

# C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

on your new  
**Bearded Collie**



You've opened your home and heart to a bouncing ball of fluff, one that will leave paw prints on your heart forever. Beardies are willing to share all parts of your life. All you have to do is open the door and let them join you. Whether it's long walks, herding or obedience trials, or darting through weave poles on an agility course, your Beardie will be by your side whenever you invite him. Beardies do not fare well isolated from their people. When exercising your dog, protect your Beardie with a fence or by walking him on leash. With proper care, your Beardie should be part of your life for twelve to fourteen years.

Born to herd sheep, watch children and entertain the family, the Beardie is a people dog, one that likes to have some sort of job. The breed's modern development, about mid-1900s, made him into a popular companion and show dog. He can serve as a therapy dog or the official family greeter.

## **What you should expect . . .**

Beardies may be black, brown, blue or fawn, with or without any amount of white markings. A long, lean motion machine when you want him to be and a calm foot warmer at other times, the Beardie is described as

a shaggy, hardy, active, strong and agile dog. The four latter adjectives mean he will need exercise and mental stimulation to keep him—and you—content.

"Shaggy" means he will require regular grooming to keep him from matting. Weekly brushings from puppyhood are usually sufficient, except during the puppy coat shed. Lay your Beardie on his side for a thorough brushing and spray with water or grooming spray.

Brush upward, then brush a section down, making sure any knots of hair are removed with a comb or mat rake if necessary. Ask your breeder for a demonstration or visit a local dog show to observe the process.

## **Training**

Although the Beardie loves his family—and many strangers as well!—he is an independent thinker, bred to make decisions on his own to save a newborn lamb or to confront a stubborn ram. This means training should be part of your future agenda. Rather than one great mind vs. the other, find a way to convince the Beardie the task you desire him to complete is great fun—and maybe even his idea. He's not a robot, but a free-thinking soul. Beardies do well in any performance event as long as their person mentally stays one step ahead of them.





Look for a dog club that offers training classes in your area—check the phone book, newspaper and business bureau. Ask your veterinarian or another dog owner—one with a well-behaved pet.

### **Spay, Neuter, or Breed?**

One of your first decisions will be whether or not to alter your dog. Spayed or neutered animals can compete in AKC Companion and Performance events. Unless you intend to show your dog in Conformation events and eventually breed, altering your dog is a wise decision. Altered dogs have health benefits, avoiding reproductive tumors, and many times they are calmer and more responsive to their owners.

If you decide to breed, a responsible breeder understands puppies will need a home for life, if need be with you until a new home can be found. Ask your veterinarian to make sure your Beardie is free of genetic diseases, such as hip or elbow dysplasia and eye problems. Breeding dogs is a social and financial commitment.

Although most Beardie breeders welcome their puppies back at any time for any reason, sometimes this is impossible. Please do not take your Beardie to a shelter, where he may or may not find the home he deserves. If it is impossible to send your Beardie back to the arms of his breeder, please contact one of our Rescue contacts on our website.



### **Bearded Collie Club of America**

Check the Bearded Collie Club of America website—[bccca.us](http://bccca.us)—to view a breed brochure, purchase an Illustrated Standard, for information on joining the BCCA and much more. Contact info is on the website. This website also gives addresses to join other Beardie lovers on chat lists and literature available on the Bearded Collie.

Many BCCA members support health research for Bearded Collies through the BCCA Charitable Trust [www.bccacharitabletrust.org](http://www.bccacharitabletrust.org) or the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Supporting the CHF helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research, see [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org).



### **Safety**

Help ensure your dog's safety by permanently identifying your dog with a microchip. See the AKC Companion Animal Recovery program (CAR), [www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org) or 1-800-252-7894. For additional information on purebred dogs and events, see the American Kennel Club website, [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

