



Shih Tzu

Also known as the Chrysanthemum dog for the unique way the hair on the face grows, outward in every direction from the nose. All dog breeds have a purpose. Historically, the purpose of the Shih Tzu was to be a companion — and that's just what he wants to be. He simply desires to be with you. So don't expect him to hunt, guard, or retrieve; that's not his style. Affection is his dominant characteristic, and your lap is his favorite destination. He is happiest when he is with his family, giving and receiving attention. That said, the Shih Tzu is not a total couch potato. He's alert and lively and may bark at newcomers to his home. Don't worry, though; he'll make friends with your guests the minute they walk inside. Shih Tzu can be stubborn which can make potty training difficult. Praise goes a long way with these pampered dogs. Hitting, kicking, and being aggressive with your dog should never happen and will only make him/her feel uncertain or more stubborn. Praise and reward the good behaviors you want and your new puppy will want to please you more.

Your puppy comes to you potty pad trained, and socialized with other dogs, kids, vacuum noises, hair dryers, baths, leashes, music, and all sorts of other play experiences and life happenings. If your pup is coming to a home with no other pets, it may take him/her a few days to adjust to no mommy, daddy, and litter mates. Your pup may cry, whine, or seem fearful. Please do your best to make an environment that will help your pup integrate into your home. Best of luck with your new puppy.

Feeding

Your puppy has been eating Life's Abundance Small/med breed Puppy $\frac{3}{4}$ c. – 1 c. per day. Free choice – (meaning food is always available).

Water is always available as well. Our puppies are used to drinking from a bowl and a pet water bottle.

***In my opinion NO Premium food should contain:**

Soy	By-Products
Animal Fat	Meat By-Products
BHA	BHT
Ethoxyquin	Titanium Dioxide

*The term ANIMAL PRODUCT or ANIMAL MEAL is too vague -If it doesn't specify the kind of animal (chicken, lamb, beef, trout) it could be anything (opossum, horse, etc).

Foods I recommend:

[Life's Abundance Small/Med Breed Puppy](#)
[Life's Abundance Lamb & Rice All Stages](#)

Supplements Recommended:

NuVet Plus (by NuVet Labs)
Berry Balance (made by Solid Gold)

Toys and Chewies recommended:

Zuke's Mini Naturals
Minties dental treats
Kongs
Knuckle Bones
Baa-Baa Q's (Lamb Lungs)
Dehydrated Beef Liver
Bully stick

****Absolutely NO Rawhide products!**

Grooming

Your puppy is used to being bathed once a week. I use Minksheen by Touch of Mink. It is a very mild shampoo and contains essential oils that repel all sorts of parasites like fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. I use no other pest control items on my dogs. Please use what you feel is right for your dog.

*Please note that Shih Tzu have hair growing from inside their ears. If not plucked out it can create a breeding ground for dirt, mites, moisture and bacteria. I pluck the hair from my dog's ears and clean them out on a weekly basis. I have not had any specific ear problems with moisture or mites. I know there are products that some breeders use to clean out, dry, and pluck hair, but I do not use these products.

Your puppy will need regular clipping at the groomer or you can learn how to do it yourself to save money. Regardless of the type of haircut you prefer for your dog, you will need to make sure to clip the hair that grows between their toe pads, clip toenails once a month, and brush your dog, with a slicker type brush, at least three times a week. Their hair is not fur like other dog's, it is hair and is prone to matting if ignored. Investing in a good dematting comb is also wise. Shih Tzu will not shed all over, but your pup will occasionally lose hair just like you.

Brushing teeth is up to you. Shih Tzu have notoriously terrible teeth. Your pup will benefit from tooth brushing from a young age. In addition to tooth brushing, your puppy's teeth will be cleaner if you give him/her a dental treat, like Minties (my dogs get these) daily. Check the ingredients on any brand you buy.

Common Problems

Hernias in Shih Tzu puppies, as well as other breeds, are very common. They are not a medical condition or cause for immediate concern. Please be informed before you agree to a surgical hernia repair on your puppy.

An umbilical hernia is the most common type of hernia found in puppies. In case of umbilical hernias, a portion of fat or internal organs protrudes through an incompletely closed umbilical ring. Generally, by the time the pup is six months old, the umbilical hernias will shrink or disappear on their own.

*If your puppy has a small hernia you should push the bulge back up into the muscle wall each time you hold or pet your puppy. This will help the hernia stay reducible and can help the opening heal on its own.

**Hernia repair is a common surgery and can be done at the time you spay/neuter your pup.

Pinched nostrils generally open with time. The bubbly discharge from a Shih Tzu's nose is NOT serious if the discharge is clear and watery and the dog is otherwise thriving. This problem is most acute during the teething stage. Even the nostrils of a dog that has difficulty simultaneously eating and breathing or is lethargic at this time may open satisfactorily as the dog matures, but a few severely affected dogs may require surgery later on. Pinched nostrils and teething go together. Puppies in this phase may experience some snorting and snuffling sounds. They will usually outgrow this after their adult teeth come in. As long as they are playful, active, eating, and drinking well they are ok. If they cannot eat or drink well and are lethargic or discharge changes color, they may have developed an infection and need to be checked by your veterinarian and treated. The official breed book recommends that this breed not undergo surgery for this condition until after adult teeth are in. Please don't let your vet scare you into an unnecessary pediatric surgery.

Reverse sneezing is a common occurrence in the Shih Tzu breed. The dog sniffs something or gets a drink, then suddenly they suck their nostril shut because of a quick breath, pollen, or a drop of water. They often act like they are choking or they may even get scared and slide to the floor. They may snort loudly and act very frightened. The novice owner gets frightened too and thinks the dog may die. It is usually only a "reverse sneeze". The nostrils are stuck shut. It is like a vacuum in the nasal passages. Shih Tzu's are brachycephalic, they have a very short face and nose. This short nose apparently makes them more susceptible to this common phenomenon. Simply talk calmly to your pet, stroke his or her throat which will make them swallow and at the same time place your finger over both nostrils for a moment or two. This will help release the vacuum. Reverse sneezing in Shih Tzu is quite common and is not life-threatening.

Welcome to the world of the Shih Tzu. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns about your pet. You love your dog, and I love him/her too and want to see them live a long and happy, healthy life.

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