

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COTON DE TULÉAR



1 General description

The Coton de Tuléar (pronounced 2-Lee-R) is bred and raised strictly to be a companion dog. Because of its delightful personality, small size, dark eyes, long lashes, and superior charm, this breed is said to actually smile. The Coton is not known to be vicious but needs to be socialized at an early age due to shyness in some puppies. Generally, the overall demeanour is playful. The breed is often known as a clown or puppet and bonds easily.

2- History

The Coton de Tuléar is originally from the Island of Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean. Canine literature is often animated with spicy exotic adventures, tales and legends. Those of the Coton de Tuléar are just as peppered with legendary accounts telling of his birthplace insisting it was in the 16th century. Many are astonished to learn of this breed's affiliation to the Maltese and Bolognese originating in the heart of the Indian Ocean. To realize that their ancestors swam to shore and arrived on the island as a result of a shipwreck, is indeed an enigmatic tale, and to logically add, that once land was reached, they bred with wild dogs native to the island.

History tells us that the first representatives of the breed were imported to France in 1977 and became very popular within 20 years.

3- Size and weight

The Coton de Tuléar is a fluffy, little, white ball with on occasion, and patches of colour. Height: 10 to 12 inches; Weight: 10 to 13 pounds. The body is rectangular; the top line should be slightly convex. The head is triangular and rather small. The coat is long, dry, oil and dander-free, with no doggy odour.

4- Genetic defects and life span

Cotons are healthy dogs with a life span of 16 to 19 years. They are rarely sick and have no known genetic defects.

5- Behaviour

This dog is very devoted and affectionate. They love above all their master and home. Although classified as an indoor dog, they adore the outdoors and love to run, take walks, swim... Perpetually in a good mood, they are very lively and have a reputation as a first class anti-depression dog. From their ancestors, they have inherited assurance and independence. They know exactly what they want and will make every effort to get it and rapidly become the center of attention in the house! They are excellent watchdogs, curious and vigilant. They communicate easily with their master and will bark, but always for a good reason.

Good with children? They love to play with children. However, parents should protect their little puppy from young children. Playtime should be supervised to avoid rough handling, such as tail pulling etc. until the children become old enough to understand how to treat and respect animals properly.

Good with other animals? The Coton maintains close relationships with other canine friends even though they are always the one predisposed to play the alpha role. They are equally friendly with cats.

6- Grooming

The Coton de Tuléar earned its name from its unique cotton-like hair. Its dry, wind-tossed coat is probably the easiest to care for of long hair breeds. The hair is about four inches long, and when wet, dries quickly. There is **no shedding**. However, brushing is necessary, as the hair will mat. Brushing 3 to 4 times a week should prevent matting. The coat should maintain its natural wind-tossed look. A puppy cut is fine for low maintenance of older dogs or pets, but never for a show dog.

7- Colour

This little dog is predominately white. "A few apricot or grey more or less dark patches, notably on the ears is tolerated". Coton puppies are not born necessarily all white. Puppies can present patches of champagne, chestnut to full black. As the dog matures, these colours will fade to light grey colouring or will totally disappear.

8- The Coton de Tuléar and allergies

This breed is not 100 % non allergenic, but the Coton is still a good choice for people with allergies because they don't shed a lot and have no dander.

9- Obedience and agility

The Coton enjoys this kind of activity. In our contract, we ask the new owner to attend least a puppy training session to socialize the dog and to learn the basic commands.

10 Health guarantee

Our puppies (bred by us) are sold with a two (2) years written guarantee from time of purchase. Allergies and infectious diseases are not included in this guarantee. The health guarantee includes a two (2) years replacement with vet certification for a puppy of similar value.

11- Show prospect / Pet quality

- Pet quality puppies are sold with a non-breeding contract: the puppy must be spayed / neutered by the time they are 6 months old. Registration papers will be withheld until spaying/neutering certification, by a veterinarian, is sent to the breeder.
- A show prospect puppy is sold first with a co-ownership agreement. It is understood that the new owner of a show prospect puppy will show the dog to its potential capabilities and have certified, by accepted standards, the dog to be free of hereditary diseases such as hip and elbow dysplasia, patella luxation and inherited eye diseases and is in sound physical condition. The co-ownership will be removed when all the testing will be done and the full breeding rights will be given.

12- Our puppies

- **The parents:**

The parents are currently certified clear of patella, hip and elbow (OFA certification) and eyes (CERF certification). They have also normal thyroid and are in sound physical condition.

- **Identification:**

Our puppies are implanted with a microchip at 6 weeks and papers are provided to the new owner(s) of the puppy.

- **Registration:**

Our puppies are registered with the Canine Federation of Canada. We assume the cost of registration and provide a pedigree certificate going back 3 generations.

- **Inoculations:**

At 6 weeks our puppies are examined by a licensed veterinarian and receive their first inoculations and deworming forming. This information is recorded in the puppy's health booklet.

- **Temperament testing:**

The puppies will be tested using the Campbell's test for social dominance, social attraction, following, restraint dominance and elevation dominance. These tests provide important information about the puppy's personality that helps us place the right puppy with the right family.

- **Their first seven weeks with us:**

During the first 4 weeks, they are with their mother in the whelping box. Everyday, they are weighed and checked to assure that all is well.

Claws are cut every week, starting at day 7, and their eyes are usually open between day 10 and 12.

Pictures are taken every week and are sent to the perspective owners at least 3 times during their stay with us.

At 6 weeks, they start to sleep for the night each in their own crate accompanied by music.

A solid food diet is started at 5 weeks.

Everyday, we have what we call "puppy time"! Everybody gets into the act, playing and socializing on the floor!

House training: depending the weather, at 5 weeks old, we start to train them with news paper in the house and going outdoor as often as possible.

Grooming: at 4 weeks, they are brushed and combed every day.