

The Bedlington Terrier: Good-looking and Hardy

The Bedlington Terrier is a good looking, hardy small dog that looks quite similar to a short lamb. He is a good family dog, well behaved, gets along very well with children, and has the qualities of a first-rate watchdog, which makes him a formidable fighter if provoked. He is very easy to train and has been successfully used in obedience competitions. The Breed Standard regards this dog as: "A graceful, lithe, muscular dog with no sign of weakness or coarseness. The expression in repose should be mild and gentle, though not shy or nervous. When roused, the eyes should sparkle and the dog look full of temper and courage."

Size

The average height for this breed should be about 16in. at the shoulder with a slight difference which is a little below for females and a little above for males. The average weight should be between 18-23lb.

History and origin

Many believe that the Whippet or Greyhound played some role in the origin of this breed. Also, his soft topknot provides a strong theory that he shares a common ancestry with the Dandie Dinmont Terrier. He possesses similar characteristics to some terriers that existed with tinkers in Rothbury Forest, Northumberland during the 18th century. In 1820, a Mr. J. Howe came to Bedlington, Northumberland with a female dog named Phoebe. This dog was given to a man named Joseph Ainsley, who mated Phoebe with another dog named Old Piper. Phoebe and Old Piper then produced Young Piper, the first dog that gave way to the new name "Bedlington" Terrier. It was in the year 1825 when the systematic breeding of the Bedlington started. The breed was first revealed in the show ring during the 1860's and the first Bedlington Terrier club was formed in 1875.

Feeding

Suggested feeding for this breed is $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 can of quality brand meat product (13.3oz size) with biscuit added in equal part by volume or 1 1/2 cupfuls of dry food.

Exercise

Similar to most Terriers, the Bedlington Terrier is a very energetic and inquisitive dog who enjoys a long run or a good game of ball. However, he can easily adapt to apartment life as long as he is given regular walks.

Grooming

The Bedlington Terrier's coat does not shed, which is a great bonus for those who do not have the time to clean their house everyday. The dead hairs stay in the coat until they are combed out. His coat needs to be trimmed regularly to prevent tangles. In addition, he should be given a good brushing everyday with a moderately stiff brush. Bathing him too often will weaken his coat. The hairs inside his ears should be regularly removed which can be done by simply pulling them out with tweezers.

About the Author

Source: <http://101dogbreeds.com>