

ABOUT THE BOSTON TERRIER

The Tuxedo Clad little dog with the captivating expression and the big heart is formally known as the Boston Terrier. But the breed's suave apparel and its distinguished charm have earned him the nickname 'The American Gentleman'. Boston Terriers can be found in all areas of the country and can be seen at dog shows in the Non-Sporting Group, the group that fill man's greatest need—the need for companionship.

The Boston Terrier was America's first native purebred. Developed in Boston, Mass. During the 19th century by crossing the English Bulldog and the now extinct White English Terrier and the inbreeding and cross breeding with a number of branches of his parents families (Miniature Bulldog, Terrier and French Bulldog). At this time the American Kennel Club, itself was not very well established, and was somewhat reluctant to go on record as accepting a new breed. The Club ruled that the dog could not be purebred until it had been produced pure for three generations. Eventually he was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1893, and was first registered in Canada in 1888-1889. He became the most popular breed in the States, between the years 1929-1935.

Early photo's of these dogs are much different than what you see today. After recognition, breeders began to standardize the Boston in earnest. Color and markings became symmetrical; a gentle disposition was evolved; a body more resembling the terrier than the bulldog was developed. In the early days sizes ranged anywhere from 7 up to 35 pounds. The present weight range is from 10 to 25 pounds, and the average weight is between 15 to 20 pounds.

The Boston Terrier is a lively, compact, well-balanced dog. He has a smooth coat, short muzzled, large dark eyes, erect ears, and a naturally short tail. Its color is dark brindle, seal or black, usually with white on the muzzle, face, neck, brisket and legs. His intelligent expression is a trademark of the breed. Because of his conformation (large head, narrow pelvis) the Boston is a difficult and expensive breed to produce.

He is a true companion, kind, gentle, and affectionate, with a keen and clever thinking brain. A natural watchdog, he quickly learns that some people should be barked at, others ignored. An alert policeman, he will come to the aid of his master, if need be, with hardly a thought for his own safety. It is difficult to find a dog that will make a more devoted pet for both adults and children. Raised with a child, a Boston takes on a sense of responsibility, and the quick, intelligent brain of the little dog tells him that the tot needs to be looked after. Even old dogs, unaccustomed to children, usually take readily to a new infant in the family.

The temperament of a typical Boston puppy is sweet and lovable. He is alert and willing to please if given love and understanding by his owner. Genuinely 'a people dog' preferring his owner's companionship to that of other members of the animal kingdom. He rapidly becomes one of the family, will occupy his favorite- and usually the most comfortable chair, and will not be offended if a human expresses a desire to join him in it. He is adaptable to the smallest home because of his size, disposition and short coat. He loves to romp and play with children and adults alike. He is a true house dog.

This article appears in the information package distributed by the Boston Terrier Club of Canada