

Shih Tzu one popular little dog

The Shih Tzu originated in China and is one of the oldest of dog breeds. They were unknown in the west until service men brought them home with them after World War II. Latest AKC registrations put the Shih Tzu in the top ten of popularity.

The Shih Tzu generally has a friendly, happy, spunky and outgoing temperament. They need a minimum amount of exercise, but are very high maintenance when it comes to grooming. To keep them looking at their best they should be groomed every 4 to 6 weeks. In addition, their double thick, long flowing and dense coat needs daily brushing. They are hypo allergenic and are light shedders. Since their coats require lots of brushing it's a very good idea to start grooming when they are young.

Most Shih Tzu's stand between 8" and 11" tall and weigh about 9lbs – 16lbs. They come in four different colors totaling 19 different color combinations. Although they are classified in the toy group, they are not frail or delicate. Generally, there is very sturdy construction beneath all that hair. Their life expectancy is about 10-14 years. They are not very tolerant of the cold or extreme heat and training can be challenging. Shih Tzu's are good with children and love to play. They adapt to almost any living situation and are great lap dogs.



Woofs, Purrs & Twitters