

***Congratulations on your new***

# Boston Terrier!



## About Boston Terriers

The Boston Terrier is truly an "All American" dog. He is often referred to as "The American Gentleman," and it has been said that "There is no better dog – no greater companion" than the Boston Terrier. Many adjectives have been used to describe this little dog; the Boston has been called: lively, affectionate, delightful, intelligent, stylish, sturdy, handsome, elegant, loving, loyal, and most of all – an extraordinary companion dog.

An American Kennel Club online article describing the Boston Terrier says, "He's as full of fun as a baseball game and as lovable as a Teddy bear. He's as reliable as a Chevrolet and low-maintenance as a pair of blue jeans. He's as friendly as a cowboy and as courageous as a Minute Man. He's always well-dressed and usually well-mannered."

## A Little Boston Terrier History

Following the Civil War, the Boston Terrier breed was developed in the stables of Boston, Massachusetts, as a fighting dog. He was bred from crosses between the English Bulldog and English White Terrier (and other dogs). These little dogs were very intelligent and showed the best features of both of these parent breeds.

In 1893 the Boston Terrier breed received its first recognition when 75 Bostons were approved for admission into the stud book of the American Kennel Club. Following recognition, the breed developed rapidly, and Boston Terriers soon found a place in homes and hearts all across America.

For the first half of the 20th Century, the Boston Terrier was the leading choice of pet owners across the United States and accounted for the largest number of AKC registrations of any breed. AKC says, "Part of the breed's success was due to its American origins; unlike many breeds whose programs relied on imports from Europe, the Boston's population did not decrease during the World Wars, when shipping dogs was difficult. But mostly, the Boston was and is popular because it is, to put it simply, a great little dog and an easy

keeper." This article also says, "Bostons are usually described as near-perfect companions; friendly, affectionate, gentle with children and other animals, playful, comical, lively and intelligent, clean and easy to train. Bostons live for their owners; they are eager to please and prefer to be right by their owner's side at all times."

## Taking Good Care of Your Boston

Boston Terriers require only a moderate amount of exercise and a minimum amount of grooming. They do well in relatively small spaces and are usually quiet, well-mannered dogs. They do require protection from extreme heat or cold and are not physically or psychologically constituted to be outdoor dogs. They should never be allowed to run free and should be contained by a fence or be on a leash at all times. They require the companionship of humans

and should be given regular exercise and the opportunity to eliminate at least four times a day after they reach adulthood. With a high-quality diet, proper exercise, and good veterinary care, your



Boston should maintain good health. The average life span of a well-bred and well-cared-for Boston should be about 11 to 13 years. The selection of a good veterinarian should be made promptly, as your puppy needs supervision of his vaccination schedule and preventive medicine against heartworms and other parasites, as well as regular checkups.

## Spaying and Neutering

As a responsible dog owner, one of the things you should do for your dog is have it spayed or neutered before it becomes sexually mature. For Boston Terriers, the recommended age to do this is usually around six months old. Neutering a male will



remove its psychological need to mate, it will tend to lose any aggressive tendencies, and the danger of testicular cancer is removed. Spayed bitches are often healthier and live longer and will not attract male dogs when they no longer come in season for three weeks twice a year. The American Kennel Club allows spayed and neutered animals to participate in all phases of obedience, agility, and junior handling, but not in most conformation classes.

## Boston Breeding Concerns

Breeding a Boston Terrier is recommended only if you have purchased an especially outstanding puppy who develops into an even more outstanding adult. A top quality Boston should be able to do well in competition with other Boston Terriers at AKC conformation events.

You should consider breeding your Boston Terrier only if it has passed an eye examination by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist (CAER), a hearing test (a BAER test if you can find someone to give a hearing test in your area), and a physical given by your veterinarian indicating that your Boston has normal patellas (knees), is in good health, and shows no sign of genetic disease.

Also important is completion of early onset Juvenile Cataract DNA test, which tests for the HSF-4 mutation, that causes blindness in Bostons by age two. Additionally, no Boston Terrier showing any indications of bad temperament should ever be used for breeding. Any Boston Terrier used for breeding should be a good representative of the breed as defined by the AKC Standard for the Boston Terrier.

Before you consider using your stud dog or bitch for breeding, remember that only dogs free from any genetic defects should ever be used for breeding. If ever a puppy is born with any genetic defects, it means that the parents are carriers of that hereditary disease, and the breeding should not be repeated.

You also need to consider the fact that breeding Boston Terriers requires a certain amount of skill and knowledge. Litters can be small (the average litter is 3.5 puppies), and C-sections are often required in order to protect the life of the mother and the puppies.

Breeding Boston Terriers is rarely a financially profitable venture. Birth defects sometimes occur, and defective puppies must be euthanized. Breeding dogs requires a financial investment as well as good veterinary care. Breeders also need to devote the time and energy to properly socialize their puppies so that they become good members of human society. Responsible breeders should also be very careful with their puppy placements so that Boston Terriers never turn up in dog shelters.

## The Boston Terrier Breed Standard

If you are interested in showing your dog in conformation competition, you should familiarize yourself with the official Boston Terrier Standard of the Breed which describes how the ideal Boston Terrier should look. A copy of the Standard can be found at the Boston Terrier Club of America website at:

[www.bostonterrierclubofamerica.org](http://www.bostonterrierclubofamerica.org)

You will also find extensive health resources for your new Boston as well as other information about the Parent Club, The Boston Terrier Club of America, and Affiliate Clubs across the United States at this site.

