

# Congratulations on your new *Manchester Terrier*

## Character

You have chosen a breed that is wonderful to live with. As a result of their keen intelligence, Manchester Terriers are quick to learn and are capable of excelling in obedience, agility, and coursing events. Since they were bred to hunt vermin and small game, they can do a great job controlling rodents. Although they may be discerning towards strangers, they are fiercely loyal to their master. Once you have experienced living with a Manchester, you will always want at least one in your life.

## History

The Manchester Terrier is the oldest of all identifiable Terrier breeds, dating back to the late 1500's. Early references listed him as the Black & Tan Terrier. In the early 1800's, during the time when the sport of Rat Killing was popular, the breed was known for its quick dispensing of rats. In the Manchester District of England, the Black & Tan was crossed with a Whippet to produce a breed that was proficient in both rat killing and rabbit coursing. This successful cross resulted in the development of the Manchester Terrier. Smaller specimens became popular as pets and were selectively bred to be diminutive. They soon bore little resemblance to the larger Manchester Terrier. Eventually two sizes evolved and each became a separate breed in England: the Manchester Terrier and the English Toy Terrier (Black & Tan).



In the United States (1958), the two breeds were merged into one breed with two varieties: Manchester Terrier (Standard) & Manchester Terrier (Toy). American breeders then successfully strove to bring the Manchester Terrier type back to the Toy variety.

## Highlights of Breed Standard

The Manchester Terrier is a small, black, short coated dog with rich mahogany markings. He has a taper style tail. The breed has a sleek, sturdy yet elegant look. The long and clean head is wedge shaped, with a keen, bright, alert expression. The smooth, compact, muscular body is built for great power and agility. Except for size and ear options, there is no difference between the Standard and Toy varieties.

## Grooming your Manchester

Manchesters are basically "wash & wear dogs." Minimal grooming is required. All that is needed is a brisk brushing with a medium hard brush once a week, trimming and filing of nails once a month, bathing every four to six weeks with a non-detergent shampoo, and brushing or scaling of teeth as needed.

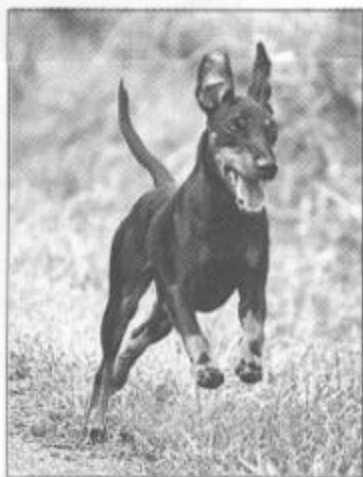
## Health Care

To assure that your Manchester remains happy and healthy, be sure to visit your local veterinarian on a regular basis. Annual checkups, routine vaccinations, including rabies shots and tooth care are very important.

A healthy diet is crucial to your Manchester's well being. Provide a high quality food that helps keep their skin and coat at their best. Your breeder will make recommendations on what foods to use.

Health problems and specific diseases that do afflict Manchesters are being addressed by the American Manchester Terrier Club. For more information check AMTC Web site: <http://clubs.akc.org/amtc/index.htm>.

Click on The Manchesters and then on Health.



Many AMTC members individually or collectively support health research for Manchester Terriers through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research to help Manchesters, see [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org) or call toll free 1-888-682-9696.

## Spay/Neuter

This is one of the most important decisions you will make regarding your dog. Neutered dogs typically live longer than those left intact. Males which have been neutered do not have testicular cancer and are at greatly reduced risk of prostate problems, cancerous and otherwise. Dominance and aggression in males is often hormonally linked. Females will not have uterine cancers or uterine infections, which are not uncommon in unspayed females. Mammary tumor incidence is greatly reduced in females spayed before their first season, and a spayed female won't attract neighborhood Romeos. Neutering or spaying

will not exclude a dog from many AKC events such as Obedience, Tracking, Earthdog and Agility Trials.

There are many factors to consider before embarking on the commitment that breeding a litter requires. Make sure you spend time educating yourself about the benefits and possible pitfalls of this endeavor. There are workshops and a good deal of reading material that you can utilize—as well as the wealth of knowledge and experience of your new dog's breeder. Attend and participate in conformation dog shows. These shows are for the evaluation of how well dogs match the breed standard. The more you know, the better you will be able to make good, informed decisions about breeding your dog.

## Activities

Today, there are many facilities that offer dog training classes from the basic social skills to obedience and agility. Since Manchesters are so very intelligent, you will find they are eager to learn any or all skills presented to them. Basic social training is a must, but, you can have loads of fun training your Manchester for obedience titles. They can also excel in Agility, Earthdog Trials and even in Herding. Manchesters have earned titles in all of the above events.

For additional information on Manchester Terriers contact the American Manchester Terrier Club Secretary, Zandi Spicer at [Zandispicer@yahoo.com](mailto:Zandispicer@yahoo.com).

