



Cardigan Welsh Corgi

The Corgi with a Tail

CONGRATULATIONS ON REGISTERING YOUR NEW CARDIGAN WELSH CORGI

A Brief History

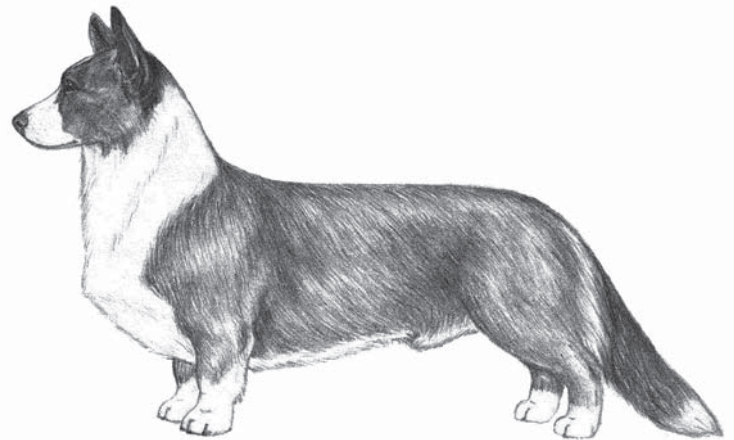
A small but hardy dog was found centuries ago in the remote, misty green hills of Cardiganshire in Wales. He was a "Corgi," "Cor" for dwarf (or perhaps "cur" for working dog) and "gi" (with a hard "G" sound) for dog. This "ciliated" or "yard-long" dog was highly valued by his family as affectionate companion, guard, general farm worker, and driver of cattle. In fact, ancient Welsh law provided for severe penalties to those who harmed or stole one of the little "corgwn," because the corgi's talents could help determine his family's economic status.

Never numerous and sometimes confused with the more common tailless Pembroke Welsh Corgi, the Cardigan is a separate breed of ancient lineage, descended from the Teckel or Dachshund family. The earliest Cardigans were heavy, golden or blue merle with perhaps drop ears. Careful crosses were made with working qualities in mind, probably with brindle and red herders; the result was also more refined, dignified and foxy-looking.

Although the Cardigan Welsh Corgi was first shown in England in 1919 and the English Cardigan Welsh Corgi Association was founded in 1926, the Cardigans and Pembrokes were not finally declared to be separate breeds by the English Kennel Club until 1934. The first pair of Cardigans was imported to the United States by Mrs. B.P. Bole in 1931, with the Welsh Corgi recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1934, and the Cardigan and Pembroke Welsh Corgis recognized separately in December, 1934. The Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America was founded in 1935. The Cardigan has gone from the Non-Sporting to the Working to the Herding Group.

Physical Appearance

The Cardigan Welsh Corgi is a long, low fox-like dog with large upright ears, a brushy tail, moderate bone, and front legs slightly bowed around a deep chest. His appearance should conform as closely as possible to the AKC Standard, which states, "...a small, sturdy but powerful dog capable of endurance and speed." The average size is handy, approximately twelve inches at the shoulder with females ideally ranging from 25-34 pounds and males from 30-38 pounds.



The Cardigan's practical coat is medium length and double with a variety of colors, shades and patterns: brindle (which gives a wood grain effect), red (brown or golden), sable (with black hair tips), blue merle (black and grey marbled) and black. Blues and blacks can have "points" (cheeks and eyebrows) in either tan (for a tri-color) or brindle. White flashings are usual on the neck (as a partial or full collar), chest, legs, muzzle, underparts, tip of tail and blaze. Black masks are acceptable along with some ticking (freckles).

Personality

One of the best features about a Cardigan is his personality. A big dog in a small package, his temperament is based upon his original life as a companion and valuable farm helper and guardian, all of which make him an adaptable and outstanding housepet. The Cardigan Welsh Corgi is a dog who wants to be truly involved with his family; his family should WANT to become involved with him too. He is full of fun and will shower that family with devotion and sensible affection, although some Cardigans withhold their favors from strangers until they get to know them better. Caring for his people (including children) comes naturally to this intelligent, alert and responsible dog. Because they're expressive and trainable, Cardigan Welsh Corgis have also been seen in several recent motion pictures.

Care

With reasonable care, the average lifespan of a Cardigan is around 12-15 years, with 16 and 17 not unheard of. All Corgis deserve good care, which includes a secure place, a good diet and water, exercise, veterinary visits and vaccinations, general grooming (including nails and teeth), socialization, training and love. If not show quality, he/she should be neutered or spayed; a litter requires many considerations including genetics, time, effort (!) and expense.

One should be careful about allowing puppy Cardis, with their very distinctive front assembly, to jump down. Note that a very young puppy has drop ears; usually those big ears will come up on their own, but occasionally ears are temporarily supported with tape. A Cardigan should be picked up by placing one hand under the chest behind the front legs with the other hand supporting the hindquarters. The Cardigan is generally an active dog, but in adulthood he doesn't get carried away with it. He has stamina and LOVES walks and romps, but doesn't absolutely require more exercise than he gets around the house and yard. With exercise, he can be quite athletic with surprising ball-chasing speed.

The Cardigan's coat is all-weather and generally clean and odorless. It is best if brushed once a week to remove dead hair. Like most dogs, he does shed roughly twice a year; in keeping with his moderate coat, the amount isn't extreme.

Living with a Puppy

Understanding your puppy's needs starts with a thorough knowledge of the breed. A close relationship with your breeder is very important. He or she will help you take the right steps to provide the proper health care and socialization for your puppy. As a responsible and knowledgeable breeder, he or she will be your mentor for years to come as you and your puppy bond into a close canine-human relationship. Please visit the CWCCA Web site at www.cardigancorgis.com and click on the Breeders link to learn more about bringing a Cardigan into your life.

Activities with your Cardigan

As a recognized AKC breed, the Cardigan can compete in AKC dog shows. However, he does not have to be limited to conformation. In keeping with their Welsh farm heritage and intelligence, Cardigans do well in obedience, tracking, agility, rally, and, of course, herding trials. Cardigans also make excellent therapy dogs. To learn more about getting you and your Cardigan involved in these activities, talk with your breeder or visit www.cardigancorgis.com or www.akc.org.

The Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

The CWCCA is devoted to the appreciation and advancement of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi. To that end, Specialty Shows with seminars are held yearly in different regions of the country, the Cardigan News Bulletin and Newsletter are published several times a year, and a Yearbook is published every other year.

To learn more about the Cardigan Welsh Corgi, please visit us on the web at:

www.cardigancorgis.com

For more information on purebred dogs, please visit:

www.akc.org



Drawings from "The Illustrated Standard of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi" © 1995 by the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc. Third Printing