Welcome to the family of JAPANESE CHIN

The Japanese Chin is a small, well balanced, lively, aristocratic toy dog with a distinctive Oriental expression. It is light and stylish in action. A sensitive, intelligent dog whose only purpose is to serve man as a companion. Responsive and affectionate with those it knows and loves, but reserved with strangers or in new situations.

Brief History

Bred strictly as companions for royalty, the Japanese Chin's only job throughout time has been to charm, comfort, and amuse humans. The Chin's regal ancestry is revealed in his dignified demeanor. He has been a cherished companion for centuries, and is gentle, affectionate, sensitive, and celebrated for his sense of humor. Despite the name "Japanese," various theories exist as to their true origin. Some maintain the Chin originated in China; others say Korea. Various tales credit Buddhist monks, Chinese emperors, or European merchants with the Chin's introduction to Japan anywhere from 500 to 1,000 years ago, but all agree that it was Japanese nobles who cultivated the breed as we know it today. Despite being an ancient breed, the Chin remained unknown outside of Japan for centuries and was not brought to Europe until the 17th century when they arrived with Portuguese traders. They were not shown in England until 1873. The breed was originally called the Japanese Spaniel or Japanese Pug, with their name being changed to Japanese Chin in the United States in 1977.



Grooming and Maintenance

The Chin has an easy-to-care-for single coat, requiring only that it be kept clean and brushed out as needed. The face should be kept clean and dry, using a soft washcloth or facial pads. Chin require weekly brushing and a bath once a month or so, depending on its surroundings. The breed's nails grow fast and should be trimmed regularly to keep them short and neat. Their ears should be checked regularly to avoid a buildup of wax and debris that can cause ear infections. Keeping their teeth healthy can be a challenge due to their up-swept jaw and facial conformation. Make regular appointments with your vet to maintain them. Naturally cooperative dogs, the Japanese Chin can be taught to stand quietly on a grooming table for their weekly grooming session.

Training

Training a Chin can be rewarding for the trainer who can make them believe they are doing only the things they want to do. They are capable of learning quickly and should be trained in all useful life skills. No matter what type of activities you choose, your Chin will be happy to simply be with you. If you are interested in dog sports, the American Kennel Club provides a variety of events for owners and their dogs.



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Feeding

Toy dogs such as the Japanese Chin have a fast metabolism, burning energy at a high rate, although their small stomachs mean they must eat little and often. Small breed foods with small shapes and sizes are recommended to suit smaller mouths. Fresh water should always be readily available to your Chin.

Health

The Japanese Chin is generally a healthy breed with a lifespan of 10 to 12 years or more. Common health issues include luxating patellas, and heart murmurs. Thoughtful and responsible breeders will health test the parents that they breed to help choose individuals free of heritable disease. The Japanese Chin Club of America provides in-depth descriptions and details on their website at

www.japanesechinclubofamerica.org/health/

Responsible Dog Ownership

The Japanese Chin Club of America recommends that you spay or neuter your pet Chin as it increases the chances of your dog leading a longer, healthier life. Spay or neuter does not prevent your puppy from participating in performance events such as obedience, agility, or rally.

Breeding dogs is a huge responsibility that requires time, energy, and money. Responsible breeders seek to improve their breed with every litter, and they have the responsibility of maintaining healthy breeding stock free from hereditary defects. If you are truly interested



in breeding your Japanese Chin, consult your puppy's breeder or other preservation breeders before undertaking this serious endeavor; health information is available at **www.ofa.org**.

Your Japanese Chin should not be permitted to run at large but should always be on a leash or in a fenced yard. Even with these precautions, some Chin are lost each year. A microchip implant is a simple procedure that provides permanent identification in case our Chin is lost or stolen. There are advantages to permanent identification including the AKC Reunite" Lost and Found" recovery service available with AKC Registration. The service also works with any brand of microchip and charges no annual fee or record update fee. **For more information, see www.akcreunite.org or call 800-252-7894.**

Puppy Tips

Because of their small size and delicate nature, you will want to keep the world of your baby Chin small. A puppy playpen or infant 'pack 'n play' are both ideal spaces as they are large enough for a puppy pad and a play/sleeping area. Put your puppy in an area where he will have a lot of interesting things to see (most importantly YOU!) and change his pad frequently. Your puppy should have free access to food and water at all times. Because some of these babies can be prone to hypoglycemia, you should consider keeping a high calorie supplement like NutriCal on hand in case your puppy experiences a drop in blood sugar levels (symptoms can include weakness, tremors, twitching, seizures). Those who do experience hypoglycemia usually outgrow it by 6 to 8 months.



Education

The Japanese Chin, as with most small breeds, can have a risk of hypoglycemia when aged under six months or under five pounds. Due to the Japanese Chin's flattened brachycephalic face, breathing and eye problems can occur. Temperature extremes, particularly heat, should be avoided. Their oversized eyes are easily scratched and can lead to more serious ulcerations if left untreated. Although not usually an emergency, your Chin can experience reverse sneezing. This is characterized as a loud snorting sound and can be alarming to a new owner. A common remedy is to lightly massage the throat to calm him.

For more information on Japansese Chin, please visit:

https/japanesechinclubofamerica.org/