Your complete guide to raising and caring for your chi
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INTRODUCTION

Chihuahuas are one of the most popular and adorable dog breeds around. Whether you’re considering a Chihuahua or you’re lucky enough to own one, you probably have questions. Am I feeding my Chi right? Are there important things I need to know about his health? Does he give me that slanty-eyed look because he wants another treat, or because I named him Cedric von Fancypants III? This handy guide will tell you all you need to know about your squidgy, fluffy friend.
ORIGINS

There's a lot of misinformation out there when it comes to the origins of these teeny dogs. Many people assume that because this precious breed is called Chihuahua, they must have come from Chihuahua, Mexico.

This is partly true; these pups first became popular when, in the 19th century, American tourists visiting the Mexican town of Chihuahua fell in love with the little dogs they found there. But research tells us that the breed itself is descended from the Ancient Techichi dogs of the Toltec civilization, who were the sacred icons of the upper class.

Some even believe that the breed developed in Egypt over 3000 years ago!

POPULARITY

Over the years, the Chihuahua has become the smallest breed of dog in the world and is consistently ranked in the top fifteen most popular dog breeds in the US. Unfortunately, this popularity has led to a lot of backyard breeding and overpopulation.

Recent information about Chihuahuas shows that there are literally thousands of these sweet babies in animal shelters across the country.

It's been suggested that Chihuahuas are popular because of their loyal natures, portability, and even their appearance in the media--they're often carried by celebrity starlets. Who wouldn't want a sleek, snuffly little bundle tucked into their designer handbag?

Chihuahuas are the ultimate furry buddy; you'll never be lonely with a Chi.

TYPES

There are several types of Chihuahua: the Apple Head and the Deer Head.

The Apple Head Chi is considered by the American Kennel Association (AKC) to be the “perfect” breed standard; with its adorable round head and big eyes, it's easy to see why.

But the Deer Head, while not accepted in the dog show arena, is still a wonderful pup. It has a longer snout and narrower skull, but its deep, gorgeous eyes will still win you over!

Both types of Chihuahua come with either long coats or short coats, and can be found in a variety of colours. They also vary hugely in size; a Chi can weigh anything between 1 and 15 pounds. That's a heck of a lot of variation for one breed of dog!

PERSONALITY AND INTELLIGENCE

Chihuahuas are proof that big things come in small packages. Research suggests that compared to its tiny body size, this little dog has the biggest brain in the canine kingdom!

Generally speaking, you'll find a Chi to be playful, friendly, happy and alert; they are smart pooches that need consistent handling and training in order to reach their true potential as wonderful companion animals.

Unfortunately, many Chihuahuas go untrained and end up spoiled little brats who rule the roost with their yapping and snapping. But you don't need to worry about this--you've made the smart decision to read this book, and later on, there are whole sections on training your Chihuahua in a positive way.

If socialized well, your loyal Chihuahua will become your very best friend, always by your side and sensitive to your moods.
FUN FACTS

Ten fun things you might not know about Chihuahuas...

CHIHUAHUAS CAN BE LOYAL TO A FAULT.

We all want a dog who is our loyal companion and Chihuahuas are one of the most dedicated dogs available...but it isn’t always a great thing. If allowed to, your Chihuahua may become so attached to you that he will become ferocious toward other animals or humans that try to get near you. These little dogs are known as “one-person” pups that will defend their owner against much larger dogs, even if it means injury. It sounds cute, but it can make life difficult. With the right training and socialization, you can overcome this tendency, but be prepared.

CHIHUAHUAS CAN BE FRAGILE.

These tiny, portable pups are delicate and can be easily injured by boisterous children or careless adults. Be sure that your Chihuahua has a safe place to hide when she needs to (like when The Wiggles come on). If you’re allowing children to handle your Chi, remind them of how careful they need to be, and supervise at all times.

CHIHUAHUAS LOVE TO CUDDLE!

This may be the best thing about Chihuahuas! They love to burrow in your jacket or under the covers with you. Most even enjoy the confines of a purse or carry bag, especially if it means they get to spend more time with the awesomeness that is you, The Owner. If you don’t want a boon companion that will curl up on your lap at any opportunity or prefer a dog who doesn’t sleep in bed with you, then you might want to choose a different breed. This tendency toward cuddliness is one thing about Chihuahuas that most people would never want to change.
CHIHUAHUAS ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO THE COLD.

With very short, fine coats and very little body fat, it is no wonder that Chihuahuas are known for being shivery. Even if you live in a warm climate, you’ll need to invest in at least a minimal wardrobe for your little pup for those cold nights—was there ever a better excuse to go shopping? Getting your Chi to go outside to relieve themselves in cold or wet weather can be a challenge; a tiny warm sweater or raincoat will help. Sequins are optional, but let’s face it—as a breed, they’re very D-I-S-C-O.

CHIHUAHUAS MAKE GREAT TRAVEL COMPANIONS.

People love that Chihuahuas are so portable. Being able to take your loyal little friend everywhere you go can add a special dimension to your bond. Be sure that if you will be taking your Chi-Chi with you that you keep her updated on all of her vaccinations and that she’s been well socialized. If she starts barking at Pablo the pool boy, he’ll most likely turn around—spoil your view of his very pleasant backside.

Chihuahuas are the world’s smallest breed. Weighing in at an average of six pounds, the Chihuahua is undoubtedly the world’s smallest breed of dog. One might say they’re the perfect handful.

CHIHUAHUAS ARE VERY TRAINABLE.

A lot of people are surprised by how intelligent Chihuahuas are, but small does not mean stupid. With gentle, positive training, Chihuahuas can be trained just as easily, if not more so, than many of their larger counterparts. The do not respond well to punishment or harsh training methods, so be sure to always use positive reinforcements to teach your Chihuahua how to sit, play dead, roll over and other tricks.

CHIHUAHUAS ARE THE MOST LONG-LIVED BREED.

It’s not uncommon for these little pups to live into their teens, and this means a lifetime commitment from you. If you can’t commit to providing a loving home to this loyal breed for as many as two decades, you may want to choose a different kind of dog. (Note: do not go into a pet shop or dog home and request a dog that „will be dead sooner.” It never looks good).

YOU DON’T HAVE TO PAY BIG BUCKS TO OWN A CHIHUAHUA!

Chihuahuas are known for their popularity with celebrities, which means people tend to assume that they’re expensive. But as many as 60% of all dogs in municipal shelters are Chihuahuas and there are many Chihuahua rescue organizations that have Chis available for adoption. Most little dogs end up in shelters for no fault of their own, and they make fantastic pets. By adopting a Chihuahua instead of buying one, you’re saving a tiny life that will be loyal to you for many years.
THANKS FOR DOWNLOADING...

For a complete 82 page Chihuahua Guide
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for only $7.00!

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