



Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.

Member of the American Kennel Club

Bichon Frise Health Statement for AKC Web Site

“Gentle mannered, sensitive, playful and affectionate. A cheerful attitude is the hallmark of the breed and one should settle for nothing less” This outstanding temperament (quoted from the official AKC standard) is inherited, as are the other aspects of health, but of course must be nurtured with proper socialization. The Bichon is considered a very healthy breed, but to ensure healthy offspring, responsible breeders will first choose sires and dams that have solid temperaments and which at a minimum have been tested for healthy eyes, hips, and patellas (knee caps). Although not all inherited diseases can be detected early, some breeders will run additional tests on their breeding stock to further verify health. The non-shedding, hypoallergenic coat of the Bichon needs frequent brushing and attention to the skin, as white-coated dogs can be prone to skin problems. In addition, because the Bichon Frise’s hair continues to grow, regular bathing and scissoring from a professional groomer is recommended. Dental problems may arise if careful attention is not given to keeping the teeth and mouth clean. If it has a balanced diet, regular visits to the veterinarian, and good care, the well-bred Bichon Frise should be a wonderful companion that will live a long and robust life. For more information, please refer to www.bichonhealth.com.