

The Papillon



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Origins of the Breed

The origin of the Papillon is subject to several theories; however, it is generally accepted that the breed is descended from the European Toy Spaniels that feature in many of the Court Paintings from the 15th Century onwards. These Toy Spaniels were firm favourites with the ladies of the Court and indeed it is rumoured that Marie Antoinette's own Toy Spaniel Coco, accompanied her to the guillotine. It is also generally accepted that the breed evolved in France or Belgium.



Known for its large erect ears, it is perhaps surprising to learn that the forerunner of the modern day Papillon was the drop eared Toy Spaniel and although a few examples of the erect eared Papillon can be found, the earliest known featuring in a portrait by Jacob Bogdani (1660-1724), it was not until perhaps the turn of the 20th Century that the erect eared Papillon came to prominence.



There would appear to be no firm evidence to confirm how the erect ears came about however they have become a dominant feature of the breed.



Despite the dominance of these erect ears there remains a drop eared variety of the breed, the Phalene, and although still small in number here in the UK, the variety does have much support on the continent.



More about this charming variety of the breed can be learnt at <http://www.phalenes.com>

The Papillon (Butterfly) and Phalene (Moth)

The following comments apply equally to the Papillon and the Phalene, the term Papillon is used merely for convenience and because, in the UK, it is the more popular of the two varieties at the present time.

The Papillon is a happy lively little dog, extremely intelligent and quite certain in its own mind that it is really a large dog in a small body. They love to learn and they can be found happily taking part in Agility, Obedience and Heelwork To Music.



Long walks pose no problems for these lively outgoing little dogs and neither does curling up on a comfortable chair at home with their owners once the activities of the day are over.

A few minutes grooming each day will ensure that the fine silky coat of your Papillon will remain free from tangles.

A toy breed, the Papillon should be between 8 to 11 inches to the shoulders, with fine bone. The Papillon is a relatively healthy breed and whilst Patella Luxation and more recently P.R.A. has appeared in the breed, generally, the breed is sound.

Buying a Papillon

Buying any dog is not something to be undertaken without first giving it a great deal of thought.



Is it the right breed for you and your family circumstances?

Perhaps the Papillon is not an ideal choice to have with very young children or to mix with larger dogs, there are of course exceptions but accidents can and do happen and a small fine boned breed such as a Papillon does not always mix well with boisterous children or large dogs.

You must ensure that you have the time to give to a dog; no dog should be left on its own for long periods of time. Papillons are lively intelligent dogs and need company and puppies of course need constant watching!

Should you decide a Papillon is the right dog breed for you, always treat your Papillon with the love and respect it deserves, in return you will be rewarded with years of love and enjoyment!

Always buy a dog from a reputable breeder, when you visit to purchase your puppy the breeder should be quite happy to let you see all their dogs not just the mother of your puppy; and of course, a reputable breeder will be happy to answer the many questions you will have and give you advice on a whole range of topics, from grooming and bathing to care of teeth.



Papillon Rescue UK (PRUK)

Papillon Rescue UK is a registered charity (Number 1137649), our mission statement is ***“Rescuing with compassion and understanding in order to offer safe haven and protection for any Papillon or Phalene in times of need.”***

The Charity has eight trustees, all of whom own Papillons or Phalenes . We have a very diverse set of skills enabling us to benefit each and every dog that passes through our care. We have four behaviourists, a veterinary nurse, a breeder, a fundraiser, a treasurer and an IT geek!!! All of us take part in different activities with our Papillons as well as enjoying being with them on a day to day basis.



We do not kennel any of the dogs that come into our care, they are placed in loving foster homes until a suitable forever home is found. The rescue covers the whole of the UK and is run entirely by volunteers.

We understand that dogs come into rescue for various reasons; the death of their owner; inability of their owner to provide care due to age or illness; break up of marriages and partnerships are just a

few of them. We endeavour to take and rehome the Papillon in question, dealing sympathetically with their owner and limiting as far as possible the stress caused to the dogs themselves.

In addition to finding new forever homes, rescue is also able to help should owners be temporarily unable to care for their Papillons through for example, illness or admission to hospital. In these circumstances, arrangements can be made for the Papillons to come into temporary foster care.

We also offer a bereavement service which allows an owner to register a dog with us, so that in the event of the owners death, their dog can come into the care of Papillon Rescue UK immediately and we can therefore provide the necessary care and protection until we are able to find a new loving, forever home.

If you know of a Papillon that needs help, would like to know more about temporary foster care, our bereavement service, or if you are looking to adopt, or would like to help us in any way, please contact any of the following:

Telephone:

Debbie Goodwin (Rescue Co-ordinator) 07850 293899

Jeanette Maggs (Deputy Rescue Co-ordinator) 07485 171267

Email: rescue@papillonrescueuk.org

If you would like to read more about us and the rescue work that we do, then please take a look at our Facebook page *Papillon Rescue UK* and our website at www.papillonrescueuk.org .

Fundraising is very important for Papillon Rescue UK as without your support we cannot carry out the good work. We have large vets bills, food, care, behaviour and transport costs so please if you can fundraise or donate please contact either

Sue Dugan 07969 738632 suedugan@sky.com

or

Chris Pougher 07483 247684 chriskadupaps1@btinternet.com

