

THE CHINESE SHAR-PEI

The History of The Shar-Pei

There is scattered information over the centuries that lead us to believe that the Shar-Pei originated as long as the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD). The actual creation and development at that time is purely speculative, as much of the breed's early history has been lost since the communists gained control of China. The Chinese Shar-Pei origin can be traced to the southern provinces of China and has existed there for centuries. They were bred by their peasant masters to help with various tasks such as herding cattle, guarding the home and family, and have proven themselves to be qualified hunters of wild game, usually wild pigs.

Following the establishment of the Peoples Republic of China as a communist nation the Shar-Pei population was virtually wiped out. This was due to a tax put on dogs at this time. If not for the dedication of Matgo Law of Hong Kong, who brought a small number of Shar-Pei into the United States in the 1960's and early 70's the Shar-Pei would not be here today. In 1974 the dog fanciers of American and Canadian answered Matgo Law appeal for help with the breed and in 1976 the first Shar-Pei were registered. The foundation stock brought over from Hong Kong was of poorer quality. With the help of good breeding the Shar-Pei you see to day is of a good quality. The first Shar-Pei came into the Britain in 1982; it is now recognized all over the world.

Incidentally, any dog in China that protects property is called a fighting dog, whereas in U .K they are referred to as guard dogs.

Shar-Pei when translated means "sand-skin" or "shark skin."

All About The Shar-Pei

The Shar-Pei Tongue

The tongue should be a bluish black unless it is a dilute in which case it is lavender. A solid or spotted pink tongue is a disqualification only when the dog is going to be a show dog. The Shar-Pei is believed to have shared a common origin with the Chow because of the blue-black mouths and tongues. It was believed in ancient times that the dark mouth helped to ward off evil spirits.

Shar-Pei comes in a number of colours

Colours include black, cream, fawn, red-fawn, red, sable, apricot, chocolate, isabella, and blue. The coat is solid in colour or some shading along the back and ears. Any Shar-Pei with a "flowered coat" (spotted) or black and tan in coloration (i.e. German Shepherd) is a disqualification only when the dog is going to be a show dog. The nose may be black or brick (pink with black), with or without a black mask. A Shar-Pei can also have what is called a "dilute" coloration, meaning the nose and nails of the dog are the same colour as the coat, (i.e. chocolate coat with



**Adult Red-Fawn
(Horse Coat)**



**Adult Red-Fawn
(Brush Coat)**



**Adult Cream
(Horse Coat)**



Black puppy



Chocolate puppy



Black & White puppy

The Shar-Pei Coat

The harsh coat of the Shar-Pei is one of the breed's most distinguishing features. The Shar-Pei does not have under coat like most breeds of dog. They only moult once a year to lighten their dense coat for the summer. The Shar-Pei has two types of Coat.

Horse Coat ---This is a very short coat less than 1/2inch (1.3 cm) long, when stroked against the grain may be abrasive, producing itching sensation.

Brush Coat---This coat is longer and is softer to the touch, no longer than 1inch (2.5 cm) at the withers.

The Shar-Pei wrinkles

The Shar-Pei puppies is so cute and wrinkly, it will not always be this way. When it is an adult Shar-Pei the wrinkling is confined mainly to the forehead and withers. However, some have more wrinkles than others do.

The Shar-Pei muzzle

The "hippopotamus" muzzle is one of the Shar-Pei distinctive features. This is broad and usually well padded.

There are two types of muzzle.



**The Meat-Mouth Shar-Pei
Heavily padded muzzle**



**The Bone-Mouth Shar-Pei
Less padded muzzle.**

The Tail

The Shar-Pei tail is carried over their backs on either side. There are three mean tail sets, tightly curled tail, a (coin tail), loose curl and one carried in an arch over the back.

The Shar-Pei

The Shar-Pei eyes are small, dark, almond shaped and sunken. In dilute coloured dogs the colour may be lighter

The Shar-Pei in General

Shar-Pei is extremely devoted to their family, and as with all breeds early socialization is important. Like most breeds if raised with children and other pets the Shar-Pei will get along well with them. Because the Shar-Pei can be stubborn and somewhat standoffish towards stranger's Puppy socialization classes are a good way to socialize your puppy with other dogs, people, and unfamiliar surroundings.

The Shar-Pei is a bright, very intelligent, affectionate dog that makes a terrific companion animal, most Shar-Pei end up being a very loving member of the family. Historically the Shar-Pei was a guard dog, it has an inborn tendency to protect its home and family. Owners usually say that their Shar-Pei prefer the company of humans, although they also enjoy the company of other dogs, particularly other Shar-Pei.

The Shar-Pei are very quick to learn therefore training should be varied in order to maintain their interest. They need daily exercise otherwise will begin to feel penned up. It is easily house-trained, exceptionally clean and requires minimal grooming. They live to be approximately 8 to 12 years of age but some have been known to live as long as 15 years or more.

The Shar-Pei eyes are hooded by skin, which limits its peripheral vision. As a result, they have difficulty seeing people approach from either side until they're almost directly in front of them, which makes them shy away and they makes people think they are standoffish. The Shar-Pei is best approached from the front. Always let the dogs sniff your hand it is a dog's way of making friends and familiarize themselves with you.

Some Shar-Pei snore and some snorts which may be mistaken for growling. When the Shar-Pei eats they get slobbery due to water getting trapped in the folds of their muzzle. Oh, and of course if they are offered some tasty treats! When considering a Shar-Pei as your families dog make sure you see the parents of your prospective pup. This will help you determine what your pup's temperament will be like. The Shar-Pei thrives on lots of attention and interaction.

Training the Shar-Pei

They are an independent breed, very owner-oriented. A plus as well as a minus in the training situation. Independence is a plus because dogs possess the necessary confidence to work at a distance from their handlers, but it's a minus because it sometimes translates into stubbornness. Training sessions should be brief and not with force. Shar-Pei will respond best to praise and food reinforcement as a reward for good behaviour. Shar-Pei is very intelligent and excels in obedience training. They are quick to learn so training should be varied in order to maintain their interest. They are easily house-trained.

Cage training is a positive way to train your dog. Your dog will come to think of its cage as a safe place to re-treat to when they need some quiet time.

Shar-Pei and the temperature

Shar-Pei should not be left in the sun for long periods of time as they can get over heated easily. Keep the Shar-Pei away from any radiator and fires as this can make them over heat and sweat this may cause skin problems. In cold weather the Shar-Pei is fine but should not live as an outdoor dog. Remember to put Vaseline on the pads of their paws to protect them from the salt some cities put down for vehicles, the salt can burn the pads of their feet and be very painful.

Grooming the Shar-Pei

The Shar-Pei requires minimal maintenance. The Shar-Pei does not need to be bathed every week. The constant bathing will make the skin dry (increase itching) and wash all dogs' natural oils away. Only bath the dog if he/ she smell with a vet recommend shampoo for general bathing needs. The nails of a Shar-Pei grow fast as a puppy frequent clipping is in order but when the dog start to go out it will wear its nails down but always keep an eye on them. Always touch your puppy's paws and all over the puppy to get them used to grooming. The Shar-Pei has tiny ears with very narrow ear canals frequent cleaning is a must. Usually once every week or every two weeks

Puppy Buyer's Guidelines

There are just a few suggestions a new prospective owner of a Shar-Pei puppy or any other breed should be aware of and consider when looking for a new

Buyers should if possible see both parents, but some times the breeder will have the dam (the mother) and may have used a stud dog (the father) from another kennel.

Buyers should look for a puppy that is confident not shy, aggressive or fearful.

Health should be of the utmost importance for a new prospective owner. The health of the puppy and all the other dogs.

Check to see if the dogs and the puppy keep in the home or are kennelled. A kennelled puppy may take some time to house train.

Puppies should at least be 8 weeks of age before going to a new home.

Go to more than just one breeder; ask lots of question. Good breeders love having people in to see there dogs and to inform you all about the breed.



Check to make sure what papers your puppy will have before purchasing.

Check if the puppy has Kennel Club pedigree papers and if so do they have any endorsements on. If the breed is waiting for the papers from the Kennel Club get this in writing and check it with the Kennel Club.

Do's the puppy come with a contact, if so have a good look at the contact.

The breeder also should provide written proof he or she will take the puppy back within a limited period of time if it is found to be ill or suffering from some defect.

A vet should examine your new puppy within 48 hours of purchasing.

Before you commit to having a Shar-Pei or any breed of dog, regardless how cute it is as a puppy, you need to think long and hard. Have you got the commitment, time and effort with the training and care of your puppy?

If you purchase a puppy we hope that you get lots of love and enjoy it for the hole of the dogs life.



For any more information about the Shar-Pei you are welcome to give me a call

Tel: 0121 711 8392(U.K) or [email](#)

I will try and answer your questions