



THE TOY DOG



Bichon Frise * Bolognese * Cavalier King Charles Spaniel * Chihuahua * Chinese Crested * Coton De Tulear * Havanese * Japanese Chin * Lhasa Apso * Maltese * Papillon * Pekingese * Pomeranian * Pug * Shih Tzu * Tibetan Spaniel * Toy Poodle

What we bred them for ...

Primarily selected for sociability, these genetic dwarves of the dog world were companion to the aristocracy in Medieval & Renaissance Europe as well as to Buddhist monks and Emperors in China and Tibet. They were used for everything from foot warmer to flea magnet to alarm system and found their way to a lasting place on our laps.

You'll fall in love with your toy dog because she is:

SENSITIVE

Intuitive and emotional, she is designed for attending to and comforting her person.

ENGAGING

Your toy dog is fun-loving, playful, and curious with family and friends.

PRACTICAL

Highly portable, she is easier to care for, manage, and satisfy than many other dogs.

You might find a toy dog hard to live with because he is:

CODEPENDENT

Your lapdog's clinginess and demands for attention may be challenging.

WARY

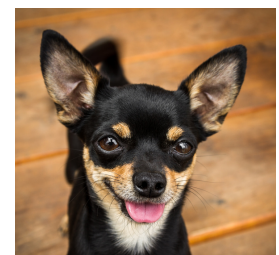
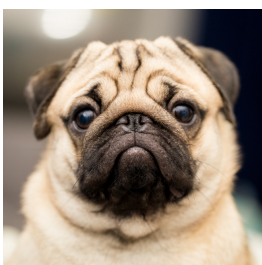
Toy dogs may be prone to alarm barking and defensiveness in new conditions.

FRAGILE

Bad weather, exercise, work, injury, or stress can easily put her over the edge.

Interests, Hobbies and Education

Most toy breeds are very "owner-centric". She wants to spend her time playing with you, walking with you, cuddling with you, protecting you, supervising you, etc. She is very dependent on her human partner to the point of choosing her person and guarding you against the world and disbaring when she is separated from you. All members of this group have been bred to retain their puppy personality and find pleasure in human companionship. Even so, she still retains the instinctual needs of a dog and enjoys hunting and chasing as much as any dog. She will benefit from physical and mental exercise and love to play games and learn tricks.





You might find yourself seeking professional help for:

- Separation anxiety
- House-soiling and difficulty in house training
- His perception of "stranger-danger" at home and in public
- Protectiveness of his person (also known as lap guarding)
- Difficulty with small children
- Excessive barking
- Handling and grooming intolerance
- Reactivity and dramatic behavior toward other dogs



Toy Dog Relationship Survival Key:

Teach her how capable she is of **LEARNING** the necessary life skills to handle reality, focusing on building her confidence in a variety of situations.

Be mindful of how vulnerable she can be to the elements in her **ENVIRONMENT**, including other animals and children.

Cherish but be careful not to encourage her **GENETIC** propensity for dependence on you. It's sweet but can get blown way out of proportion and become a bit of a mess.

Remember that she may be small, but she is still a dog who needs you to consider her emotional, mental, and physical needs every day (**SELF**).



Ways to enrich your toy dog's life:

Plenty of physical exercise

- hiking, agility, flyball, parkour, chase games, toy play

Challenge her mind

- sniff walks, food puzzles, tricks,

Exercise her nose

- sniff walks, nosework, scatter feed, freework, snuffle mat



To learn more, pick up a copy of *Meet Your Dog* by Kim Brophey. This really is THE game-changing guide to Understanding your dog's behavior.

LEARNING - your dog's experiences and education

ENVIRONMENT - the many aspects of your dog's external world



GENETICS - the DNA that designed your dog inside and out

SELF - the unique interior world of your dog - health, age, sex, personality ...