



Boston Terrier

Fact Sheet



History

Known affectionately as 'The American Gentleman', the Boston Terrier has proved a popular companion for many since its origin. The breed originated around 1870, when Robert C. Hooper of Boston, Massachusetts, purchased a dog known as Hooper's Judge, who was of a Bull and Terrier type lineage. Hooper's Judge's specific lineage is unknown; however, it is likely that it was either directly descended from the original Bull and Terrier breeds of the 18th and early 19th centuries, or the result of modern English Bulldogs being crossed with terriers, like the White English Terrier, in the 1860s for show purposes.

Hooper's Judge weighed over 29.7 pounds (13.5 kilos). His offspring interbred with one or more French Bulldogs, providing the foundation for the Boston Terrier breed. Bred down in size from pit fighting dogs of Bull and Terrier types, the Boston Terrier originally weighed up to 44 pounds (20 kilos) (known as the Olde Boston Bulldogge).

The breed was first shown in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1870. By 1889, the breed had become sufficiently popular in Boston that fanciers formed the American Bull Terrier Club. However, this proposed name for the breed was not well received by the Bull Terrier Fanciers; the breed's nickname, "roundheads", was also considered inappropriate. Shortly after, at the suggestion of James Watson (a noted writer and authority), the club changed its name to the Boston Terrier Club. In 1893 it was admitted to membership in the American Kennel Club, making it the first US breed to be recognized. The Boston Terrier is one of only a small number of breeds to have originated in the US and was the first non-sporting dog bred in the US.

In the early years, the colour and markings were not very important. However, by the 20th century the breed's distinctive markings and colour were written into the breed standard, becoming an essential feature. Terrier only in name, the Boston Terrier has lost most of its ruthless desire for mayhem, preferring the company of humans, although some males will still challenge other dogs if they feel their territory is being invaded.

Boston Terriers were particularly popular during the 1920s in the US and continue to rank highly in the American Kennel Club's yearly breed registrations to this day. Popular and much loved by a great many throughout the world, the breed has truly earned the moniker of 'The American Gentleman'.

Characteristics

The Boston Terrier can be described as a lively, inquisitive, intelligent breed that enjoys walks and exercise but will also settle down by the fire. They are full of character, fun and love.



Boston Terrier



Fact Sheet

Coloured Bostons

The Breed Clubs will only advocate the selling and breeding of STANDARD colours. These colours can be found in the Boston Terrier Breed standard as described below

Brindle with white markings; brindle must show throughout body distinctly; black with white markings but brindles with white markings preferred. Ideal markings: white muzzle, even white blaze over head, collar, breast, part or whole of forelegs, and hindlegs below hocks.

IF IN DOUBT CONTACT THE BREED CLUBS

- Unknown genetic origins
- Unknown health, temperament and developmental issues
- Not recognised by the Kennel Club
- Often come with a large price tag
- Include: **RED**, **BLUE**, **LILAC**, **MERLE**, **CHAMPAGNE**, **TRI COLOUR**, **BLACK AND TAN**, **CREAM** AND **GREY**



Other Quick Facts

- The Boston Terrier is at home in any situation and everyone is a potential new friend.
- The Boston Terrier is dapper in his black and white tuxedo, but he can also come in brindle or seal with white markings. His short coat is simple to groom and sheds little.
- Boston Terriers get along well with older children, as they can be too boisterous for smaller ones.
- Boston Terriers get along with most other pets, as long as both parties are introduced and socialised in a sensible manner.
- The Boston Terrier takes his name from Boston, Mass, where he was developed.
- The Boston Terrier's weight ranges from 10 to 25 pounds, with most weighing between 13 and 16 pounds.



Boston Terrier

Fact Sheet



Kennel Club Breed Standard

This is what good breeders are working towards to the health and betterment of the breed.

General Appearance

Smooth-coated, relatively short-headed, compactly built, short-tailed, well balanced dog of medium size, brindle in colour, evenly marked with white. Body rather short and well knit; limbs strong and neatly turned; tail short and no feature so prominent that the dog appears badly proportioned. Dog must convey an impression of determination, strength and activity, with style of a high order; carriage easy and grace.

Characteristics & Temperament

Lively Alert Determined and strong willed.

Head and Skull

Skull square in appearance, flat on top, free from wrinkles; cheeks flat; brow abrupt, stop well defined. Muzzle relatively short, square, wide and deep with no tendency to taper and in proportion to skull; free from wrinkles; shorter in length than in width and depth, approximately one-third of length of skull; width and depth carried out well to end; muzzle from stop to end of nose on a line parallel to top of skull; nose black, wide with well defined line between nostrils. Jaws broad and square. Flews of good depth, not pendulous, completely covering teeth when mouth closed. Head in proportion to size of dog.

Eyes

Wide apart, round and not too large, dark in colour; expression alert, kind and intelligent. Eyes set square in skull, outside corners on a line with cheeks when viewed from front.

Ears

Carried erect; small, thin, situated as near corner of skull as possible.

Mouth

Teeth short and regular, bite even, or sufficiently undershot to square muzzle.

Neck

Of fair length, slightly arched, carrying head gracefully; neatly set into shoulders.

Forequarters

Shoulders sloping, legs set moderately wide apart on line with point of shoulders; straight in bone and well muscled; pasterns short and strong. Elbows turning neither in nor out.

Body

Deep with good width of chest; back short; ribs deep and well sprung, carried well back to loins; loins short and muscular; rump curving slightly to set-on of tail; flank very slightly cut up; body appears short but not chunky.

Hindquarters

Legs set true, good turn of stifle, hocks well let down; turning neither in nor out; thighs strong and well muscled.

Feet

Round, small, compact, turning neither in nor out; toes well arched.

Tail

Set on low; short, fine, tapering, straight or curled; devoid of fringes or coarse hair, never carried above horizontal.

Gait/Movement

Easy and graceful. Sure-footed straight-gaited, forelegs and hindlegs moving straight ahead with perfect rhythm. Each step indicating grace and power.

Coat

Short, smooth, lustrous and fine in texture.

Colour

Brindle with white markings; brindle must show throughout body distinctly; black with white markings but brindles with white markings preferred. Ideal markings: white muzzle, even white blaze over head, collar, breast, part or whole of forelegs, and hindlegs below hocks.

Size

Weight not exceeding 11.5 kgs (25 lbs) divided by classes as follows: Lightweight: under 6.8 kgs (15 lbs); Middleweight: 6.8 kgs (15 lbs) and under 9.1 kgs (20 lbs); Heavyweight: 9.1 kgs (20 lbs) and under 11.4 kgs (25 lbs).



Boston Terrier

Fact Sheet



Advice for Puppy Buyers

If you have any reservations about a breeder then it is best to trust your instincts and walk away.

The conditions the dogs are kept in

- The breeder should want to show you where the dogs are kept,
- The breeder should have a safe and clean home for all their dogs (both puppies and mum)

The puppies

- The puppies should appear happy, healthy, and inquisitive
- The breeder should not be selling puppies that are unwell and show signs of illness (runny eyes or nose, weakness, or diarrhoea)
- The breeder should only sell you a puppy once it is eight weeks of age or older

The mother

- The breeder should be happy and able to show you the puppy interacting with its mother and siblings.

What the breeder should do

- The breeder should be happy to help if things don't work out, so ask if you can return the puppy if things aren't quite what you expected

Getting to know you

- A responsible breeder will want to get to know you, and will want you to get to know the puppy and so will expect you to come to see your puppy
- The breeder should ask you lots of questions to ensure that their puppy is going to a suitable home

Information from the breeder

- The breeder should be happy to provide you with details of their vet check
- The breeder should be happy to show you any paperwork (Kennel Club certificates, vaccination information, health test or screening scheme certificates).



Boston Terrier

Fact Sheet



Breed Clubs

As protectors of our breed the breed clubs should be the first point of contact when looking for a new Boston. The clubs will not only be able to point you in the direction of a reputable breeder but will also know of rescue dogs needing homes. The breed clubs endorse the breeding of Bostons for health soundness and to protect the loved breed type.

The Boston Terrier Club

Often referred to as the "mother" club, the Boston Terrier Club holds regular Championship and Open shows in England, as well as a BOSTY event, which is a celebration for all things Boston Terrier. The club also deals with rescued Bostons who need rehoming.

www.thebostonterrierclub.co.uk Facebook—The Boston Terrier Club

Northern Boston Terrier Club of England

The club is based in the North West of England and holds 2 open shows and a Championship show in October in Lancashire. The Northern club along with all the clubs is happy to help and guide newcomers to the breed.

www.northernbostonterrierclub.co.uk Facebook- Northern Boston Terrier Club of England

Boston Terrier Club of Scotland

Based in Scotland, the BTCoS is known for its friendly approachable manner, based in Scotland to aid and educate those looking to join our breed. Shows are held in April for their open show and August for their Championship show.

www.bostonterrierclubofscotland.weebly.com Facebook- Boston Terrier Club of Scotland



Boston Terrier

Fact Sheet



Breed Health

Juvenile Hereditary Cataract (HC-HSF4)

Clear dogs have no copies of the mutant gene responsible for the condition and will neither develop the condition nor pass the gene on to their offspring.

Carrier dogs have one copy of the normal gene and one copy of the mutant gene; they will not develop the condition, but will pass a mutant gene on to approximately half of their offspring.

Affected dogs have two copies of the mutant gene that causes the condition and will develop the disease.

Before purchasing your Boston, you should ask whether the dog you are purchasing is hereditary clear for Juvenile cataract or has been DNA tested.

This is the **ONLY MANDATORY** health test requested by the Kennel Club.