



Northern Japanese Spitz Club



Crufts Discover Dogs

An insight into our beautiful breed



Secretary: Mrs Dorothy Serginson

Web: www.northernjapanesespitzclub.co.uk

Email: info@northernjapanesespitzclub.co.uk



Northern Japanese Spitz Club



INTRODUCTION:

Introduced into this country in 1979 by Dorothy Kenyon the Japanese Spitz with its rather unique appearance rapidly became popular in the show ring. As it became apparent that they are a very amenable breed and also mix well with other breeds then many owners of those other breeds found themselves readily adding the Japanese Spitz into their kennels.

As a breed they are relatively easy to train with many owners having significant success in both obedience and agility as well as in the show ring. They are a bright and alert breed which can at times be somewhat vocal however as long as this is controlled from an early age then it does not need to become a problem.

They are an ideal size for a house dog and their alertness makes them a good 'guard/warning' dog however as with all dogs they need adequate exercise both in a good sized garden and also on regular walks. They integrate well with families and enjoy being with family members of all ages especially children.

The Japanese Spitz is not a prolific breed in the UK (or elsewhere) with Kennel Club Registrations typically numbering less than 200 each year, consequently this makes them a 'rare breed' and it is somewhat difficult to understand why numbers are not higher when one considers that once you have fallen under the spell of these delightful dogs you will find it very hard to consider any other breed.

CHOOSING YOUR PUPPY:

Whether you're looking to show, do agility / obedience or you simply want a very loving pet, you MUST research thoroughly:- Will the puppy suit your needs? Does it fit in with your lifestyle? and Can you give it the attention it deserves? Once you've answered these questions, you will need to find a reputable breeder. Many puppies are advertised on the internet, some are from legitimate breeders, some sadly are not - so be very careful, better still join social media groups - both Breed Clubs (The Northern Japanese Spitz Club and The UK Japanese Spitz Club) both have Facebook pages and websites, contact the clubs to be pointed in the right direction.

You may have to go on a waiting list, be patient, it's worth it. Once your puppy has been born, arrange to visit the breeder, at a MINIMUM you will be able to meet Mum, in some instances Dad too. Then the wait until your puppy is ready - you will not be allowed to collect your puppy until it is at least 8 weeks old

THE JOURNEY HOME: Your new puppy will be ready to leave the nest and start a new life away from its brothers and sisters at around 8 weeks of age. On the day of collection you will need a suitable travelling crate for the journey home in which you can lay a puppy pad (this may need to be changed should it become soiled).

Agree with your breeder a suitable collection time and ask that the puppy is not fed prior to collection. Try to toilet the puppy at the start of your journey (stroking its tummy may help) and again during the journey if it takes longer than 45 mins. If you take the puppy out of the car for a break DO NOT assume you can control it without a lead & collar - after all you would not want to lose your new puppy on the very first day!!

Do not become alarmed if your new puppy is sick on the journey home, after all this is probably its first journey of any significance in its lifetime. Spitz in common with many breeds are not natural car travellers so take the time once you have your puppy home to take it out in the car every day or so until it becomes accustomed to travel.

Although you should not attempt to feed your puppy either during the journey, or for the first hour after it arrives at your home, Fresh Water should always be available to it.



Northern Japanese Spitz Club



FEEDING: As with any puppy your Spitz IS what they eat and what goes in also must come out. So in order to give your puppy its best start in life it is recommended that initially you continue with the diet & regime that has already been established by your breeder.

At 8 weeks of age this is likely to be 3 or 4 meals each day spread equally across approx' a 14 hour period with each meal left down for only 20 minutes or so. Never leave uneaten food on the floor as this encourages 'grazing'. As your puppy grows you will need to increase the amount fed at each mealtime according to the food manufacturers' recommendations.

At 12 weeks of age you can probably drop one mealtime but still spread the remaining 3 meals equally across your day. Try to feed at about the same time each day, your Spitz has a remarkable body clock and will quickly get used to its new routine. Continue this pattern until your dog is 6 months of age when you can drop a further meal, probably the lunchtime feed.

Once your dog reaches its first birthday it may well be time to migrate it from a 'puppy food' onto an adult food. As with any change in your dogs regime introduce this gradually over a period of some days so as not to cause tummy upsets or pooh problems. This may also be the time when your dog reduces to a single meal each day.

Fresh water should ALWAYS be available to your dog.

GROOMING: With a breed that owns such a profuse and magnificent coat you could be forgiven for believing that it requires extensive grooming; nothing could be further from the truth.

As commented upon on our website site the breed has a 'self-cleaning' coat which means that it can get extremely dirty and all you need to do is to allow the coat to dry and to then give your dog a light comb/brush through and the vast majority of that dirt simply falls away and you are left with a pristine, gleaming dog all over again.

That is not to say that the dogs coat does not need attention because it does, but it is true to say that a little goes a long way. If you give your dog a 5-10 minute groom each day then you will keep it very tidy and be able to reserve a bath and a more extensive groom for those special occasions or visits to dog shows.

The key here is frequency, i.e. groom every day -or- at worst 5 days out of 7. The only exception to this is when your dog is moulting when it will require more attention and will need grooming every single day and thoroughly combed to carefully remove as much as possible of the dead hair. This moulting period usually occurs once a year for dogs and twice yearly for the bitches.

TEETH: Unfortunately, many Japanese Spitz can suffer with the problem of Plaque and Tartar build up on their teeth. Without oral care, the result can be oral abscesses, infection, and loose teeth. Tartar can build up under the gum line, eventually undermining the tooth and causing it to become unstable. Additionally, this can create small pockets in the gum tissue that will be susceptible to bacterial infection. Ultimately, this could result in irreversible periodontal disease, which is a painful condition and may result in infections and / or loss of teeth.

SOCIALISATION: Starts right at home getting your puppy accustomed to the sights & sounds of the world in which it lives. Your new puppy needs to be able to deal with the household, the family, the washing machine, the vacuum cleaner, visitors to your home, etc, etc. Japanese Spitz are a sensitive breed and can sometimes exhibit fear to one or more of the above, if so gradual & repeated exposure to the problem together with distraction with a favourite toy plus treating with a tit-bit will ultimately bring success.



Northern Japanese Spitz Club



Once your puppy is comfortable with the home environment it is time to investigate the wider world where the very inquisitive nature of the breed will often then put its snout where it should not. The starting point for any puppy trip beyond the home is to get your puppy used to its collar & lead.

Starting within the home environment, introduce your puppy to a lightweight rolled collar & lead and ensure the fit is such that it will not slip over the puppies' head. Again, be gradual and using distraction first try the collar for short periods, then adding the lead and allow the puppy to simply 'trail' the lead behind itself. Once used to this you can then pick up the lead and encourage the puppy to walk with you.

Outside start with brief 5 min walks and build up from there by introducing areas with traffic noise, busy town centre areas, parks with children playing, wild fowl, horses, etc, etc. but most importantly do not forget your camera so you can capture these early experiences forever.

VETERINARY CARE: Before deciding to buy / acquire any dog, make sure that you check to find out what health and/or behavioural problems he/she may have, or may be prone to; for example, as a result of his/her breed, or how he/she has been bred, or how he/she has been cared for. Always check with a vet if you are unsure about anything.

Things you should do to care for your dog:-

Monitor your dog for signs of injury or illness every day, and make sure someone else does this for you if you are away. If you suspect that your dog is in pain, ill or injured, consult a vet promptly. Take your dog for a routine health check with your vet at least once each year.

Ensure your dog's coat is kept in good condition by grooming him/her regularly. If you are unsure how to groom your dog's coat properly, seek advice from a pet care specialist. Make sure your dog can be identified, ideally via a collar with an id tag and have your vet fit a microchip (or confirm it is already done), so that your pet can be treated quickly if injured, or returned to you if lost.

Finally:-

Take sensible precautions to keep your dog safe. Always be alert to risks that may affect your dog. Consider taking out pet insurance to ensure your dog is covered if he/she needs veterinary treatment.

The most important thing ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL BREED.

Thank you for visiting us today, if you'd like more information about our breed why not visit our website:

www.northernjapanesespitzclub.co.uk

Or join our Facebook Group by searching for:

The Northern Japanese Spitz Club

Safe journey home



Northern Japanese Spitz Club



Finally - Enjoy our Gallery . . .

