

JAPANESE CHIN IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Because Japanese Chin are not as well known as some of the more popular breeds, they are frequently misidentified. They are most often confused with Pekingese and vice versa, but also with Shih Tzus and Lhasa Apsos. Pictures of these four breeds appear at the end of this flyer to help with identification.

Many of the dogs that end up with rescue groups are from "disreputable" or commercial breeders and have not been bred carefully to represent the AKC breed standard. For this reason, there is a wide variation in appearance. Some are too long, tall or short; it is not unusual to find a Chin as small as 4 pounds or as large as 25 pounds.

Japanese Chin compared to a Pekingese:

In general a Peke has a wider face, shorter, bowed front legs and wider, rounder feet than a Chin*. Pokes also frequently have a face "mask" that chin do not have. A well-bred Peke will be longer than it is tall. Chin are generally taller than Pokes with slender, dainty legs. A well-bred Chin will have a square appearance; being exactly as long as it is tall. The Pekingese is a double-coated breed, having a coat that is thick and full. Japanese Chin are single-coated with fine hair that resembles the feel of human hair.

Pokes are large chested and carry all their weight forward. A Chin's weight is evenly distributed from front to back. If a Chin is picked up with one hand under the ribs and it will balance. If the same is done with a Peke, it will fall on its head! (so do this test over something soft, please!)

A couple behavioral traits common among the Chin breed are that they may turn in rapid circles ("Chin spins") when they are happy or excited; most don't bark excessively but sometimes they "woo".

Japanese Chin compared to Shih Tzus and Lhasa Apsos:

Like the Pekingese, Shih Tzus and Lhasas are longer than they are tall. They are also both double-coated and both have less prominent eyes than Japanese Chin. Hair on the top of the head and on the muzzle of the Shih Tzu and Lhasa grows continuously and is often trimmed or held or held in a ponytail. Hair on the top of the head and the muzzle of a Japanese Chin is naturally short.

Temperament and Biting:

Japanese chin are very rarely "biters," although occasionally one will fear-bite in a kennel/shelter environment. When they are transferred into a foster home and temperament tested, they almost never exhibit biting and are very adoptable.

* Comparing Chin and Peke Feet: Hold your hand out in front of you with the palm down, your fingers close together and your thumb tucked under your fingers; this represents a chin foot. From that position, fold your fingers under your hand and this is similar to the appearance of a Peke foot.

Chin foot: long and slender, like a rabbit's foot

Peke foot: round and heavy.