

Silky Terriers

Small Dog, Big Heart

Congratulations on your purchase of this delightful toy terrier!

Welcome from the Silky Terrier Club of America. You are the proud new owner of a charming member of the AKC Toy Group, the compact, glossy-coated Silky Terrier. A true toy terrier, the Silky is small but not fragile, high spirited, and outgoing. With his curiosity and intelligence he is more than ready to become part of your family.



A Brief History

No one really knows the exact origin of the Silky Terrier, but most agree the breed originated in Australia in the latter part of the 19th century. They are a mix of the small, yet sturdy, rough-coated Australian Terrier and the Yorkshire Terrier, a beautiful toy dog with a long silky coat. Although they were developed mainly as pets and companions, they also proved their worth as ratters and snake hunters.

Fans introduced the first Silky Terriers to America in the 1930s. During World War II, service men stationed in Australia also brought their new furry companions back to the United States. Yet, widespread interest in the breed really ignited in 1954 when an adorable Silky Terrier pup appeared on the cover of *This Week* magazine and officially stole America's heart. Four years later, the American Kennel Club officially recognized the breed.



Socializing & Training

Silky Terriers are highly intelligent and eager to please. Training and socialization from the start will ensure you have a happy, well-behaved companion. True toy terriers, Silkys can be fiercely independent and even stubborn at times. Keeping tasty treats at the ready to reward good behavior makes for easier training since they respond best to positive reinforcement. Introduce your Silky to as many new and different environments as soon as possible. The more your Silky experiences in the outside world, the less fearful he will be of new things.



Silkys are often referred to as "big dogs in small suits". They have big personalities and love to be with their owners and join in whatever the activity. They are alert and aware of their environment. Your breeder will start the socialization process and should be willing to guide your first steps socializing your puppy. He may also suggest that you join a puppy class at a reputable dog training facility to help with socialization and early training. Silkys enjoy learning and are willing and eager students.



Great Dane Photos

Your Silky's Health & Behavior

Silkys are true Toy Terriers: active, alert, happy and intelligent.

They were originally bred to hunt and "go to ground" as working Terriers. They are strong, sturdy little dogs. Small but not delicate, active, lively and curious. Silkys are always ready for whatever comes next!



Activities to Enjoy With Your Silky

Silkys are active little dogs and love to be involved with whatever their owners are doing. Don't hesitate to take your Silky hiking or to the beach or even shopping with you. Silkys excel in AKC activities like Obedience, Rally and Agility trials. Canine sports are a great way to bond with your Silky and provide an avenue for him to use his energy.



Bred to help on the farm with vermin control, Silkys especially enjoy Earthdog and Barnhunt activities. Your local kennel club is a great resource when looking for events and training facilities.



Grooming

Silky Terriers have, as their name would suggest, a silky textured, straight, single coat similar to human hair. Because there is no undercoat Silkys do not shed seasonally, as do most other breeds of dogs. When puppies are transitioning from "puppy coat" to "adult coat", more brushing may be necessary, several times each week. A Silky should be kept clean and bathed and brushed regularly to keep their coat shiny, healthy and free of tangles. A Silky that is brushed regularly as a puppy will enjoy being brushed as an adult.

Find a Mentor

The Silky Terrier Club of America invites you to reach out to us so that our members may share with you our enthusiasm, love and knowledge of our very special breed. Many of our members have expertise in grooming, showing, health, performance training and life with a Silky Terrier in general - and are always happy to swap stories! We invite you to reach out to other members to further enjoy your Silky.



Please contact us at silkyterrierclubofamerica.org

About the STCA

The Silky Terrier Club of America is the parent club dedicated to the well-being of the breed and is recognized by the American Kennel Club. The STCA is responsible for the breed standard which is the description of the ideal Silky Terrier. Our membership consists of Silky owners and breeders from across the country. We offer resources about the breed to help our members. We encourage you to become a member and help preserve the breed for future generations. You can find a membership application at silkyterrierclubofamerica.org.



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