

# Toy Dogs

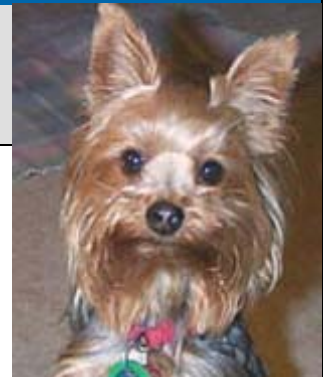
*Includes Chihuahua, Includes Pug, Pomeranian, Yorkshire Terrier*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

The American Kennel Club separates breeds of dogs into seven groups. The Toy Group contains dogs that have been bred down in size to become perfect companions and watch dogs. Although small in stature, toys are definitely not short on love or courage.



### Is a Toy the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No	Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. I have an appropriate location and space for the breed I am considering.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. I will spay or neuter my dog.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. I have the time necessary to commit to training this dog.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. I have researched and can commit to providing proper care, nutrition, and veterinary attention, including vaccinations, for this dog.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this dog.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a Toy may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a Toy and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

**Before deciding to purchase a dog, consider adoption!**  
**Your local PETCO will be able to provide you with additional information.**

**Average Size** Varies, but most under 14" **Life Span** 10 to 16+ years with proper care, depending on breed

**Diet** Most dogs will do well on any of the premium dog foods available; match food to size and life stage; may need a smaller kibble size than other breeds  
Treats should not exceed 10% of total diet; table scraps are not recommended  
Clean, fresh, filtered, de-chlorinated water changed daily

**Feeding** Feed puppies 3-5 times daily, adult dogs 1-2 times daily; follow recommendations on manufacturer's label as a guideline and discuss your pet's individual feeding needs with your vet

**Housing** Pack animals by nature, dogs view their human family as part of their pack and should be allowed to interact with human pack members as much as possible  
Choose a dog that matches your housing constraints; large, active dogs are not suited for apartment living; provide a indoor crate and properly train the dog on crate use  
Leaving dogs outdoors unsupervised is not recommended; an appropriate sized fenced yard, weather-appropriate shelter, food and water a must if a dog must be kept outdoors; tie outs should only be used for temporary arrangements and a tied dog should not be left unattended.

**Grooming** Bathe and trim nails as necessary. Shorthaired breeds benefit from weekly brushing; brush longhaired breeds daily. Many PETCOs offer grooming services. Grooming needs vary by breed; ask your PETCO groomer about your dog's needs

**Recommended Supplies**

<input type="checkbox"/> Kennel, crate or dog house	<input type="checkbox"/> Food, water bowls	<input type="checkbox"/> Premium dog food
<input type="checkbox"/> Books on dog breeds, training	<input type="checkbox"/> Toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming supplies
<input type="checkbox"/> Collar and leash	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Training treats

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### Popular Breeds

(These are generalizations only. Please research your chosen breed carefully.)

**Chihuahua** – Closest to the terrier in personality, the Chihuahua is one of the smallest dog breeds, tracing back to the Inca tribes in the new world; its fur may be long or short, coming in all colors and color combinations

**Maltese** – Flowing white hair, jet black nose and eyes, merry disposition, Maltese are a joy to watch in the show ring, and have been kept as pets for more than 28 centuries; well-bred specimens are healthy, spirited, and wonderful companions

**Pekingese** – Originally held sacred in China, the Pekingese date back to at least the 8<sup>th</sup> century; theft of one of these dogs was once punishable by death in China; they are known for their dignity and even downright stubbornness

**Pomeranian** – Sometimes called “puffballs with feet”, Poms are actually descended from the sled dogs of Iceland and Lapland, and were used as sheep herders before being bred down to their current diminutive size

**Toy Poodle** – Often considered the classic Toy dog, Toy Poodles share all the characteristics of their larger cousins, packaged in an often pocket-sized bundle; they are intelligent, loyal, and do best if given training that challenges and showcases their mental talents

**Yorkshire Terrier** – Although a Toy in size, the Yorkie is all terrier when it comes to personality; known to possess a stubborn and possessive streak, a Yorkie can prove a challenge to housebreak and train, but persistence, patience, and positive reinforcement will win out in the end

### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Developed as companions, lap dogs, and watch dogs

May be rather vocal; training and mental exercises to prevent boredom may help with excessive barking

Legs tend to be more delicate than those of their full-sized cousins; generally not recommended for young children or serious rough-housing

### Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Clean fur
- Clear eyes and nose
- Eats and drinks regularly
- Walks normally
- No bald patches

### Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhea	Loose stools caused by poor diet, stress, unclean housing, or other illness	Consult with a veterinarian to determine cause and treatment. Keep vaccinations current
Mites, fleas, ticks	External parasites; cause itching, loss of hair, certain diseases	Use products especially designed for dogs. Contact a veterinarian for treatment

### Red Flags

- Missing fur
- Distressed breathing
- Lethargic
- Diarrhea or dirty bottom
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Excessive thirst
- Uneven gait
- Weight loss

**If you notice any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.**

### Sources

*How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With* by Clarice Rutherford & David H. Neil  
*Choosing a Dog for Life* by Andrew De Prisco, et al  
*Dog Training in 10 Minutes* by Carol Lea Benjamin

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.