



Read about the Breed

Chihuahua

Toy Group



Chihuahuas are Ideal Companions for Apartment Dwellers and Seniors

Breed History:

- Chihuahua history begins with the Toltec and Aztec tribes in early Mexico.
- Some accounts have the breed being introduced to Central America by the Chinese or the Spanish.
- The Chihuahua is named for the Mexican state of the same name.
- The breed was first registered with the AKC in 1904.



Keys to the Breed:

- High Energy Indoors
- Special Exercise Needs
- Special Grooming Needs
- Good Watchdog
- Good with Kids

Breed Characteristics:

- **Appearance** — The Chihuahua is the smallest of all dog breeds, with an "apple-dome" skull, large upright ears, and a compact body. The coat is smooth and short or long-haired, and comes in a wide variety of colors, with fawn, red, and black and tan being common.
- **Grooming** — Minimal grooming with a soft brush or damp cloth is needed for short-haired Chihuahuas. The long-haired variety needs regular brushing. Regular ear, teeth, and nail care is also needed.
- **Exercise** — Excellent for apartments, Chihuahuas need only short walks to stay in shape. Body harnesses are recommended instead of collars.
- **Temperament** — The Chihuahua is a playful, confident dog that is alert and bold for its size. They are not usually a good choice for a house with young children and may not get along well with other dogs.

Vital Stats:

- **Size** — Stands 6-9 inches at the shoulder on average
- **Weight** — Typically, does not exceed 6 lbs—as little as 2 lbs!
- **Life span** — 12-15 years on average, can live longer
- **Common Health Issues** — Pet shop puppies should be avoided due to patellar luxation (loose kneecap) and heart problems
- **Breed Clubs** — Chihuahua Club of America

Go to www.northwestpets.com for more breed profiles!

AKC Standard Says:

"A graceful, alert, swift-moving little dog with saucy expression and terrier-like qualities of temperament."