

## Bolognese



The Bolognese (pronounced Bol-o-neeese) is an ancient, charming and intelligent breed of small dog hailing from the centre of Northern Italy. It is after the style of other Bichon types, but has a distinctive non-shedding flocked coat. Regular grooming is necessary but this does not include trimming as a means of keeping it neat and tidy. An attractive apricot shading appears occasionally on the ears, but otherwise the colour is white.

Temperamentally the Bolognese delights in family activities and expects to be included in long walks as well as indoor or garden games. Historically the breed seems to have been regarded as a most acceptable gift in fashionable circles. Today, he is equally acceptable in cottage or castle.

### **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 Bolognese?**

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.