

The American Fox Terrier Club Congratulates You on Your New Wire Fox Terrier



The Wire Fox Terrier originated in England to go to ground and bolt the fox or dispatch vermin. He is known for his handsome appearance and outgoing nature. Wire Fox Terriers are alert and hardy, with a life span of 12-15 years. Standing about 15.5 inches at the shoulder, he is usually tri-colored with black and tan markings or white with tan markings called a "ginger". Originally bred to go to ground after vermin, today they make fun loving companions. He is an ideal size, small enough to fit in anywhere and game enough for rough and tumble play. The Wire is at home in the city or country whether chasing squirrels or taking a walk to the corner shop. It is crucial for this breed with its hunting instincts to have a fenced yard or be walked on a leash. You might want to explore microchipping your dog with AKC Reunite at www.akcreunite.org. It is available at a discount with your AKC registration.



Grooming

The Wire Fox Terrier has a harsh double coat that is hand stripped or plucked for the show ring. Most pet owner's clipper their Wires or do a partial strip/clip to maintain the deep colors. Your breeder may be able to give you help on grooming. Every six to twelve weeks the coat will need to be stripped or clipped to maintain a smart tailored outline. The Wire does not shed if kept brushed and trimmed. It is important to give your dog regular veterinary care and maintain him on a good diet. It is important to keep your dog free of parasites in order to avoid problems with allergies.

Training

Wire Fox Terriers are very trainable, however, it should be understood that they were bred to be independent hunters and to be alert to all that they see, hear and smell. Once you have their attention and basic commands mastered, there are many pursuits to share with your dog. Some AKC performance activities come naturally, such as Earth



Dog tests, Barn Hunt and dock diving. With proper training and some patience, they can compete in AKC activities such as obedience, agility, fast cat and barn hunting which is a natural fit for this earth dog. You need to provide your Wire with the proper amount of exercise and when it's time to rest, a crate is a "den", a quiet place of his own. A crate is also an aid in house training, a safe spot when riding in the car and the best place when there is a lot of activity coming and going in the house.

Finding a Wire Fox Terrier

There is a lot to consider when and where you purchase your Wire Fox Terrier. Some key points to consider; is the breeder a member of the National Club where a code of ethics is followed by the members, do they show their dogs, do they perform health checks and or genetic testing if needed, will you be supplied with a veterinarian health and shot record on your puppy, what is the return policy for the dog? The American Fox Terrier Club has the written standard for the breed and a list of members that are breeders at www.aftc.org. This is a good starting point when looking for a puppy, adult or breed information. It is one of the benefits of finding a well-bred Wire Fox Terrier.



Breed, Spay, Neuter

Breeding your Wire Fox Terrier is a serious undertaking. There is a lot to consider such as veterinary care for a dam and puppies, socializing puppies, proper facilities and finding and educating new owners. The breeder should be able to advise you if your Wire should be bred. Many reputable breeders sell their pet puppies on a limited AKC registration or on spay/neutered agreements. It is a wonderful but enormous responsibility in rearing puppies. Spaying and neutering is something to discuss with your veterinarian. For the companion dog, it is often the easiest way to proceed and be free of heat cycles, and unwanted pregnancies. The boys also benefit from neutering as it takes away the sexual drive and makes for an easy stress free life for the dog.

Temperment

A Wire Fox Terrier is bold, active, alert and always ready to play, run, or have an adventure. You should consider if they will blend into a family that may already have pets. They are very intelligent and can outsmart you without thinking twice. Their love and passion for life, spills over into every aspect of them, from the bright twinkling eyes looking for the next bit of fun or mischief, or seeking out the warmth of your lap.

Your Wire Fox Terrier will take you on a lifetime journey of love and learning. The possibilities are endless.

References books for history of both Smooth and Wire Fox Terriers

The New Fox Terrier by Harold Nedell, 1987

The New Complete Fox Terrier by Evelyn Silvernail, 1979

www.AKC.org

www.aftc.org

References books for Hand Stripping

The Art of Hand Stripping by Scott Wasserman

Can be ordered at mrterrier.com in either English or Spanish version.

“*Grooming the Broken Haired Terrier*” can be purchased at the aftc.org website.

