Welcome to the World of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier!



Congratulations from the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America on your new Dandie puppy!

The D.D.T.C.A. is the national club of Dandie owners, breeders, and exhibitors whose primary purpose is to protect and advance the interest of the breed. We welcome you to the breed and offer you our help and support.

History

The Dandie originated in the border country between England and Scotland in the 1700s and shares a common heritage with other rough-coated terriers such as Scotties, Cairns, Westies, and Skyes. They were prized by gypsies and farmers to rid the countryside of vermin such as rats, badgers, and otters.



The breed type was solidified by the early 1800s. They were depicted in a popular novel of 1814, *Guy Mannering*, by Sir Walter Scott, as being owned by a border farmer named Dandie Dinmont. Border folk were quick to recognize James Davidson and his rugged band of terriers as the inspiration for the character. They called him Dandie Dinmont and his dogs Dandie Dinmont's terriers. The name stuck. By 1861, the Dandie was exhibited at shows throughout the countryside. In 1875 the Dandie Club was formed and a breed standard adopted. The American Kennel Club® registered its first Dandie in 1886.

General Characteristics

Even over 100 years ago, the Dandie was described as "grave, with deep-set, melancholy eyes as of a nobleman in disguise." This dignified appearance and calm bearing has earned him the name of "the gentleman of the terriers." The Dandie is a loyal and loving companion that fits almost any home style. He is gentle by nature, but challenged by another, he can be as scrappy as any terrier. Independent, determined, reserved, and intelligent, the Dandie combines an affectionate and dignified nature with tenacity and boldness. Bred to go to ground, he is a long, low-stationed, well-muscled working terrier with a curved outline, distinctive head topped by a silken topknot, and large expressive round and dark eyes. The Dandie body is covered with a mixture of soft and hard hair that is crisp to the touch in either mustard or pepper. A complete illustrated standard can be ordered from the club. See Information and Help on the back of this page.

Care and Training

As with any new puppy, your vet is essential in establishing correct immunizations, parasite treatment, regular checkups, and needed medical care. Also ask your vet about micro-chipping for identification. No one plans on a missing pet, but accidents can happen, and this new technology could be vital.

It's your job to provide a healthy diet and plenty of exercise. Obesity should be avoided. It is particularly harmful to long-backed breeds.

Never let your Dandie run loose. The natural hunting

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instinct could lead him far afield and perhaps into danger. A fenced yard and long walks are preferred. Speaking of yards, Dandies dig! It's their nature. Puppies particularly delight in this activity, so protect those flowers and vegetable gardens.

Since the Dandie can be headstrong, obedience training can be helpful to the new owner. Dandies have been very successful in the obedience ring. This training cements the bond of understanding between owner and pet.

Grooming

Grooming instructions are available from the D.D.T.C.A., in the form of an illustrated chart and two videos, one on trimming and one on stripping. See Information and Help for ordering information.

The Dandie does not shed. This is super; however, this means a stripping about twice a year to maintain the crisp coat. Daily brushing and combing to remove tangles and keeping nails short are easily done by the owner. Many novice owners want some help with the stripping. You are in luck if a knowledgeable Dandie breeder or owner is nearby (contact the club secretary for a list of names). If not, the charts and videos available from the club could help your local groomer. It is wise to seek out a groomer who is familiar with terriers.

Breeding vs. Spaying/Neutering

The D.D.T.C.A. encourages breeding to further the quality of the breed only. Members sell puppies with contracts that usually specify if they are for show, breeding, or pets. The breed is a rare one. With the limited gene pool available, serious damage to the breed can be done with indiscriminate breeding. An experienced breeder should be consulted before attempting this.

Pet Dandies should be spayed or neutered at an early age. This is a good thing for their health. Old tales— about females "needing" to have a litter, and dogs becoming obese from this procedure— are just that. Altering will prevent the mess of heat cycles, accidental breedings, and roaming males. These Dandies are still eligible to be shown in AKC obedience, earth dog, tracking, Junior showmanship, and agility trials. Dandies shown in conformation may not be spayed or neutered.

Information and Help

The D.D.T.C.A. website is:

www.ddtca.org.

The D.D.T.C.A. publishes a quarterly magazine, *Mustard and Pepper*, about breed happenings and health news. It is also available to non-members. For information on subscriptions or individual copies, visit our website:

www.ddtca.org and navigate to Store, Mustard and Pepper.

For membership information, navigate to Become a member.

Grooming charts, grooming videos, breed brochures, videos of past specialties, and other materials all are available from the properties chairman. For further information on these and other items, contact:

Diane Hanowitz
4380 Acacia Drive
South Euclid OH 44121-3306
email: dhanowitz@msn.com

For additional help and information in contacting D.D.T.C.A. members in your area, becoming a club member, or other general questions about the breed, contact the club secretary:

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