

THE SHIBA CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

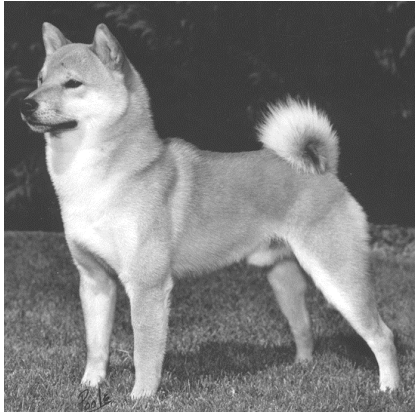
MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred Shibas and do all that is possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection, to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience/agility trials and tracking tests.

THE SHIBA INU LITTLE BRUSHWOOD DOG

HISTORY

The Shiba Inu is an ancient breed from Japan. The United States received its first import in 1954, but there are no reported litters before 1978. There were three main lines of the Shiba that have been combined to form today's breed. These were the Mino Shiba, known for its fiery red color, the Sanin Shiba, which is larger boned and slow to mature, and the Shinshu Shiba, which had a very thick bristly outer coat. The Shiba Inu was almost lost in the early 1940's during World War II and then again in 1959 due to an outbreak of distemper. The Japanese breeders have worked long and hard to protect this national treasure.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Shiba Inu comes in three accepted colors, red, red sesame, and black and tan. Their double coat consists of harsh guard hairs and a soft undercoat. The undercoat will be cream, buff or gray. The correct height for the Shiba: dogs, 14½ to 16½ inches at the withers and bitches, 13½ to 15½ inches at the withers. The average weight for dogs is 23 pounds and for bitches 17 pounds. The eyes should be triangular, deep set, and the iris should be dark brown, almost black. The ears should also be triangular, forward set and small, but in proportion with both the head and body. Shibas have a nimble, elastic gait.

POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS

The Shiba Inu is a beautiful animal that resembles a plush fox, although some claim it looks more like a miniature Akita. This small spitz-like dog is compact, attractive, clever, and possesses a charming personality. Shibas are very intelligent dogs. They thrive as either a city or a country dog. Typical of most northern breeds, the sturdy Shiba can tolerate most temperature extremes. Those who have owned them claim their behavior is similar to that of a cat. They are clean, controlling, aloof with strangers, and quite independent. They will even walk on tabletops and counters in the fashion of a housecat.

NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS

Due to its dominant nature, the Shiba can exhibit aggression towards other dogs. However, it is usually the female Shiba Inu that is aggressive toward other female dogs. Because they were originally bred for hunting they are highly observant and easily enticed into the chase for any prey animal that makes itself available. They are very likely to run away if allowed off-leash outdoors.



SPECIFIC TRAINING ADVICE

This is a very sensitive breed, so the degree of correction must be adjusted accordingly. These are strong-willed dogs that require a very firm hand, but if the corrections are too strong they will react poorly and become snappy. Be firm, patient, and consistent. The trainer must balance these elements and accept the reality that these are difficult dogs to train. Early socialization during puppy hood is of significant help to the training process. Any early signs of aggression must be taken seriously and corrected immediately.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SHIBAS

WHERE CAN I BUY A SHIBA?

You need to decide if you want a puppy or an adult Shiba Inu. A good reputable breeder will have puppies and possibly juvenile or adult dogs available for placement. Rescue organizations usually have adults that have been altered updated on their vaccinations and can be placed for a reasonable donation. Pet stores do sell pet Shibas, but the cost will usually run you from \$1800 to \$2500 and they cannot offer the support network a good breeder or a rescue organization can.

HOW MUCH CAN I EXPECT TO PAY FOR A SHIBA?

The price of a puppy varies with the breeders, geographic region and quality of the dog. Expect to pay more for show and breeding prospects; up to \$2500. Puppies that have been determined to be of pet quality will run about \$1200 to \$1500 and will come with a spay/neuter contract and/or limited AKC registration.

ARE SHIBAS GOOD FAMILY DOGS?

Shibas are naturally loyal and make good watchdogs. They are also tolerant and patient; however, like any other animal, the Shiba will protect itself if he/she is repeatedly abused, challenged or teased. Shibas are usually loving companions, but they do enjoy their independence. Breeding and environment can affect the behavior of all animals.



ARE SHIBAS GOOD WITH OTHER ANIMALS?

Yes and no. The Shiba was bred to be a hunter of small game ranging from birds in the bush, on up to and including, the Japanese boar. Shibas will be tolerant of the animals they are raised with but not necessarily the animals that live next door. The introduction of any new animal should be handled with care and respect for the current animal residents.

ARE SHIBAS EASY TO CARE FOR?

The Shiba Inu needs to be fed a good quality dog food. Do not feed them, or any other animals, either onions or chocolate. They should be bathed, brushed and have their nails cut on a regular basis.

CAN THE SHIBA BE OBEDIENCE TRAINED?

Yes, and it should be. There are many reasonably priced puppy, novice and advanced classes available. To be able to take your Shiba anywhere because you both took the time to learn new things together is the greatest benefit of having a well-trained dog.

DOES THE SHIBA REQUIRE A LARGE YARD?

No. The Shiba Inu can fit into almost any living environment, provided that moderate exercise is provided. A good walk, twice a day, a romp in the back yard or a charge through the house will give your Shiba a good exercise. Never let your dog run without a leash. Shibas are known to be escape artists as well.

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SHOULD I GET A SHIBA?

1. You need to ask yourself, Am I ready to make a commitment of 15+ years to my dog? A Shiba is not a "backyard" dog that just needs food once a day. They need to be with their "pack" and that's you and your family.
2. Is the Shiba Inu the breed for me? This breed is intelligent and has no problem with testing you.
3. Do I have enough time and energy to exercise, train, and groom my Shiba? Once a routine is established, these tasks are not hard, but can sometimes be time consuming.
4. Have I considered the cost involved in caring for a dog, like food, equipment and vet bills? Since the Shiba is a small breed, food is reasonable. You will need bowls, bedding, crate, collar, leash and plenty of toys.
5. Will I mind the shedding and other minor nuisances that owning a dog entails? Getting up early for morning business and puppy proofing your living space are two examples. Shibas do "blow coat", in other words they do shed and you will be removing it from your clothing and furniture.
6. Will I be a responsible pet owner by neutering/spaying my Shiba if he/she is not show or breed quality?

A QUICK CHECKLIST FOR THE SHIBA BUYER

1. Read a copy of the American Kennel Club standard for the Shiba Inu, so you will know something about the standard and requirements for the breed.
2. Be sure that your puppy comes from parents that are registered with the American Kennel Club. Ask to see the papers.
3. Observe the parents of your puppy. Remember that temperament is inherited.
4. The puppy should have an outgoing, friendly attitude. He/she should look healthy and well cared for.
5. Be sure that your puppy has had at least its first vaccination and has been wormed. Check with your veterinarian for recommendations.
6. Be sure that your breeder provides you with a health record for the puppy, AKC papers and care instructions.

RECOMMENDED READING

BOOKS

- * Shiba Inus by Laura Payton
- * The Total Shiba by Gretchen Haskett & Susan Houser
- * The Complete Shiba Inu by Maureen Atkinson
- * Jojofu by Michael P. Waite, illustrated by Yoriko Ito

PUBLICATIONS

- Shibas USA by Tanacross Enterprises
- Shiba E News newsletter of National Shiba Club of America
- Shiba Inu Annual by Hoflin Publications, Inc.
- * available at amazon.com

SHIBA INU CLUBS

- National Shiba Club of America www.shibas.org
nscamembership@yahoo.com
- Beikoku Shiba Inu Aikokai, affiliated with Nihonken Hozonkai, Japan
Anahiem, CA
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Shiba Club of
Southern California
www.shibaclubofsocal.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SHIBA INU BREEDERS

AMARHA SHIBAS

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JUNKETSU JAPANESE AKITAS

& SHIBAS Fontana, CA
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PACIFIC RIM SHIBAS

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RIPPA-NA AKITAS & SHIBAS

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESCUE

Email: saveshibas@gmail.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RESCUE

Email: shibak9@aol.com

SIRRA - SHIBA INU RESCUE RESOURCE OF AMERICA

Email: rescue@shibas.org

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More Shiba Fun

at

www.meetup.com/LA-OCShibaInu/ and www.meetup.com/sdshibas/

