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Breed: Scottish Terrier
Experienced with the breed

Breed Specifics

Temperament (friendly towards family, kids, strangers and other dogs)

Scotties are loyal, intelligent, sensitive, steady going and fun. " A big dog in a small package". They react well to positive training techniques. Scotties are independent creatures and like to spend their time with their families. Recommended for families with older children who can respect them as they don't like rough play. They need a fenced yard as they are a game breed and will go after squirrels, rabbits, etc. so they shouldn't be let off lead. Scotties are pain tolerant so electric fences are not appropriate as they will tolerate the shock to chase pretty out of the fence but then will be locked out . For those living in an apartment or condo, several walks a day are needed. They prefer to be with family as they tend to be devoted to their people and not be left alone for long periods. Can be aggressive with dogs outside of their pack.

Health issues

As with all breeds, Scotties have genetic health issues. The STCA (Scottish Terrier Club of America) has a health trust fund which is in place to help identify important health issues in the breed and to support research for the prevention and cure of these diseases. There are Registries and Health Databases and information on health can be found on the STCA web page.

Grooming

Scotties don't shed, but they need regular brushing so as not to form snarls in their coat. Scotties coats can be stripped or clipped on a regular basis. The Scottish Terrier Club of America has a grooming manual and video. The Scottish Terrier should have a broken coat. It is a hard, wiry outer coat with a soft, dense undercoat. The coat should be trimmed and blended into the furnishings to give a distinct Scottish Terrier outline. The dog should be presented with sufficient coat so that the texture and density may be determined. The longer coat on the beard, legs and lower body may be slightly softer than the body coat but should not be or appear fluffy.

Physical Needs (energy level, exercise needs)

Scotties like to run and play and need exercise like walks. They love to run especially after toys or balls but not necessarily returning them. There are many AKC activities that you can pursue with your Scottie like Agility, Fast Cat, Barn Hunts, Obedience, Rally, Earthdog, Agility.

Adaptability (space needed, temperature restrictions)

Scotties hair is usually dark so they need to be kept out of the direct sun for long periods. They need space to run and play.

Colors

Black, Wheaten, Brindle of any color.

Other

Scottie owners are devoted to their chosen breed and there are regional clubs and ways to make connections and friends with other Scottie owners. Facebook is one place that you can meet local Scottie owners or those around the world. It is a wide community of enthusiasts that you will be joining when you get your own Scottie.