

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.