

**Toy**

## Chihuahua (Long Coat)

The smallest breed in the world takes its name from the Mexican state where it became fashionable in the late 19th Century. From there its popularity spread to America, and with the publicity gained through celebrity and film star owners the breed became a canine sensation. Bold and saucy in temperament, the breed comes in two varieties: the smooth coat and the long coat, and share the same physical attributes apart from coat type. Outgoing and confident, the Chihuahua has a huge personality in a tiny frame.

Breed Group	Toy
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Small
How much exercise?	Up to 30 minutes per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Flat, Small or Large House
Minimum garden size	None
Lifespan	Over 12 Years

## 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](http://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 Chihuahua (Long Coat)?

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

With effect 01 March 2007, the Kennel Club will no longer register merle puppies whelped from a mating on or after this date. This is because the merle gene in this breed carries an increased risk of impaired hearing and sight problems.

With effect 01 March 2009, the Kennel Club will no longer register puppies whelped from a merle parent, mated on or after this date. This is because the merle gene in this breed carries an increased risk of impaired hearing and sight problems.

With effect from 01 January 2013, the Kennel Club will not register puppies whelped from a merle to merle mating born on or after this date. This is due to associated health risks of impaired vision and hearing associated with the merle gene in this breed.

## Chihuahua (Long Coat) Clubs

Name	Telephone
British Chihuahua Club	01344 425841
Chihuahua Club Of Scotland	
Chihuahua Club Of South Wales	01443 313766
Longcoat Chihuahua Club	01635 278510
Midland Chihuahua Club	
North East Coast Chihuahua Club	01287 659452
Northern Counties Chihuahua Club	01768 840603
Ulster Chihuahua Club	07956 733419
West Country Chihuahua Club	01825 890597

## Chihuahua (Long Coat) Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	01403 865280
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	01388 603422
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	020 7358 9760
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	01495 249271
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	01449 782927
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	01344 425841
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	01775 841302
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	01273 413501
British Chihuahua Club Rescue Association	07766 741531
Longcoat Chihuahua Club Rescue	01635 278510
Midland Chihuahua Club Rescue	01952 413708