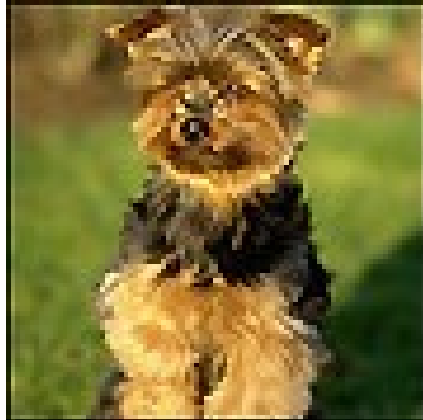


11- Yorkshire Terriers



The Yorkie was originally used as a working dog but became a fashionable pet in England in the late Victorian era.

Breed Profile

The [Yorkshire terrier](#), well known for long flowing tresses, is a tiny but tough breed. Originally used to hunt rats, the Yorkie is a popular active pet.

The Yorkshire terrier was one of the top 10 breeds for the year 2007.

History and Origin

As Scottish weavers migrated from Scotland to England in the mid 19th century, they brought along various terriers used to hunt rats. Over time, these terriers were bred together until the Yorkshire terrier was developed.

Originally, the breed was called the "broken-haired scotch terrier." In 1870, a reporter at a dog show stated that the breed should be renamed the Yorkshire terrier since most of the breed development occurred in the town of Yorkshire.

The breed was originally used as a [working](#) dog but became a fashionable pet in England in the late Victorian era. In 1872, the Yorkie made his entrance into the United States and has since been a favorite.

Appearance and Size

The Yorkshire terrier is a member of the [toy breed](#) group. The ears are erect and the tail is docked. The best-known feature of the breed is the long flowing hair coat, which requires constant care. The long hair on the head is usually tied on top with a bow to prevent the hair from getting in the face and eyes. The hair coat is typically dark steel blue complimented with shades of tan.

The Yorkshire terrier stands eight inches at the shoulder and weighs three to seven pounds.

Personality

Yorkshire terriers are excellent watchdogs, readily alerting their family when strangers

approach. In comparison, females tend to be better watchdogs than males. Male Yorkies tend to let the females do all the work.

Yorkies willingly share their homes and families with other breeds. They are primarily indoor dogs but, since they are terriers at heart, they can live a rugged outdoor terrier life. With proper care and attention, they can live anywhere.

Home and Family Relations

The Yorkie is generally not very tolerant of children but can do well if raised with them. They are affectionate and loyal to the family but can be aggressive towards strangers if not properly socialized.

Training

The Yorkshire terrier is intelligent and easily trained in basic obedience.

Special Concerns

Even though the Yorkshire terrier is generally thought of as a pet, they are still terriers at heart and readily chase and kill rodents. Yorkies should not be allowed unsupervised time with small pets such as hamsters, rabbits and guinea pigs.

The long hair coat requires daily care to prevent tangles and mats.

Breed Profile

Common Diseases and Disorders

In general, the Yorkshire terrier is a healthy dog with few medical concerns. However, the following diseases or disorders have been reported:

- Medial Patellar luxation is a disorder affecting the kneecap.
- Alopecia is a disorder resulting in a loss of hair.
- Urolithiasis is a condition affecting the urinary tract resulting in the formation of bladder stones.
- Tracheal collapse is a weakening of the rings of the windpipe. This leads to irritation and coughing.
- Cataracts cause a loss of the normal transparency of the lens of the eye. The problem can occur in one or both eyes and can lead to blindness.
- Cryptorchidism is a condition in which one or both testicles do not descend into the scrotum.
- Entropion is a problem with the eyelid that causes inward rolling. Lashes on the edge of the eyelid irritate the surface of the eyeball and may lead to more serious problems.

- Portosystemic shunt is a malformation of the blood flow associated with the liver. The blood is shunted away from the liver, resulting in accumulation of blood toxins and subsequent profound illness.
- Progressive retinal degeneration is a disease that causes nerve cells at the back of the eye to degenerate. The condition can lead to blindness.
- Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis (HGE) is a disease syndrome seen in dogs, characterized by the acute (sudden) onset of bloody diarrhea, usually explosive.
- Keratoconjunctivitis sicca is a disorder of the eye that results when tear production is decreased.
- Hydrocephalus is a neurological disease in which there is excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid within the ventricular system of the brain.
- Atlantoaxial Subluxation is a condition in which the first two cervical (neck) vertebrae are not firmly attached. Dogs are born without ligament support to their atlantoaxial joint,
- Aseptic necrosis of the femoral head is a progressive deterioration and collapse of the femoral head, cause is unknown
- Congenital Elbow Luxation - is a dislocation of the elbow joint.
- Hepatic Lipidosis (fatty liver disease) - is a syndrome characterized by an accumulation of excessive amounts of lipid (fat) within the cells of the liver and is diagnosed in puppies.
- Patent Ductus Arteriosus is a blood vessel that connects the aorta and the pulmonary artery and remains open or patent after birth.
- Testicular tumors are tumors that involve the testicles in intact male dogs.

In addition, the Yorkshire terrier is prone to dwarfism, difficulty delivering puppies, and low blood sugar.

Life Span

The life span of the Yorkshire terrier is 14 to 16 years.
