

Congratulations on Your New Lhasa Apso



History

The Lhasa Apso originated in the isolated reaches of the Himalayan Mountains hundreds of years ago. Referred to in Tibet as Apso Seng Kyi, best translated as "Bearded Lion Dog," the Lhasa's primary function was that of a household sentinel.

In 1933, C. Suydam Cutting introduced the first Lhasa Apsos to the United States. His dogs were gifts from the 13th Dalai Lama. The breed was admitted to AKC registration in 1935 and is shown in the Non-Sporting Group.

General Information

Lhasas are a small, hardy breed, measuring about 10-11" tall at the shoulder, weighing between 12-18 lbs. The breed comes in many colors from very light blonde to black. As a puppy ages the coat color may lighten. Black tippings on ears and face are common features. The pigment around a Lhasa's eyes and nose should be black.

Distinguishing features of the breed include the coat, tail, and eyes. Parted in the middle, the Lhasa's beautiful cloak of hair drapes over each side of the body from head to tail. The tail should be carried over the back in a curl or screw lying to the side. A kink in the tail is common and was once considered a sign of luck. A Lhasa's dark brown eyes should be of medium size and oval in shape.

A slow maturing breed, Lhasas do not reach their prime until well into their third or fourth year. Lhasas age gracefully, keeping a youthful appearance and attitude well into their teens. The average lifespan of the breed is 12-15 years, although many have lived to be much older.



Personality

The Lhasa temperament is joyful, mischievous and clown like, as well as regal, dignified, aloof and can be independent. Bred as indoor watchdogs for centuries in the Tibetan monasteries. Lhasas can be wary of strangers and will bark to alert, but never timid or shy. To overcome their natural tendency to be wary of strangers, early socialization is critical to ensure a happy and confident Lhasa.

Training

While Lhasas can be an independent breed, they can be successfully trained in obedience. By making training fun, reward based, varied and with shortened training periods, they will be quite willing to please and be good members of society.

Having keen intelligence and reasoning ability, Lhasas can be somewhat manipulative. Therefore, consistency is crucial in their training and must include all family members of the household. If a Lhasa owner does not establish themselves as the "leader of the pack," then without a doubt the Lhasa will assume that role!

Grooming

Unless the coat is kept very short all the time, the Lhasa is a breed that requires weekly routine grooming. While nearly everyone who sees a Lhasa in show coat admires its beauty, most pet owners find it more practical to keep the coat trimmed. Lhasas do not shed like other breeds. Their hair tangles and mats causing the dog to be uncomfortable and cause painful skin issues if ignored. In addition to keeping the coat mat-free, a regular grooming regimen is a great way to get a puppy used to being handled. It also allows the owner to become familiar with the Lhasa's body, which can be helpful in detecting a physical problem that may need veterinary attention. Grooming is an easily learned task and not necessarily time consuming when done regularly. However, many pet owners prefer to take their Lhasas to a professional groomer every few weeks for routine brushing, bathing and clipping.

Lhasas and Children

Responsible breeders are careful about placing Lhasas in families with small children. An outgoing, active puppy will better acclimate to an active household than will a quiet, timid puppy. All puppies and children should be

closely supervised and monitored by responsible adults. With proper supervision and reward based training that also includes the children, your Lhasa can become a loving, confident member of the family. Teasing or tug-of-war games that encourage a puppy to bite should not be allowed. Hide-and-seek, fetch and short, fun training sessions help young children and puppies learn to trust each other and become lifelong friends.

Health Concerns

The Lhasa is a relatively healthy and long-lived breed. A very small percentage of the breed may have KCS (Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca or “dry eye”) cherry eye, luxating patellas, renal dysplasia and allergies. It is recommended to set up a well-puppy visit with your veterinarian to get acquainted, review and complete your puppy vaccinations and to set up yearly check ups. Many Lhasa owners individually or collectively support health research for Lhasa Apsos thru the AKC Canine Health Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting this foundation ensures a healthy future for all dogs. For info re: ongoing health research to help your breed see www.akcchf.org or call toll free 1-888-682-9696.



Safety

Identify your Lhasa with tags, a tattoo, or a microchip in case it is lost. The AKC® Reunite Program offers a free dog tag with recovery information and the AKC® Reunite 24/7 phone number with AKC Registration. Whatever ID method is used, be sure to register the number with AKC® Reunite for lifetime recovery protection. For more information see www.akcreunite.org or call 1-800-252-7894.

Why Spay or Neuter?

Breeding dogs is a huge undertaking requiring time, energy, and money. Responsible breeders maintain and produce healthy breeding stock free from hereditary defects. Their goal is to improve their breed with every litter. The AKC now recommends delaying spaying and neutering as late as 18 months of age. This option can be further discussed with your breeder, veterinarian and or mentor. Studies have shown that delaying the procedure

lessens the risk of hip dysplasia, torn ligaments and other bone and joint abnormalities as well as some cancers. If breeding your dog is something you are considering, seek the advice of an experienced mentor who is familiar with breeding Lhasas and can help explain the process, discuss testing of breeding stock, and define the thoughtful steps a conscientious breeder takes to help avoid the disappointments and misfortune that can accompany thoughtless breeding practices.

Lhasa Apso Resources

The Lhasa Apso Breed Standard and the American Lhasa Apso Club's Illustrated Guide to the Standard are found at www.lhasaapso.org/ by clicking the “Breed Information” link.

Facebook page called Lhasa Apsos: Explanation From Experts is a resource /educational page run by reputable and knowledgeable breeders:

Your Lhasa Apso by R. Berndt

This Is the Lhasa Apso by J. Brearly

How to Raise and Train a Lhasa Apso by P. Chenoweth & T. Chenoweth

All About The Lhasa Apso by J. Cunliffe

Lhasa Apsos: All About America's Favorite Dogs published by Dog Fancy Magazine

The Lhasa Apso: An Owner's Guide to A Happy, Healthy Pet by C. Herbel

The New Complete Lhasa Apso by N. Herbel & C. Herbel
Guide to Owning A Lhasa Apso by S. Kennedy and J. Zeppi

Lhasa Apso by D. McCarty

The Lhasa Apso by A. K. Nicholas

An Owner's Guide To The Lhasa Apso by N. Plunkett

Lhasa Lore: The Complete Owners Handbook by S. Vervaecke-Helf

Lhasa Apsos: Everything About Purchase, Care, Nutrition, Breeding, and Diseases by S. Wehrmann and M.M. Vriends

Lhasa Apsos by S. Wehrmann and S. Vanderslip

Guide to Owning a Lhasa Apso (1996) by J. Zeppi

American Lhasa Apso Club

The American Lhasa Apso Club promotes the breeding of pure bred Lhasa Apsos to bring the breed's natural qualities to perfection. Its mission is to protect and advance the interests of the breed. ALAC provides resources to answer your questions about club membership, regional clubs and activities, the National Specialty Show and general information about this charming breed. Find more information by visiting the American Lhasa Apso Clubs website at:

www.lhasaapso.org