The Wonderful World of Pekingese

BREED INFORMATION BROCHURE
FROM THE PEKINGESE CLUB OF AMERICA

The Imperial Pekingese

Pekingese are one of the oldest of all breeds with a fascinating history that dates back to 800 A.D. They were the Emperor's dogs in China and were bred exclusively as possessions, fashion accessories and guards of the Imperial Court in Beijing. The penalty for smuggling one of these dogs out of the palaces was certain death. The smallest ones, around 5 pounds, were carried in the huge sleeves of the imperial robes and thus earned the name "Sleeve Pekingese," which endures to this day. Pekingese were introduced to America in the late 1800s and quickly became one of the most popular of all Toy breeds.

A Great Companion Dog

Pekingese make one of the best companions in the dog world because of their almost human intelligence and their well-mannered, affectionate natures. But they do require special care. Once you learn and understand their needs, however, it's easy to care for a Pekingese. Pekingese are dignified but playful, and they're independent thinkers who are nonetheless easily trained. They're a vigorous breed that requires a minimum of daily exercise to stay fit. Pekingese originated in the coldest climate of China and are an arctic breed by nature, so they tolerate the cold extremely well, but not the heat. Care must therefore always be taken to guard against overheating.

Training

An untrained dog, regardless of its size or its breed, can be a problem to its owner and to society in general. However if you get a puppy from a responsible breeder, you have a greater assurance that training and socialization began from the puppy's early stages of awareness. Training should begin as early as possible and continue as the puppy grows into adulthood. Always reward your Pekingese with praise and encouragement when it has responded to a command, remembering that good habits are built upon positive reinforcement. It is advisable to take your puppy to training class as well as to public places to get it used to noises, different people and situations. Always be patient and convey to your puppy confidence, nonchalance and good manners, and it will adapt to your attitudes and make a well-mannered pet throughout its life.

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Health and General Care

For 140 years Pekingese have been one of healthiest of all breeds, as they still are today. But, as with all short-faced breeds, the natural ease of breathing can be a major concern. It is important to choose a Pekingese with wide open nostrils on a moderate-sized nose. Because Pekingese don't have a long muzzle to act as a natural barrier of protection for the eyes, it is important to ensure that your environment is safe for your Peke and that nothing can jab or irritate its eyes. Pekingese appreciate cold temperatures and therefore some owners travel with their Pekes on frozen ice packs, or an ice pillow, even for rides in the car, which provides a level of comfort that Pekingese thoroughly enjoy.

Grooming

The Pekingese coat is its crowning glory and is generally easy to maintain with a few minutes of brushing a couple of times a week to avoid matting. Keeping nails trimmed, teeth cleaned, and the fold of skin over the nose clean and dry is part of routine maintenance. You may also want to train your Peke to hold still as you trim back the hair on the top edge of the over nose wrinkle so that no hair goes in the eyes. You might also decide to trim the excess fur between their paws and around the anus for sanitary purposes. Many Peke owners keep their dogs in a "Lion clip" or "Summer clip" during the warmer months, or just year-round, to make maintenance that much easier and more comfortable for their Pekingese.

Spaying or Neutering vs. Breeding

The Pekingese Club of America recommends that you spay or neuter your pet Pekingese as it increases the chances of your dog leading a longer healthier life. On the other hand, breeding your Pekingese can be filled with joys but also many disappointments because Pekingese are prone to difficult birth and often require Caesarean sections. If you choose to breed your Pekingese you should seek advice and help from a reputable breeder. You can find of list of them on *The Pekingese Club of America* Web site: **www.thepekingeseclubofamerica.net .**

Exhibiting Your Pekingese

Pekingese are one of the most successful breeds in the history of dog shows. Many Pekingese owners become involved in the sport of dogs and enjoy showing Pekes in Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Agility. If you choose to exhibit your Pekingese, or wish to learn how, the Pekingese Club of America will prove helpful in giving you advice and guidance.

The Pekingese Club of America

This is the national parent club founded in 1909 with 200 members in countries throughout the world. It is dedicated to responsible dog ownership and advocates for the Pekingese dog as a family companion and show dog. It protects and advances Pekingese health and well-being and works to educate Pekingese breeders, owners, judges and the public about the proper care and distinctiveness of the Pekingese. If you wish to become a patron of The Pekingese Club of America, your donation will be appreciated and will go to advancing the best interests of Pekingese the world over. Make your check payable to "The Pekingese Club of America" and send it to Ms. Betty Tilley-Poole, 9455 SW 140th Ave., Dunnellon, FL 34432-3973, (352) 465-1628, Betty@pleikupekingese.net.