

Barbet

The Barbet (pronounced Bar-bay) is a French retriever and water dog whose origins can be traced back to at least the 1700s. Traditionally, the Barbet was used to flush and retrieve waterfowl in the marshes and lakes of France, and it is thought that the breed was used in the development of other breeds like the Poodle (originally a duck retriever also) and the Curly Coated Retriever.

His French title Le Chien Barbet (the Bearded Dog) describes his thick and protective coat, and his well-furnished muzzle. Standing around 53-65 cm, the Barbet is sturdily built, of square outline and his dense coat should remain untrimmed – he is essentially a rustic, at home in mud and water. City dwellers take note! He is also intelligent and loyal to his owners.

During the World Wars the Barbet population, never prolific, dwindled even further but from the late 20th Century there has been some resurgence of his popularity as a good worker in the field. He has also shown ability as a search and rescue dog, and in the show rings of Europe and America, the breed has gained some momentum.

What health screening is currently relevant?

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:



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.