

Congratulations on Your New Irish Terrier



You have just acquired a canine that has been called "...perhaps the finest dog on earth." The members of the Irish Terrier Club of America certainly think so, and so will you now that you own one!

Breed Characteristics

The Irish Terrier is a breed with distinctive appearance and personality. They are long-legged and long-backed, the Breed Standard stating the ideal size of 18 inches at the shoulder (about knee high) and weighing 27 pounds. These measurements are a guideline for breeders, so your Irish may not be this size.

An Irish is meant to be a robust worker in the field, yet small enough to be a house pet and transport easily in the family car. As the Standard says, "...he must be more than a sum of his parts. He must be all-of-a-piece, a balanced vital picture of symmetry, proportion and harmony."

Their coat should be whole-colored, either bright red, golden red, red wheaten, or wheaten and some dogs may have a small patch of white on the chest. The coat is dense and wiry to protect the Irish in all types of terrain and weather. The Irish sheds much less than other breeds and is relatively easy to groom, needing only occasional brushing to remove dirt, debris and loose hair. A once or twice yearly stripping

or plucking will keep your Irish reasonably trim in appearance.

Temperament

The Irish temperament has gained him many admirers. The merriment reflected in their dark eyes is their special gift from the Emerald Isle. The temperament reflects his early background as a family pet, guard dog, and hunter.

While gentle with those they love, they are "in charge" of their territory and may challenge anything or anyone who enters it, rushing headlong at an adversary, heedless of all consequences.

The Irish Terrier is good-tempered, affectionate, and absolutely loyal to mankind and his family. Tender and forbearing with those he loves, this rugged, stout-hearted terrier will guard his master, his mistress and children with utter contempt for danger or hurt.

The Irish Terrier owner should be prepared to socialize their puppy and provide proper training. Your efforts will be rewarded with a dog that is spirited, good tempered, loyal to master and family while remaining a stout-hearted terrier.

They are not continuously active as are many smaller terrier breeds, and the Irish Terrier is typically good with children, but it is never wise to leave a child unsupervised with a dog.

Training

Basic obedience training is a requisite to raising a dog that will be a welcome member of your household comfortable with family and friends. Training quickly establishes a bond between you and your Irish that will last a lifetime.

Obedience training with your new Irish youngster can include basic level (come, sit, stay, down) aimed at developing a well-mannered companion or advance to competition level. Regardless of the level of obedience you and your Irish attain, consistent use and reinforcement of early training should be a lifelong process.

You may also find the training involved with Conformation, Rally, or Agility challenging and rewarding. Youth in your family may be interested in Junior Showmanship with your Irish Terrier. Get involved with your dog; sharing the experience will reward you both. Your dog will gain valuable confidence and social skills. For help in locating training classes, seek out clubs in your area, or ask your veterinarian or breeder.

No matter what activities you participate in with your dog it is important to spend time with your new pup

early on and throughout its life. Your Irish will want to be with you and will not be happy observing household activities from a distance. They don't need to be the life of the party, but they do expect to be invited!

Care Of Your Irish

Feed your new pup two or three times a day until five or so months of age, then twice-daily feeding is recommended. Ensure your Irish has access to clean fresh water at all times (except before bedtime to reduce nighttime "accidents").

Today's high quality dry foods are nutritionally balanced and sufficient by themselves. If you choose to augment your dog's diet with canned food or any of a number of processed, dry wrapped meat products, a tablespoon or two added to the dry kibble is recommended. Whatever your choice of food it is important to measure your dog's portions to control weight gain, the typical feeding amount being about one cup per meal.

You should make sure your Irish has regular veterinary care and inoculations. In addition, start your pup on a regimen of flea, tick and heartworm control.

Fortunately, Irish Terriers are among the healthiest of purebred dogs, having nearly no inherited health problems. Thanks to careful and selective breeding your Irish should be free from many common health issues present in other breeds. However, this is not to say that Irish do not occasionally suffer similar maladies.

Many Irish Terrier Club of America members individually or collectively support health research for the Irish 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 your breed, see www.akcchf.org or call toll free 1-888-682-9696.

Irish are great athletes and need regular exercise so a fenced back yard is ideal. Failing this, they require walking—always on a leash—several times a day to maintain mental and physical fitness.

Make sure your Irish Terrier 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.alcccar.org or call 1-800-252-7894.

Breeding

Unless you have a mentor, or prior breeding experience, the pup you just bought should not be bred. If participation in Conformation showing is not in your future, females should be spayed and males neutered. These practices will not only help control the unwanted animal population, but will improve your pup's lifelong health by reducing incidences of mammary tumors or prostate cancer and elimination of testicular cancer.

Breeding top quality, healthy dogs is an unrelenting commitment of time, money and emotion that continues for the life of every puppy you breed. Each new owner of a pup you bred will rightfully turn to you for advice, mentoring and other support throughout the dog's life. Are you ready for this commitment?

If you wish to show or to breed, your pup's breeder is your greatest resource for advice on suitability of your pup for showing and breeding. Consult your breeder for proper assessment of your Irish Terrier periodically as your dog matures.

The ITCA Is Your Resource

The Irish Terrier Club of America is a wonderful resource for information about Irish Terriers. If you need help or advice you can contact us through our website at www.itca@info. We're here to help. If you are interested in joining the ITCA, you can contact the ITCA Membership Secretary for membership information.

The club publishes; a quarterly newsletter and offers educational publications like the 1997 Breed Book that has comprehensive information on the breed. For the current price and a copy of the breed book contact the ITCA Treasurer, Stephen Rybacki at @murphybailey@sbcglobal.net.



IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA
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