

The Charming Affenpinscher

The Affenpinscher is a charming little breed with an almost cute monkey-like appearance. In fact, the prefix 'Affen' is a German word for monkey. In his country of origin he is often called Zwergaffenpinscher ('Zwerg' meaning dwarf.) The French have dubbed it the "mustached devil." In any case, he is an appealing comical little dog, the smallest of the Schnauzers and Pinschers breed. He is alert, gentle, intelligent, and affectionate. He is wary of strangers and is always prepared to defend his home which makes him a good watchdog.

Size

The average height for this breed is about 9 1/2-11in. His average weight should be about 6 1/2-9lb.

History and origin

Miniature Pinschers and Affenpinschers were, until 1896, classified as a single breed. However, in that year at the Berlin show, it was decided that the long-coated variety should be known as the Affenpinscher. The Affenpinscher is a very old German breed that was depicted by Jan van Eyck (1395-1441) and Albrecht Durer (1471-1528). However, there are some controversies as to where his origin began, although his nationality was never been in doubt. Some people believe it to be related to the Brussels Griffon while others attribute the Brussels Griffon to the Affenpinscher. Another theory is that the Affenpinscher is a toy version of the German coarse-haired terrier, the Zwergschnauzer. In any case, this wonderful dog was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1936. He was introduced into the United Kingdom in 1975 and was first shown at Crufts Dog Show in 1980.

Feeding

Recommended feeding for this breed would be 1/3-1/2 can of quality meat product (13.3oz size), with biscuit added in equal part by volume; or 1-1 1/2 cupfuls of high quality dry food. When feeding this dog dry food, make sure that he has an ample supply of water.

Exercise

Just like most toy dogs, he will be satisfied with a short walk around the park, but will gladly walk you off your feet if that is to your pleasure.

Grooming

Regular brushing will keep his coat in great condition, as well as all normal grooming habits of most dogs.

About the Author

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