

Smooth Fox Terrier Breed Profile

What do you get when you combine energy, intelligence and high performance with a handsome face and athletic body? No, we're not talking about David Beckham (though there are some similarities.) It's the Smooth Fox Terrier!

Originally bred for fox hunting, this cheerful dog is bright, brave, and always ready for adventure. They're happiest when they're on the go, especially with their families. But be prepared – this dog rarely met a human they didn't like, so you're sure to make a few new friends on your adventures together.

Life Expectancy: 12-15 years

Size: Small

Maintenance Level: Medium

Shed Level: Low

Temperament: Intelligent, Lively, Charming

Coat Color: White with Black and/or Tan



Who's a Good Match for the Smooth Fox Terrier?

Smooth Fox Terriers are best for active families with children who'll provide them with plenty of exercise (and love!)

Homes with large yards are ideal, giving them ample space to run around, play, and burn off some of their abundant energy.

They don't get along with other dogs and may chase smaller pets, so they're perfect for a one-pet household.

What Does a Smooth Fox Terrier Look Like?

Smooth Fox Terriers are a small dog with a strong, sturdy, athletic body. Their tapered V-shaped heads are ideal for sticking into fox dens, just as they were designed to do. They have a perpetually inquisitive expression thanks in large part to their high set, folded ears and intelligent eyes.

Ears: Smooth Fox Terrier have small triangular ears that are set high on their heads and fold forward with the tips hanging close to the cheek.

Eyes: Fox Terrier eyes are somewhat small, dark in color, and deep set with a lively, intelligent expression.

Nose: Their muzzle is long and tapered with a black nose.

Height: 15 ½ inches maximum

Coat Length: Smooth Fox Terriers are smooth-coated (no surprise there!) with fur that's flat, stiff, short, and dense.

Coat Color: The coat of a Smooth Fox Terrier is predominantly white with black and/or tan markings.

Tail: The Fox Terrier tail is strong, set high, and usually docked to ¾ its original length.

Weight: Male - 18 pounds, Female - 15 to 17 pounds

What's the Temperament of a Smooth Fox Terrier?

The typical Smooth Fox Terrier temperament is active, intelligent, gregarious, and inquisitive. There's a lot of energy packed into that little body, and it often expresses itself in comical and entertaining ways. They adore people and would do anything to please you but with a strong prey drive, they'll quickly abandon you if a critter scurries by.

Some of these qualities can get the Fox Terrier in trouble, especially in a multi-pet home. With their energetic personality and strong hunting instincts, they're fairly likely to terrorize your cat or other small pets. They also don't get along particularly well with other dogs. If you're adopting an older Smooth Fox Terrier, it might be too late to temper these tendencies. If you're bringing a Fox Terrier puppy into the household, the expression of these traits can be kept in check through early socialization and training.

Thankfully, though, this feisty attitude towards other animals doesn't apply to humans. With people, they're usually lively, engaged and eager to please. They won't typically bite a person unless their cornered and feel like they're in danger. A Smooth Fox Terrier puppy may get mouthy, as all puppies do, but they usually grow out of this phase by the time they're a year old, especially when aided by proper training.

Training is typically easy for a Smooth Fox Terrier thanks to their intelligence. But that intelligence is a double-edged sword; Fox Terriers don't just learn during structured training sessions, they're also paying close attention to what behavior is acceptable at home. You must routinely reward the behaviors you want to reinforce, even when you're just hanging out at home. Otherwise, your dog may pick up on some bad habits that could be hard to alter.

How Do You Care for a Smooth Fox Terrier?

Raising a Smooth Fox Terrier dog is rewarding, but it won't always be easy. With their sharp intellect and abundant energy, they can get into trouble if healthy outlets for these traits aren't provided. To stimulate their minds and bodies, daily exercise and consistent training are an absolute must.

Grooming

Smooth Fox Terriers are relatively low maintenance in the grooming department compared to other dog breeds. They have short thick hair that sheds minimally throughout most of the year but somewhat heavily when the weather changes during the spring and fall. To minimize shedding, use a rubber brush, slicker brush, or even your wet hand to remove excess shed fur. Regular brushing should be done once per week for most of the year and every other day during their seasonal shed. (Note: wire pin brushes are not recommended for this breed.)

Fox Terrier dogs are pretty easy to keep clean; you should only need to bathe them once every 4-6 weeks. If they somehow find themselves in the middle of a mud puddle between regular baths, just take them in, towel them off then let them dry; most of the dirt will come right off.

Additional grooming needs are pretty much on par with other terrier types. Their nails need to be trimmed every two weeks (assuming they haven't already been worn down by exercise) and you should brush their teeth at least three times per week (though daily would be ideal.) Trips to the groomer aren't necessary but you can trim the fur around their tail like a show dog, if you prefer.

Training

The Smooth Fox Terrier dog breed is smart, attentive and eager to please, which makes them wonderful students. They're also highly motivated by food, which only increases their trainability. They do have an independent streak however, so they require a trainer

who's confident, clear and consistent. And with that strong prey drive, it's best to train them in a place with few distractions so they're better able to focus.

Training for Smooth Fox Terriers should start early on; the sooner you begin to train them, the better. Because these dogs are such enthusiastic learners, they're always paying attention and picking up on behaviors even when you're not intentionally trying to teach them. That means you have to be deliberate and consistent with your training at all times, including when you're just hanging out at home. Always reinforce good behavior and never berate or punish your dog (unless you want to lose their trust completely.)

Diet & Nutrition

Smooth Fox Terriers are very good eaters (and not terribly picky) so they can easily thrive on commercial dog food, as long as it's complete and balanced. Most young and active dogs require a bit more protein, so be sure to pick out a food that's designed for your pet's current stage of life and activity level.

To ensure the food is nutritionally complete and balanced, look on the bag to see if it meets the standards set by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). This non-profit organization is responsible for setting quality, safety and nutritional criteria for dog food in the US; high-quality kibble will meet these standards and provide your dog with the nutrition they need to stay healthy.

Treats are an absolute must (at least according to your dog). Since Smooth Fox Terriers are highly motivated by food, treats will keep them focused during training sessions. You'll also need to keep some around to encourage positive behaviors throughout the day. But be careful not to overfeed them – while extra calories can be burned off during exercise, too many treats will turn your Smooth Fox Terrier into a chubby pup.

Exercise

Smooth Fox Terriers have a high energy level, which means their exercise needs are considerable; ideally, they'll get at least two hours of moderate to vigorous activity per day. But this exercise can take practically any form – they love to swim, run, play, and explore so you can take your pick!

Hiking is another great choice, but only on leash. Smooth Fox Terriers are known for their speed and hunting abilities, so if they smell or see a squirrel, mouse, rabbit or any other interesting critter, they're sure to give chase. Don't risk them running off into the woods – keep them on leash and skip the high drama of a pursuit.

Thanks to their history of hunting fox, this tenacious breed also excels at digging. If you're looking for a little help in the garden, you've found the ideal companion. But if you like to keep your flower beds nice and tidy, it's best to channel that energy into

something more productive, like nose work, agility events, barn hunts and other dog sports.

Ideal Environment

With their high energy and loving nature, Smooth Fox Terriers are the perfect match for an active family that includes children. They adore kids and babies, often becoming your child's favorite playmate. But terrier breeds do guard their resources; make sure kids know to respect the dog's space, especially when they have food or toys.

The Smooth Fox Terrier's love of people also extends to those who aren't family members. Whenever you have guests over, your dog will welcome your visitors with lots of love and kisses, like they're seeing an old friend for the first time in years.

Unfortunately, this love doesn't apply to other pets. They can often get rowdy with other dogs in the household and may chase smaller pets. If you have any gerbils, guinea pigs, or rabbits in your home, it's best to look for another breed. If introduced to other dogs and cats while they're still a puppy, Smooth Fox Terriers can learn to adapt, especially if the dog is of the opposite sex.

The Smooth Fox Terrier dog breed needs space to run around and play, so they're best suited to a single-family home with a large yard. They can adapt to an apartment, however, but only if they're provided with plenty of exercise – at least an hour or two is ideal. Otherwise you'll end up with a bored, restless dog who burns energy by chewing up your furniture. Dogs in the terrier group also tend to bark a lot, something people in neighboring apartments aren't likely to appreciate.

Smooth Fox Terrier Health

The Smooth Fox Terrier lifespan typically ranges from 12 to 15 years, though some have been known to live even longer when well cared for. Overall, they're a very healthy and hardy breed, though there are a few potential health problems to look out for, such as joint issues, heart valve disease, and eye problems. Many of these have been reduced thanks to good breeding practices, but there's still a chance your dog could inherit one of these health issues.

Patella Subluxation: A patella subluxation is the partial dislocation of the kneecap, which can be common in active dogs. If you notice your pet lifting one of their hind legs while running or kicking their leg out to the side, this could indicate a dislocated kneecap. Mild cases are typically treated with medication, but surgery may be needed if the condition worsens.

Hip and Elbow Dysplasia: Hip and elbow dysplasia are inherited diseases that affect the joints and typically result in arthritis. These conditions can be treated through both surgical and non-surgical methods. Non-surgical treatments may include medication,

supplements, or physical therapy. Reputable breeders will screen their stock for this disorder before breeding to reduce the likelihood of passing it on.

Heart Valve Disease: Another inherited condition that breeders often screen for is heart valve disease. With this condition, the heart valves in older Smooth Fox Terrier dogs start to weaken and deform, which strains the heart. If caught early enough, your veterinarian can prescribe medications to help prolong your pet's life.

Eye Problems: Smooth Fox Terriers, especially older dogs, may be at risk for developing eye problems such as cataracts, glaucoma and primary lens luxation. These conditions can be painful and could lead to blindness if left untreated. Have your veterinarian check your pup's eyes at least once per year to diagnose eye issues before they become serious.

Ear Infections: Like any dog with folded or floppy ears, Smooth Fox Terriers may struggle with recurring ear infections. Signs of an ear infection include scratching, head shaking, brown or yellow wax buildup, and a yeasty smell. Weekly ear cleanings can help prevent ear infections. Persistent ear infections can be treated with medicated drops, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs.

Smooth Fox Terrier History

The Smooth Fox Terrier breed can trace its origin back to 18th century England where it was bred for fox hunting. Likely a mix between smooth black and tan terriers, Bull Terriers, Beagles, and Greyhounds, these dogs were prized by hunters for their speed, intelligence, and tracking abilities. Their unique V-shaped head also helped during the hunt; it was perfectly shaped to enter a fox den.

Breed standards for Fox Terriers have been in place for more than a hundred years. These guidelines describe ideal Fox Terrier characteristics including height, weight, and color in addition to ear, eye, tail and head shape. The standards were first set by England's Fox Terrier Club upon its inception in 1876.

It didn't take long for the Fox Terrier dog breed to make its way to the United States; they were in the country by 1879 and the American Fox Terrier Club was founded soon after in 1885. The Fox Terrier was officially recognized by the AKC in the same year. In fact, this club was the first of its kind to become a member of the American Kennel Club.

For many years, Smooth Fox Terriers and Wire Fox Terriers were treated as variations of the same breed. Though they're similar in name, stature, and ability, we now know that they developed independently from one another. In 1985, the AKC formally recognized this fact and declared them to be two separate dog breeds. The breed standards for both Smooth Fox Terriers and Wire Fox Terriers are still maintained by the [American Fox Terrier Club](#) to this day.

While the breed enjoyed considerable popularity in the UK, it remains relatively unknown in the US; the Smooth Fox Terrier currently ranks 123rd out of the AKC's 197 recognized dog breeds. Despite this lack of appreciation, these charming dogs make wonderful family members. The cost to adopt a Smooth Fox Terrier puppy usually runs between \$1500-\$2000; reputable breeders can be found through [the AKC website](#).

FAQs

Do Fox Terriers shed?

Yes, Smooth Fox Terriers do shed but their hair is short, making it less noticeable than the fur of many other breeds.

What are the most popular Fox Terrier names?

Because of the breed's origin, many owners like to use traditionally English names, such as:

- Alfie
- Cedric
- Charlie
- Henry
- Georgie
- Betty
- Rosie
- Poppy
- Annie
- Evie

These are just a few suggestions; [you can get more dog names here](#).

What are the most common Fox Terrier mixes?

The most common Fox Terrier breed mixes are:

Fox Terrier-Chihuahua mix

Fox Terrier-Jack Russell mix

Fox Terrier-Poodle mix

Fox Terrier-Beagle mix

Fox Terrier-Blue Heeler mix

How long do Fox Terriers live?

The typical life expectancy for a Smooth Fox Terrier is 12-15 years. They're considered to be a healthy breed so they can live even longer – up to 19 years – if well cared for.

Are Fox Terriers aggressive?

Smooth Fox Terriers are known to be friendly, good-natured dogs who are rarely aggressive with people. They do have a tendency to guard resources, however, so children should be taught to give the dog some space whenever they have food or toys.

Are Fox Terriers good pets?

Yes, Smooth Fox Terriers make wonderful pets. With their inquisitive nature, cheerful disposition, and energetic enthusiasm, they make excellent additions to the family. But if you already have pets in the home, you should only get a Smooth Fox Terrier puppy; older dogs might not easily integrate into a multi-pet household.

Is a Smooth Fox Terrier right for me?

If you're looking for a dog who is:

- Intelligent and energetic
- Friendly and playful
- Great with children
- Requires daily exercise
- High prey drive
- Not good with other dogs or small animals

Then you might be a good match for a Smooth Fox Terrier!