

Breed Spotlight: *The Bichon Frise*



If you're considering adding a furry little valentine to your family, you may want to take a closer look at the bichon frise, a playful, yet gentle dog that has earned a reputation as a great all-around pet.

Believed to be a descendant of the water spaniel, the bichon frise's ancestry dates back to the Mediterranean region during the Middle Ages. It's the opinion of some historians that the breed originated in the Canary Islands and was brought to Europe by sailors, where it became fashionable with European nobility, notably being present in the English court during Henry II's reign. While their popularity declined by the 19th century, it trended more positively after World War I. The bichon frise was first brought to the United States in 1956 and it was recognized as a non-sporting dog by the American Kennel Club in 1973. Through this recognition, more people have been introduced to the bichon and learned about its many desirable traits.

Among the many positive traits that make it such a popular choice, the bichon is self-assured, bright, easy to train, not generally prone to barking, and doesn't require much room to romp, making it ideal for about any environment. Given its playful temperament, it loves to exercise, play, and romp around, ensuring that it is easy to live with and a joy to be around. With the proper training, this charming, gentle breed can be a good choice if you have children and other pets. Their bold and lively independent spirit shines through in their confident strides.

Bichons are similar to poodles in terms of their powder-puff coat that consists of a silky but curly outer coat and soft undercoat. Their coats range in colors from white, white-and-buff, cream, apricot, or gray, and require regular care such as grooming, bathing, and trimming. Somewhat longer in length than their height, both male and female bichons reach heights of just under 12 inches and weigh between 7 to 12 lbs.

Get to know the bichon frise and, who knows? Perhaps this adorable powderpuff could soon be joyfully bounding towards you when you arrive home!

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