

Yorkshire Terrier

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

BREED PROFILE:

YORKSHIRE TERRIER



The Yorkshire Terrier or "Yorkie" combines a Lilliputian stature with a Gulliver demeanor in one of the cutest packages around. Weighing 7 pounds or less,

Yorkies are one of the most diminutive members of the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Toy group.

The Yorkie is affectionate, delightful and interesting to own, and is especially suited for apartment living. To quote pet authority Roger Caras, a Yorkie "is a fussbudget, busybody, watchdog, and knockabout dictator."

History

The history of the Yorkshire Terrier is long and mostly theoretical, but just about all the experts agree that the breed began in Great Britain. The Yorkie was probably derived from a mid 1700's dog known as the "Waterside Terrier," which was bred for hunting and killing rodents. In the mid 19th century, the Yorkshire Terrier first appeared at a show in England as a "broken haired Scotch Terrier." In the Victorian era, the Yorkie became a popular pet in England and eventually made its way across the Atlantic to the United States. Now it is among the top ten most popular breeds in the U.S., according to the AKC.

Living with a Yorkie

Be prepared for petty tyranny and a lot of grooming. Balanced with their "tough" but stable personality is the convenience of the Yorkie's size. Although all dogs need our human companionship as pet owners, the Yorkie is well suited for busy urban living. He is especially easy to paper or pad train.

Beware of the Yorkie around small children though, not because of his personality (the temperament of a well-bred Yorkie tolerates children well), but because he is liable to be stepped on!

Although his natural terrier personality will produce a desire to be the dominant member of the family, early training will soften that dominance and help make him a happy member of your clan.

Interesting Breed Facts:

Popularity: 2nd in 2008; with 41,914 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC).

First recognized as a breed: In England, 1861. Became an AKC-recognized breed in 1885.

AKC Grouping: Toy.

Size:	Must not exceed seven pounds, according to the AKC.
Appearance:	Puppies' coats are black and tan and mature to a dark steel blue and tan. Coat should be glossy, fine, moderately long and perfectly straight. Head is small and flat on top with dark, sparkling, intelligent eyes. Ears are small and carried erect.
#1 Preventable Health Problem:	Unhealthy coat. Feed a premium diet, use supplementation if needed, and above all, subscribe to a regular grooming program.
Preferences:	Lots of interactive play, problem-solving toys, fetching. A family to guard.
Best features:	Clever and lovable. High energy, willing to guard despite his size, easy to travel with.
Biggest challenge to owners:	Remaining the boss. Being terriers, most tend to be dominant. Smaller dogs sometimes can get away with this because they are relatively easy to pick up and take out of a situation, but some basic obedience training will do you and your Yorkie a world of good.