

The Cairn Terrier!



Congratulations and welcome to our world!

You have chosen a Cairn Terrier to be your companion. The Cairn Terrier Club of America is an organization devoted to the welfare of this rugged little terrier from the Highlands of Scotland and the Isle of Skye, and we hope that you and your Cairn puppy will have many happy years together.

Breed Standard

The Official Standard describes the Cairn as active, game and hardy, strongly built and free of movement, with a hard weather resistant coat and a short wide head well furnished with hair. He has large teeth, a keen terrier expression, wide set small erect ears and a straight tail, carried up but not curled over the back. The ideal size is about 14 lbs., height about ten inches, length from 14 1/4 to 15 inches.

Originally he was a working dog, earning his keep helping the Scottish farmer rid his holdings of the foxes and badgers that preyed on his livestock and crops. Their dens were in the piles of rocks called "cairns" scattered over the Scottish hillsides. The Cairn would squirm and dig his way down into these rocks, bark to hold the varmint while the farmer dug down to dispatch the intruder – and of course, sometimes the Cairn had to defend himself against his much larger adversary. Today, the Cairn Terrier has the same instinct and courage he had then.

Health Care

The selection of a good veterinarian should be made promptly, as your puppy needs supervision of his vaccination schedule and preventive medicine against heartworms, as well as regular check ups. Cairns are sturdy and inherently healthy, but owners should not attempt to diagnose or treat a sick dog. Human medications can be harmful or fatal for dogs.

Feeding

Feed your puppy a premium dog food – one with two animal proteins listed in the first three ingredients on the bag. Look for natural preservatives – vitamin C or E – rather than chemicals. Adding small amounts of raw meat, finely chopped raw or lightly steamed vegetables,

yogurt or cottage cheese, and cooked egg to your dog's diet helps replace nutrients lost in processing the food. Pieces of carrot, apple, romaine ribs, etc., are crunchy, healthy treats. A raw beef knuckle bone or two a week will help to clean his teeth and ease boredom. At 6-8 months when your Cairn puppy starts picking at his food, it means his growth rate has slowed, and he no longer needs the quantity he's been consuming. Eliminate one meal, or cut back on quantity until he eats enthusiastically again. Keep fresh water available at all times.

Grooming

Regular brushing – at least once a week – followed by a careful combing, will keep shedding to a minimum. Trim excess hair from tips of ears, tail and feet. Keep nails short and teeth clean. Bathe seldom to avoid drying skin and excessive shedding. Do keep your Cairn flea-free, as many Cairns are allergic to flea bites. A 28-page booklet on grooming the Cairn Terrier, containing photos, diagrams and many helpful hints, is available from the CTCA for \$8.00.

Neutering vs. Breeding

Is one of the most important decisions you will make regarding your dog. Be aware that neutered dogs live longer than those left entire. Male Cairns which have been neutered do not have testicular cancer and are at greatly reduced risk of prostate problems, cancerous and otherwise. In addition, dominance and aggression in males is often hormonally linked.

Females will not have uterine cancers or uterine infections, which are not uncommon in unspayed females. Mammary tumor incidence is greatly reduced in females spayed before their first season, and a spayed female won't be attracting the neighborhood Lotharios to anoint your front steps.

Breeding is a serious undertaking, best left to those who have the knowledge to do it well, and who are committed to the responsibility for the puppies



brought into our often uncaring world. Breeding is a lot of work. Many long hours are required to keep a litter of puppies clean, fed, and properly socialized through 10-12 weeks of age. Many additional hours are spent researching stud dogs and pedigrees, as responsible breeders endeavor to produce puppies better than either parent. It can also be very expensive – most breeders feel they've been lucky when they break even on a litter. And, it can be heart-breaking. Even in the skilled hands of an experienced breeder, the birth of a litter can end tragically.

Training

Cairns are very intelligent and curious. Be sure you train your puppy with firmness and consistency. Harsh punishment is not necessary. Be sure,



though, that your Cairn knows that you are in charge. Like children, they will test your limits, but need discipline to turn out well. A good obedience training class is highly recommended. "Kindergarten puppy training" classes are especially valuable for the novice owner of the clever Cairn. Even if you don't do formal obedience training, teach your puppy to walk on a leash.

A Cairn's natural instinct is to chase small animals and they often challenge larger dogs. A leash can save your Cairns life – they don't look both ways before crossing the street.

A Cairn should not be tied out in a yard, or allowed to run loose, for his own safety and to avoid bothering your neighbors. Your Cairn should wear a collar with an ID tag at all times in case he is ever lost. His tag is his ticket home – replace it if you move. Ask your veterinarian about micro-chipping as well.

Activities for You and Your Cairn

Obedience competition with a Cairn is a great way to forge a bond between you – if you make sure it's fun for your Cairn. Cairns are a natural at Agility, a fast growing AKC recognized sport. Tracking and terrier trials are other possible worlds for you and your Cairn to explore. Incidentally, the AKC welcomes spayed and neutered dogs in all these activities. Only Conformation classes are closed to neutered Cairns.

The Foundation of the Cairn Terrier Club of America

The Foundation of the Cairn Terrier Club of America is dedicated to the future health and welfare of the breed. Ongoing fund raising is imperative – veterinary research is expensive – but the rewards are great. The knowledge gained will enable us to breed ever healthier dogs. Your support will help further this goal. Your tax-deductible donation may be made to honor, or in memory of, dogs or people, and the honoree will be notified of your gift.

If you are interested in donating to the Foundation of the CTCA or finding out more information, visit the website at www.cairnterrierhealth.org or contact:

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If you have questions about the breed, wish to learn about regional clubs, are interested in ordering a grooming booklet, you may wish to log on to the CTCA website at www.cairnterrier.org. Or, you may contact the current Corresponding Secretary of the Cairn Terrier Club of America:

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