

Congratulations on Your New Shiba Inu!

Welcome to the world of the Shiba Inu. This breed can be a loving, healthy, wonderful companion with proper diligence and training. The National Shiba Club of America would like to give you some insight into this breed. Yes, you will be asked, “What kind of dog is this?” and “Is it a fox?” but just consider it an opportunity to tell the world about your wonderful new pet.

Breed History

The Shiba Inu is descended from the primitive dogs of the ancient people of Japan. It was bred to hunt small wild game along with boar and bear. The Akita is the largest of the Japanese Spitz-type breeds followed by the Kishu, Shikoku, Hokkaido, and Kai with the Shiba being the smallest.

Some say the name Shiba means *brushwood*, after its hunting terrain or the color of the brushwood leaves when they turn red in the fall. Inu means dog in Japanese. World War II nearly spelled disaster for the Shiba, and most of the dogs that did not perish in bombing raids succumbed to distemper during the



post-war years. After the war, Shibas were brought from the remote countryside, and breeding programs were established. The remnants of the various bloodlines were combined to produce the breed as it is known today.

Breed Facts

The Shiba is a medium sized dog. Females are 13½ inches to 15½ inches and males are 14½ to 16½ inches high at the withers. Heights over and under are disqualified in the show ring. The weight of the Shiba is dependent on size but should not exceed 25 lbs. The female of the breed should look feminine and males should have a masculine appearance. This breed is medium boned, compact, well muscled and very agile. This can be a very active breed as a puppy but does seem to mellow with age, although still energetic.

Care

Proper precautions and training need to be taken to ensure that your puppy grows into a wonderful companion. Fenced yards are a must unless you live in an apartment. Locked gates are also suggested to prevent a child that sees the dog from opening the gate to pet it. These dogs will bolt, so precautions need to be taken that this doesn't occur. A Shiba will use any opportunity to get free and should never be off leash unless in a secure area.



As another safeguard, make sure your Shiba is identified with tags, tattoo, or microchip in case it is lost. The AKC Companion Animal Recovery Corporation (CAR) program offers a free dog tag with recovery information and the AKC CAR 24/7 phone number with AKC Registration. Whatever the method, be sure to register the microchip, tattoo, or tag number with CAR for lifetime recovery protection. For more information see www.akccar.org, or call 1-800-252-7894.

Shibas don't need a special diet, just good high quality kibble. Some people like to add things such as ground turkey, veggies (but not corn), eggs, fish oil supplements, etc., but this is not necessary.

Spay and Neuter

Puppies are sold with full AKC registration when NSCA Shiba breeders feel that these dogs will qualify as show potential and possible breeding stock. Some Shiba breeders may sell puppies with limited registration as companion dogs, indicating that any progeny of the dogs cannot be registered. Many of the NSCA breeders may also require that puppies they sell as companions be spayed or neutered by six months of age.

Spaying or neutering a pet does not in any way diminish the health or value of the pet; in fact, it may enhance the dog's life. Neutered pets usually live longer, healthier lives. Spaying a female before her first heat cycle greatly reduces her chances of

mammary tumors and uterine infections. Neutering a male may lessen the tendency to be aggressive and urinate inappropriately. Limited registered dogs, while not eligible for AKC conformation shows, can compete in the companion events of obedience, rally, agility and tracking, etc.

Training

The need for puppy socialization and obedience classes cannot be stressed enough. Due to its heritage, this breed can be aggressive unless given a proper "education." Because these dogs can be strong willed and possessive of their things, they need to learn proper manners and these classes help achieve those goals. Puppies do tend to use their mouths to "taste" their human, and they must learn not to be rough. Puppy socialization needs to occur right after immunizations are complete. Obedience needs to follow soon after. These classes will help ensure the puppy is the companion you desire.

The National Shiba Club of America

The NSCA was founded to promote the Shiba Inu Breed Standard as stated by AKC. NSCA supports its members in conformation, Canine Good Citizen,[®] obedience, agility, rally, and many other different sports in which Shibas excel. The club also issues a quarterly publication called the *Shiba E-News*.

Many NSCA members individually or collectively support health research for Shiba Inus through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research to help Shibas and all dogs, see www.akcchf.org or call toll free 1-888-682-9696.

Additional Information

Please visit the official website of the National Shiba Club of America at www.shibas.org for additional information or for answers to questions. Those interested in the various sports please contact www.shibasports.com for a wealth of information.