

PASSION *for* PETS

Australian Terrier - Information Sheet



BACKGROUND

Proudly Australian, the breed evolved from a variety of British terriers that had been brought out to this country by settlers. Specifically bred for Australian conditions, this hard-bitten and tough little terrier was used for everything from guarding the farms and mines to hunting, and from tending the sheep to killing rats and snakes. Essentially a working terrier, the "Aussie" as they are affectionately known, soon endeared themselves to all those with whom they came in contact as a very desirable companion dog. Equally suited to town or country living, the Australian Terrier is noted for its loyalty, intelligence and even disposition. They are neither highly strung nor a persistent barker, but with their boundless self-assurance will happily take on the role of protector.

AVERAGE LIFESPAN

The Australian Terrier usually lives up to 13 years of age but with plenty of love and attention to its diet can live up to 15 years.

AVERAGE SIZE & WEIGHT

A healthy male usually weighs about 10kg and is up to 28cm tall while the bitch is usually 7kg and is 25cm tall.

BREED PERSONALITY, CHARACTERISTICS & TEMPERAMENT

The Australian Terrier is an even-tempered dog, versatile in movement, good company for young and old as it delights in human companionship. Small and tough, it is equally at home on a farm or in a suburban back yard.

COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER PETS

The Aussie adapts well to other pets such as cats and dogs (but remember they are a hunting and sporting terrier so rabbits and guinea pigs could prove a problem).

They are best introduced to other pets at an early age, but even when mature they do assimilate easily into a new household, but extreme care should be taken with two adults of the same sex.

CARE REQUIREMENTS

Brush its coat a couple of times a week as the brushing stimulates the natural oils in their coat giving them a high gloss. Bathe only when necessary. Minimum exercise is needed, but they will enjoy a daily walk or roam free in a fenced yard.

IDEAL OWNERS

For those people who want a warm-hearted "character", this cheerful little dog would be the ideal pet.