

Havanese Dogs



By Justin Winters

INTRO:

For this essay, I have chosen to write about Havanese dogs. I believe that after reading this, you'll agree that this is an ideal breed for many pet owners.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Havanese dogs have short legs and are small and sturdy. You can tell they are happy because of the way they walk. They always look playful and friendly. The Havanese have two layers of fur, which is called a double coat. They have a soft undercoat and a scruffy outer layer. The outer layer is stuffed with fur, and it's around 7 inches long. It can be straight or curly. Havanese fur comes in different varieties of colors, such as red, silver, and gold.

PERSONALITY:

These dogs are always looking to be in the spotlight, the center of attention of the family. They are busy and curious dogs, but they are known for being emotional. They love to play with your family, and are not shy at all. Not only are they affectionate to your family and other pets, but they are welcoming to strangers as well! Because they are friends with everyone, they tend to be vocal, but you can fix that with training, since they learn easily.

CARE:

Havanese are happy if you interact with them. They are also good with other pets if they have been introduced, and they enjoy being outside. You can put Havanese to the task of a watchdog, but not a guard dog because of how small they are. They might repeatedly bark at something unimportant if they aren't trained well. As for hygiene, they need to be brushed/combed at least three times a week so their coat is mat-free, though they do not need to be trimmed. Havanese dogs don't require a big yard, but they are active, so they need to be played with/walked frequently. Havanese typically live for about 10-15 years.

HISTORY:

Havanese come from the bichon family. In the 1500s, Tenerife dogs came to Cuba with farmers and noblemen. Without any outside influences, the dogs developed into the Havanese. In Havana, the Havanese were like a family pet. 200 years later, Europeans vacationing in Havana discovered the Havanese. The dog became very popular among the Spanish, French, and British. During Castro's revolution, some Cuban's would take their Havanese with them into the United States.

WHY HAVANESE?

I picked to write about Havanese because of how ideal they are. If you can't get a dog because you're allergic, these are hypoallergenic. They also don't have to be trimmed of their fur. They do require maintenance such as brushing their fur and making sure they get enough exercise, but they will be very happy with you if you pay attention to them. They are friendly to anyone and everyone, so don't be afraid of introducing them to people you know.

Havanese love being close to their owner's side so much that they've earned the name "Velcro dog."

While small, these dogs can be trained to do some big jobs! They're often used as service dogs for the deaf/hard-of-hearing, and they have even been used to sniff out mold and termites.

The coat of the Havanese is long, silky and seemingly quite warm. In reality, the coat is not there for warmth, but for protection. The dog's silky fur provides a protective barrier from the sun that prevents overheating.

