Pekingese

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

BREED PROFILE: PEKINGESE

The Pekingese is a small, compact dog which portrays an air of self-importance and dignity. Because of this breed's expression, independence, and profuse mane, the Pekingese has often been referred to as the "lion dog". Traced all the way back to 8th century Buddhism in ancient China, the Pekingese was considered sacred and was a constant companion to Chinese Emperors. In 2004, a Pekingese won Best in Group at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, demonstrating that the love and devotion to this breed hasn't swayed.

Interesting Breed Facts:

Popularity: 55th in 2008; with 2,056 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC).

First recognized as a breed: The AKC first accepted the Pekingese as a breed in 1906. The Pekingese Club of America was first recognized by the AKC in 1909.

AKC Grouping: Toy.

Appearance: The Pekingese weighs up to 14 pounds and has a pear-shaped body. The head is large, broad, and flat, the muzzle is very short and the nose is black. This breed has large, round, dark eyes and the ears are

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*

	heart-shaped with heavy feathering. The front legs are short, thick, and slightly bowed. The hind legs are thick and straight. The coat is long and straight with a coarse texture. There is a noticeable mane around the neck and shoulders, resembling that of a lion. The tail is carried over the body and is also profusely feathered. According to the AKC, all coat colors and markings are acceptable, including parti-colors.
#1 preventable health problem:	Pekingese can be prone to tooth loss if proper dental care isn't maintained. Be sure to routinely clean teeth to remove plaque and tartar.
Preferences:	The Pekingese wants nothing more than to be completely devoted to his family, but expects his family to respect his independence.
Best features:	This breed is calm, but can also make an excellent watchdog. Because of his minimal exercise requirements and small size, this breed is also an excellent apartment dog.
Biggest challenge to owners:	The Pekingese can be stubborn. Since training isn't automatic for this breed, you must first gain his trust and respect. Once this is accomplished, the Pekingese will do all he can to please you.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*