# *The American Fox Terrier Club Congratulates You on Your*
# Smooth Fox Terrier

The Smooth Fox Terrier originated in England to go to ground and bolt the fox or dispatch vermin. He is an alert, compact dog standing about 15.5" at the shoulders and weighs about 18-20 pounds. They are predominantly white and may have black or tan markings. Their lean head, small folded ears, arched neck, square frame is followed by an upright tail that displays its joy of living. It is an active participant in any family, going from walks, to couch, to play or to bed. The Smooth is naturally happy, playful and clever. It is always alert to sights and sounds.

### Healthcare

Smooths are long-lived with few genetic diseases. The best way to avoid hereditary defects is to question the breeder and see the breeding stock yourself. Your vet should examine a puppy or older dog when you acquire it. You can consult the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) at

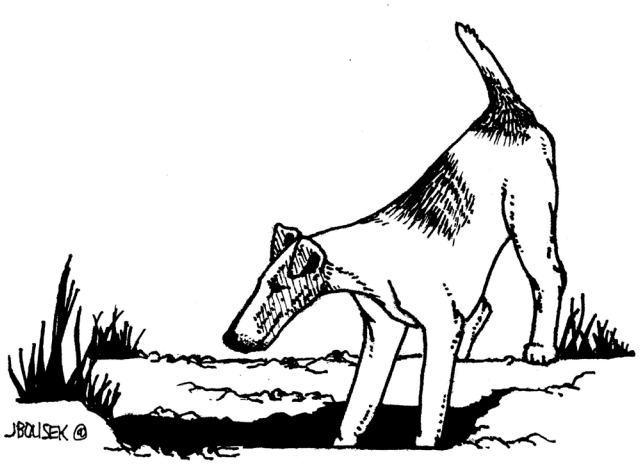
**https://www.akcchf.org**

The Center assigns a CHIC number when clearance is given. For Smooths, the American Fox Terrier Club recommends checks for subluxating patellas and heart abnormalities.



### Training and Activities

Smooth 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 performance activities come naturally, such as Earth Dog tests, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT and dock diving. Agility requires training but the Smooth can conquer all that comes without hesitation. Rally or obedience training are good foundations for any dog if positive methods are used. See **www.AKC.org** under Performance Events to learn when and where trials/ tests take place.




If you are interested in showing your dog in conformation, go to a dog show with a strong Smooth entry, to observe. Study the breed standard at **www.AKC.org** to learn how the dog should look and move. Your dog's breeder might be able to advise/mentor you. Junior showmanship is a worthwhile pursuit for a youngster. Local All-Breed clubs usually offer puppy, obedience and handling classes to train you and your dog. Of course, creating a routine at home is fun and useful. Sit, stay, wait to go out a door or out of a car, and into a crate will protect your dog and make life easier. A fenced in yard is imperative to contain the dog's

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enthusiasm to chase squirrels or other animals.

## Grooming

The Smooth's short double coat is almost self-cleaning and its small feet track in little dirt. The coat will keep the dog warm on winter walks. Avoid salt on roads and paths. A brisk brushing or use of a pumice stone removes loose hair at shedding times. There are deshedding shampoos that are helpful as well. If need be, the Smooth is small enough for a hosing off in a bathtub. Do not wash your dog any more than necessary to remove excess dirt or rolled-in smells. Excess bathing removes natural oils. To tidy up your dog, just scissor or clip the "feathering" on the tail, rear end and sides of the neck to show off its sculptured body and hindquarter. Be sure to keep the nails short from an early age either with clippers or a Dremel grinder. The Dremel may be accepted better than nail clippers with a patient introduction to the sound and vibration of the tool. It is not likely to cause pain or to cut the nail blood vessel (quick).



## Breed, Spay, Neuter

Breeding your Smooth Fox Terrier is a serious undertaking and a big financial investment. 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. Your breeder should be able to advise you if your Smooth should be bred. Many reputable breeders sell their pet puppies on a limited AKC registration or on spay/neutered agreements. Spaying and neutering is something to discuss with your vet. For the companion dog, it is often the easiest way to proceed and be free of worry of heat cycles and an unwanted litter. The boys also benefit from neutering as it takes away the sexual drive and makes for an easy stress free life for the dog.

Your new Smooth Fox Terrier will give you years of fun and affection. They are hardy, easy to maintain, always up for a walk or play and make a fun loving companion.



## Contact Information

You will find information on breeders, and the complete breed standard at **www.aftc.org**

The American Fox Terrier Club holds three Specialties annually in different parts of the country.

There is also a list of Regional Fox Terrier Clubs. Regional clubs hold annual specialties where a large number of Smooths can be seen in competition. There may be one near you.

References 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

*The American Kennel Club* **www.AKC.org**