**Portuguese Water Dog**

The water dogs of the Mediterranean countries probably provided the foundation of the breed as the Moors of North Africa, trading with Portugal, may well have brought dogs of this type to the Algarve region. Here is another versatile dog, perhaps the only one to be described as a herder of fish! Amongst his roles he was used for driving shoals of fish into the nets. He was also used as a messenger dog between boats at sea, as a retriever of lost nets. He is said to have acted also as a foghorn when his resonant bark would alert other boats to the whereabouts of his boat in thick fog and thus help avoid collisions.

Modern technology in fishing vessels threatened the breed's existence and in the 1950s and 1960s the population fell drastically. However, as one of the national breeds of Portugal, the PWD was regenerated as a family companion, a role that he fulfils happily.

The traditional clip of the Portuguese Water Dog, the lion trim, with a mane of hair over the forequarters and clipped hindquarters, is said to aid his propulsion through water.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed Group</th>
<th>Working</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable Breed</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much exercise?</td>
<td>Up to 1 hour per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of coat</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much grooming?</td>
<td>Every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supposedly sheds?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town or Country</td>
<td>Either</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of home</td>
<td>Large House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum garden size</td>
<td>Small/Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifespan</td>
<td>Over 10 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Portuguese Water Dog?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Assured Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or

2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or

3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or

4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or

5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or

6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions
**Current Registration Colours**

- Black
- Black & White
- Brown
- Brown & White
- White

**Portuguese Water Dog Clubs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese Water Dog Club Of Great Britain</td>
<td>07733 756831</td>
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</table>

**Portuguese Water Dog Rescue Organisations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Portuguese Water Dog Club of Great Britain Rescue</td>
<td>01724 798321</td>
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