

## General Information

The Tibetan Spaniel is a highly intelligent dog coming from the mountainous region of Tibet where they were used as watchdogs in the monasteries, warning of the approach of visitors by barking. They make excellent housedogs warning of any unusual occurrence and like to climb up to a lookout point such as a windowsill! They are not guard dogs and should never show signs of aggression. Often aloof with strangers, they will accept you as part of the family once familiar with you. They are loving dogs but naturally inquisitive and like to be involved in whatever is going on in the house. They have a strong streak of individuality and will only co-operate if and when they wish to do so. The breed flourishes with constant human contact and is unsuitable for leaving for long periods. They are not a breed which can be dominated and owners should never expect instant obedience.

**Tibetan Spaniels are addictive**; be warned once hooked on this breed you are likely to acquire more. They are small, easy to care for, do not require enormous amounts of grooming, are generally very healthy and live to a ripe old age (15/16 is quite normal). However, they do think they are a very big dog in a small dog's body and are not afraid of anything! If you are considering acquiring a dog, remember, it is a long term commitment, particularly so for the Tibetan Spaniel. When buying a companion for a child **do think first** who'll care for the dog when the child becomes an adult and moves on.

Go and see some at home with their family in their normal surroundings. Ask questions and observe them at play and at rest – would they fit in with your household and ways? A Tibetan Spaniel needs a **securely** fenced garden as they can climb or dig their way of the **average** fenced garden. They are also inveterate diggers so if you are “garden proud” be warned. Tibetan Spaniels are independent by nature and very inquisitive. It is wise to invest in a flexi lead as some cannot be trusted to return when off the lead in fields or open areas. Your dog will not be deprived by not having “off lead” exercise and you'll be happier going home when you want to, accompanied by your dog! This breed can walk for miles, scrambling over the roughest terrain, however, if it is a very wet day they will be equally happy sat at home by the fire. They are people dogs, needing human companionship and the opportunity to share and influence the lives of their owners. An adult will need thorough grooming twice weekly, there is no trimming or clipping required. If you have decided a Tibetan Spaniel is for you then you will have many years of fun and mischief. However, if you require a dog that is instantly obedient or that can be kept as a kennel dog, **do not have a Tibetan Spaniel.**

## Buying a Puppy

Contact one of the Breed Clubs for names of responsible breeders in our area. Tibetan Spaniels do not grow on trees and you may have to wait and then travel to get your puppy.

Make sure you see the puppy with its mother. She should be well kept, happy and healthy. The puppies should have clear bright eyes and be alert, however, do allow some time for puppies to get used to strangers. You may also be able to see the father if he lives on the premises. Responsible breeders will wish to keep in touch and have progress reports on the pups well being. They will also normally be willing to take the puppy back should any insoluble problems arise. Do not be offended if the breeder asks lots of questions about and your lifestyle they are only trying to ensure they find the right home to care for one of their puppies.

## Older Dogs

Older Dogs are sometimes available having been kept for showing and then either not making the grade or simply disliking the show ring. Your club contact may know of some like this.

## Rescue Dogs

Rescue dogs are often older and will need special care and attention. Some may need extra veterinary care and it is vitally important when taking on a rescue to do so for it's life. Remember it's been let down once, don't do it again.

Your contact club will be able to put you in touch with a rescue representative but remember these dogs come without pedigree and are not suitable for breeding. **Rescue is not a cheap way of acquiring a Tibetan Spaniel.**