

English Toy Terrier (Black and Tan)



Before 1960 this breed was known as the Miniature Black and Tan Terrier, but devotees felt that this name was one which any terrier type in black and tan could utilise, so the name was changed to English Toy Terrier. Black and Tan terrier types can trace their history back at least to the early sixteenth century. Small Black and Tans were kept in the Regency and Georgian periods and were used variously to help flush foxes and in the rat-fighting pits. But it was as a town dog that the breed really became popular and the late 1800s saw a selective breeding programme.

This oldest of Britain's native toy breeds is not aggressive. The smooth, glossy coat requires minimal care. He makes a charming, intelligent companion.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the English Toy Terrier?

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- Breed Club – Patella Luxation
- BAER testing (deafness)

This list is not necessarily comprehensive and you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.