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The Yorkshire Terrier



Man or Woman's Best Friend

By

Natural Pet Care Blog
<http://www.natural-pet-care.com/natural-pet-health-blog/>

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Yorkshire Terriers The Basics

Most Yorkshire Terrier owners will agree that these special dogs are the most adorable, fascinating dogs on the planet. If you are considering a Yorkshire Terrier as a pet, the chances are good that you agree. Yorkshire Terriers are very small dogs, suitable only for indoor living. Their small size makes living outdoors quite dangerous. Therefore, if you cannot keep a dog indoors, you should not consider a Yorkshire Terrier as a pet.

Furthermore, you need to be aware of the cost of a purebred Yorkshire Terrier. They range in prices, from about \$1200 on up to \$2500, depending on their pedigree. On top of this cost, you will definitely incur veterinarian costs, as well as general care costs and grooming costs throughout the dog's lifetime. If you are not prepared to cover those costs, again, do not get a Yorkshire Terrier. These are high maintenance dogs. Too often, people who adore these little dogs on sight are not prepared for that high maintenance, and the little darlings end up in shelters – at best.

With that said, the Yorkshire Terrier, often referred to as a Yorkie, has beautiful long hair, with a coat that is bluish and tan in color. Yorkies are quite playful, curious, and loveable. They never weight more than seven pounds, with the average being closer to four pounds.

To date, the Yorkshire Terrier is the second most popular dog in the world, next to Labrador Retrievers. This is actually an amazing fact, due to the difference in the size between the two breeds. So, if you look at it from a logical standpoint, the Yorkie is the most popular small breed dog, while the Labrador is the most popular large breed.

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A Yorkshire Terrier is essentially a little ball of energy. They stand about six or seven inches high, and are quite active. They have perky little ears, which is probably what makes them the most physically adorable. Yorkies live as long as sixteen years, with the average being twelve to fifteen years, but even in their senior years, they are still quite active and playful.

A Yorkshire Terriers tail may be docked by his breeder. Note that there is no health reason for docking, and this practice, while common, is purely cosmetic. The purpose of docking the tail is to ensure that the dog remains pleasingly proportioned.

There have been protests concerning the common practice of docking tails, and today it is illegal to do so in Australia, Belgium, Finland, Greece, Cyprus, Norway, South Africa, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Sweden. In the United States and Canada, however, a docked tail is part of the breed standard for Yorkshire Terriers.

Yorkshire Terriers do indeed have their place in history. These small dogs come from Yorkshire, in Northern England. Their ancestors, however, came from Scotland, in the nineteenth century. Their ancestors are not, however, Scotties. They are instead Broken Haired Scotch Terriers. Unfortunately, that's as much as we know about the ancestry of Yorkshire Terriers, since people did not keep breeding records for dogs during that time.

Yorkshire Terriers were not the pampered pets that they are today back then. Instead, they were known as working dogs. It was their job to kill mice and other small rodents. They were also used as hunting dogs, and they filled both roles nicely. Yorkies are experts at sniffing out smaller animals that live in dens or small holes.

There were even contests back in those days, where owners of Yorkshire Terriers would enter them in the Rat Pits, where the dog that killed the most rats in an allotted amount of time was declared the winner. It wasn't until 1861 that Yorkshire Terriers were shown in shows for their beauty, but it wasn't until 1874 that Yorkshire Terriers were considered a breed separate from other Terriers. The Yorkie appeared in the United States around 1872. By this time, the Yorkshire Terrier was considered to be more of a pet than a working dog.

While this special breed has become quite pampered, their skill for hunting rodents and such is strongly bred in them, and this is an activity that they will still participate in today. Simply put, finding and killing rodents is what they were born to do, and despite how pampered, well groomed, and well trained they may be, this is an urge that most Yorkies cannot resist, despite their owners wishes. The

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good side of this is that with a Yorkie on the premises, you won't have rats or mice...not live ones anyway.

So, the Yorkshire Terrier is a tiny dog that is skilled in the art of hunting and killing rodents. You might still be wondering what makes these little dogs worth the \$2500 price tag. The Yorkie will become a true member of your family very easily. These dogs love humans, and will go to great lengths to impress them, to comfort them – and to protect them. They may be small, but the amount of energy, the intelligence, their boldness, and their overall personality more than makes up for their small stature.

If you ask any Yorkshire Terrier owner if paying such a large sum for such a small dog was worth it, you will most likely hear a resounding 'yes.' Your Yorkshire Terrier will be your friend throughout his life. He will become a very part of your life, and in many ways, he will be like one of your children – but in a sense, he will never grow up and leave home.

Yorkshire Terrier Hybrids Which One Do You Want?

Many people mistakenly think that there is only one type of Yorkshire Terrier. This is not true, for all intents and purposes, although there is only one purebred Yorkshire Terrier. There are also many hybrids of Yorkshire Terriers.

Do not assume that a hybrid will cost less than a purebred. In most instances, this is not the case. For example, a Maltese Yorkie mix, called a Morkie, is as expensive as a purebred, as is a Yorkie-Poo, which is a mix between a Yorkie and a Poodle.

So, why would breeders mix breeds in this way? Originally, it was to retain the wonderful qualities of a dog bred for indoor living, such as a poodle, Yorkie, or Maltese, while retaining the look of the Yorkie, without the problem of shedding. People who have allergies to pet hair and dander often seek a Yorkie Hybrid instead of a purebred Yorkshire Terrier. Unfortunately, what they don't realize is that even a Hybrid will have some degree of shedding.

You may hear the term 'Toy Yorkie' in your quest for the perfect pet as well. What is the difference between a Toy Yorkie and a regular Yorkie? What about Miniature Yorkies? It can all become very confusing. The fact is that a Toy Yorkie and a Miniature Yorkie is essentially the same thing, and even though they are called Toy or Miniature, they are still a part of the original Yorkshire Terrier Breed. The only thing that sets them apart from regular Yorkies is their size.

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But like other Miniature or Toy breeds, if you want such a small dog, you should make sure that both of the parents were miniature as well. Otherwise, you will most likely end up with a regular sized Yorkshire Terrier. Even then, there is always the possibility that the dog can grow to be regular sized. Miniature Yorkies are often considered to be 'underdeveloped.'

Choosing a miniature Yorkie is much different from choosing a breed such as a teacup poodle. A teacup poodle actually is a breed of its own, even though it falls into the teacup category. A teacup poodle is actually bred to be that small size, while a miniature Yorkie is not.

So, while there may be many different types of terriers, including Yorkie Hybrids, which are not full blooded Yorkshire Terriers, there is – and only can be – one type of purebred Yorkshire Terrier. Also note that a hybrid will not meet the breed standards for a Yorkshire Terrier. So if showing your dog is in your plans, make sure that you get a purebred.

Your Yorkies Personality

You're Yorkshire Terriers personality is dependant on numerous factors. There are, however, some things that are simply inherent in Yorkies, such as their instinct to hunt and kill rodents – and even smaller animals, such as kittens. For the most part, all Yorkshire Terriers are very intelligent, overly courageous, and while they are loyal and obedient to a point, they do indeed have a mind of their own as well.

Aside from those common likenesses, each Yorkie will have his or her own personality. This personality begins with the personality of his parents. As with humans, if the parents are shy, the puppy is likely to be shy as well. The breeder also plays a role in this. If the breeder handles the puppy often and socializes him, he will be a very outgoing dog at least around the people that he comes to know, but still may retain some shyness around strangers.

Because you will get your Yorkie when he is between ten and twelve weeks old, you also play a part in your Yorkshire Terriers personality. As the smallest member of your family, he will quickly determine where he fits in based on how much attention he is given as a puppy. Be prepared, however, to continue affording him the same amount of time and attention throughout his life – he will demand it.

Overall, Yorkies exude confidence, despite their small sizes. If a Yorkie seems to be a nervous dog, it is a good sign that he doesn't feel like he fits in. It could also

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be that someone was mean to him at some point. You want a Yorkie who exudes that confidence, as this is a sign of a well-loved dog. In a sense, a well cared for Yorkie adopts some qualities of a cat. He thinks that he is the most important thing in your life – and for many owners, he will be.

For small dogs, Yorkshire Terriers can be very bold. Not only will they chase rodents, they will also chase your neighbor's pit bull if given the opportunity. They have no regard for how big or how small the being is. They are confident that they can win that fight. This does not mean, however, that a Yorkie cannot get along with other pets in the home. If they are introduced, and come to know each other, it won't be long before they will be best friends. You only need to worry about 'stranger' pets when it comes to your Yorkies inflated courage and self confidence.

That boldness leads to curiosity. Yorkshire Terriers are not afraid to investigate anything. This tends to get them into trouble with their owners, and in some cases, it can put them in danger. Some Yorkie owners compare having a Yorkie to having a two year old in the house. They are simply energetic and into everything. You will most likely find yourself Yorkie proofing your home.

Aside from having a mind of his own, and doing what he wants to do, your Yorkie really does want to please you. He exudes loyalty just like he exudes confidence. It is just that sometimes his curiosity, his boldness, and his natural born instincts conflict with what it is that you want him to do. He can, however, be easily trained, simply because he is so intelligent.

Research has shown that a Yorkshire Terrier is so smart that he can actually understand a command after approximately fifteen repetitions of the command. They also learn to recognize certain words very easily. For example, if he has a bone and a ball, you can actually teach him what the bone is, and what the ball is. Then, when you tell him to bring you the bone, he will fetch the bone, and not the ball. He comes to understand the difference, based on the word that you use for the object. If the bone is in a box of toys, all of which have names that have been taught to the dog, he will dig through those toys to find the one that you have requested.

Your Yorkshire Terrier wants to be a big part of your life, and will be a constant companion. He will want to be near you at all times if he can. Don't be too disappointed, however, if he doesn't become the lap dog that you expected. Yorkshire Terriers are known as independent dogs. This means that they don't want to constantly be in your lap, and they don't need your constant attention for their amusement.

If you really want a lap dog, however, from the moment that you get him, keep him in your lap as often as possible. Otherwise, you will find that he really is

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independent, and really prefers not to be in your lap. Use caution, however. Experts agree that a Yorkie that is turned into a true lap dog tends to not have the same confidence that other Yorkies have. He will literally lose some of his inherent independence as well, which causes him to have a needier, pampered personality than most other Yorkshire Terriers.

Overall, if he is well cared for and loved, your Yorkshire Terrier will be a very happy dog. Again, he just drips with energy, and most Yorkies always appear to have a smile on their little faces. Their eyes sparkle and dance, and you can tell a great deal about what they are thinking by the movement of their perky little ears. The more attention that is given to your Yorkie, the happier he will be.

While Yorkshire Terriers can be adapted to other pets in the home, experts agree that they are not well suited to homes with small children or other small pets. A small child could easily hurt the Yorkie because of the dog's small size, and smaller pets are at risk, because despite knowing the other animal, the Yorkies instinct to hunt and kill rodents – which look much like those smaller pets to them – may take over. Never leave a Yorkshire Terrier unattended with a small child, or with a smaller pet.

Your Yorkies Health

As mentioned earlier, there will be veterinarian expenses for your Yorkshire Terrier, throughout his life. First, he needs yearly exams, to guard against problems, and he needs his vaccinations as well. He needs to be treated for fleas, even if he doesn't have any – just to prevent him from getting them as well. This is a fact that is often overlooked.

You see, you will be walking your dog outdoors daily. He will need to be let out to relieve himself, and he needs the exercise that walking affords him as well. When he is outdoors, fleas will likely get on him, unless he has been guarded against fleas. Don't waste money on over the counter flea products. Take him to the veterinarian, and get your flea treatment from the vet. Flea treatment is absolutely vital, because fleas, which appear to be no more than pests, can actually lead to more serious health problems, like heart worms.

When your Yorkie is vaccinated, or has to have a shot for any reason, it is common for him to have a skin reaction to it. This may cause inflammation, and can even cause hair loss at the site of the shot as well. Yorkies have extremely sensitive skin, and they may even have allergies to pollen, to certain foods, or to other airborne materials. Invest in a good shampoo, recommended by your veterinarian, to keep your Yorkies skin in good condition.

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Many Yorkies have very sensitive digestive systems. It is important to establish a regular diet for them, and to keep them on that diet. Introducing strange foods will often result in an upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. The good news, or not so good news, is that Yorkies are picky eaters.

Your Yorkie will need to be spayed or neutered, unless you plan to breed the dog. Note that breeding Yorkies is not easy or cheap. While the dogs sell for a great deal of money, it costs a great deal of money to properly breed the dogs, and to care for the litters until homes can be found. Your best bet, if you have no experience in breeding small dogs, is to have your first Yorkie spayed or neutered, and explore breeding at a later date, after you know the breed better, and after you have worked with a breeder to learn more.

Aside from these common ailments and expenses, your Yorkshire Terrier does have certain health risks. Common problems include bronchitis, cataracts, keratitis sicca, lymphangiectasia, and hepatic lipodosis. Bronchitis is an inflammation of the bronchial tubes. Cataracts are a problem with the lens of the eyes, which causes extreme near sightedness. Keratitis Sicca is also an eye disease, which causes problems with the tear ducts. Lymphangiectasia is an intestinal disease that causes chronic diarrhea, and hepatic lipodosis is a liver problem. All of these conditions will need to be treated by a veterinarian, and with proper treatment, these are not fatal illnesses.

Hypoglycemia is a big problem for Yorkshire Terrier puppies. The problem can continue into adulthood in many cases as well. This particular problem is caused by not eating often enough. In other words, there is too much time between meals for the young dog. The smaller the Yorkie is, the more prone he is to Hypoglycemia.

Of course, there are other factors, besides fasting that can cause Hypoglycemia as well. If your puppy is stressed, cold, overly tired, or is not fed a good diet, he can become Hypoglycemic. This condition puts him at risk for other problems as well, such as parasites and bacterial infections. If your puppy seems shaky, listless, or off-balance, take him to the veterinarian, as these are signs of Hypoglycemia. With proper treatment, this is not fatal.

There are also genetic defects that are possible for Yorkshire Terriers. This is a common problem with most purebred dogs. These genetic problems include bladder stones, Legg-Perthes Disease, Hypoplasia of Dens, Portosystemic Shunt, Distichiasis, Tracheal Collapse, Patellar Luxation, Hydrocephalus, and Retinal Dysplasia.

Again, your Yorkshire Terrier needs to visit the veterinarian at least once a year, and some veterinarians request that you bring your dog in twice a year for an exam. Believe it or not, they do not suggest this as a way to get more money out

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of you. They do this to protect your Yorkshire Terriers health. These are tiny dogs, and when something goes wrong with those tiny systems, the dog can die in a short period of time.

Make sure that you have a fund set aside for emergencies. Illnesses or injuries can occur at any time, and while a good caring vet will allow you to make payment arrangements for treatment, it is in your best interest to have at least four or five hundred dollars set aside for emergency treatment. While most veterinarians do love animals and want to do whatever they can do to make them well again, they simply cannot afford to offer many tests and procedures without being paid for them immediately.

You may want to look into pet insurance for your Yorkshire Terrier. Pet Insurance is a rather new concept, but for small dogs such as these, owners find that the insurance more than pays for itself in a short period of time. Good pet insurance will even cover the cost of routine exams, and a high percentage of treatment for illnesses and injuries.

Overall, however, Yorkshire Terriers are healthy, if they are well cared for. Again, a routine exam will usually detect any problems, and if something doesn't seem right with your Yorkie, take him in for an exam as soon as possible.

Grooming Your Yorkie

As stated, Yorkshire Terriers are high maintenance pets. Because they do have long hair, they must be groomed often. Again, if you don't have time for this, don't get a Yorkshire Terrier. Instead, get a dog that does not require much in the way of grooming other than the occasional bath.

You will save loads of money if you learn how to groom your Yorkie yourself, however taking him to a professional groomer at least every two months is highly advised. Also, if you will be doing most of his grooming yourself, make sure that you have the right tools for the job.

Your Yorkie needs to be brushed daily. Otherwise, his hair, like a humans hair, will become matted to the point where cutting it off seems to be the only option. You need a brush, a comb, and a flea comb. Select a high quality pin brush for daily brushing. This type of brush has bristles that feel quite sharp, so use care. Brushes with round tipped or rubber bristles don't make good brushes for Yorkies.

Before you brush your Yorkie – even for daily brushing – use a spray bottle that has a mixture of conditioner and water. Spray his coat before brushing! If you

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brush his coat while it is dry, it will result in hair breakage. Use a good dog conditioner, or a high quality human hair conditioner. The dog conditioner is recommended, because although the Yorkies hair feels much like human hair, it has a different PH balance. A light mist will do for a brushing, but when you find tangles and knots, wet them down completely with the spray bottle, and rub the tangle with your fingers to work it loose. Never jerk through the tangles, as this can be very painful.

The comb should be metal, with long teeth. You should comb your Yorkie after you have brushed him thoroughly. While brushes do a great job, they simply do not get all of the tangles that a comb will find. Make absolutely sure that you remove all tangles and knots as soon as you find them. If you leave them, they only get worse. They will not work themselves out on their own.

Even if your Yorkie does not have fleas, you need the flea comb. These are excellent for combing smaller long haired areas, such as the area right below the eyes. This area must be combed, or it will become matted and will look awful. Eye mucous accumulates in the hair below the eyes. Use a warm damp cloth to wet the area, and then use the flea comb to remove the softened mucous.

Your Yorkie will need to have a bath often. Remember that his hair is much like a human's hair. How long will you wait to wash your own hair? Weekly bathes are recommended, but you shouldn't allow your Yorkie to go more than two weeks without a good shampooing. Again, use a shampoo that is of higher quality, and designed for dogs. Select a tearless shampoo, and even then, avoid getting it in the dog's eyes. The sink is usually big enough for a good bath, but if your Yorkie isn't too fond of bathes, you may need to use the tub instead to contain him.

While weekly bathes are ideal, if you have a male Yorkie, you will need to use a warm wet wash cloth on the inner portion of his legs daily. Remember that his hair is long, and although he will eventually lift his leg to urinate, the urine will most likely get in the hair on his inner leg. Pet wipes are ideal for this job as well.

You do not have to use a blow dryer to dry your Yorkie, but it is recommended. First, this will help to keep them warm until they are dry, and second, you will find that they have less tangles than they would if they were allowed to air dry – and roll all over the carpet while they are still wet – matting the freshly washed hair in the process. Use caution when using blow dryers! Do not hold them too close to the dog, and only use low heat. Also note that Yorkies have sensitive skin, so make sure that you use good conditioner!

You need a good pair of scissors. Most Yorkshire Terriers do not need all-over haircuts, but they will need to have the hair that grows in the pads of their feet trimmed often. They need to have the hair on their ears trimmed, and they also need to be trimmed around their rectum. If you don't trim the hair around the

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rectum, you will find that feces get matted in the hair often. Either way, you're going to have to go there.

If you aren't sure as to what you are doing with the scissors, ask a groomer to show you how to do it. Also note that the hair will grow to be floor length or longer. If you want a Yorkie with shorter hair, take him to a groomer. If you try cutting his hair yourself, and you mess up, the hair will grow back – but it does take about eight weeks.

Finally, wipe out his ears with a cotton swab after each bath. Don't put the swab in where you can't see it, as this can damage your dog's eardrums. Also, pay special attention to his teeth. There are many dog toothpastes on the market today, as well as dog toothbrushes.

Overall, a clean and well-groomed Yorkie makes for a happy Yorkie – and a happy owner. Make sure that you take the time to properly groom your Yorkshire Terrier, and remember that regular brushing and bathing really is important. It may feel like it takes up a great deal of your time – and it does – but getting those mats out of his hair will take longer. Make time each day for brushing, and each week for a good bath. Your Yorkie will love the brushing, and if you make it fun, he will grow to love the baths as well.

Feeding Your Yorkie

It is important that you remember that Yorkshire Terriers have really sensitive digestive systems. If you don't want a dog that constantly has diarrhea, or who is throwing up often, you must be careful as to what you feed the dog. In fact, some Yorkies have such sensitive stomachs that their owners pay experts good money to create a meal plan specifically for their dog. Your veterinarian may also recommend a diet for your Yorkie.

Diarrhea and vomiting aren't your only concerns when it comes to your Yorkies diet. Nutritional deficiencies can also result in skin problems, thyroid problems, liver problems, kidney problems, and even ear problems. There is no pet food that has been especially created for Yorkshire Terriers. Instead, you must first determine what your Yorkie needs in terms of nutrition, and then determine what foods he will actually be willing to eat. Again, these dogs really are very picky about what they eat, unlike other dogs that will eat anything that they can chew and swallow.

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Many Yorkie owners find that the dog foods on the market today are not nutritionally sound enough for their dogs, and instead, they actually prepare food for their dogs. If you opt to do this, you can make the food in advance, and refrigerate it, heating it up at meal times. You should use ingredients that are organic, and that do not contain any preservatives. If you opt to cook for your beloved Yorkie, you will find that he is healthier than he would be if you were feeding him a commercial dog food.

Think in terms of what your Yorkies ancestors ate, and realize that his nutritional needs are the same as theirs. Now, nobody expects you to cook up rats for your Yorkies dinner. However, his ancestors also ate beef, barley, rye, potatoes, and sugar beets. Chicken is also a good food for your Yorkie. Foods that you feed your dog should be well cooked. He doesn't like his steak rare, and it isn't good for him. Foods should not be fried, as this can lead to weight problems. Fish is not a good option for Yorkies. Bake, boil, or broil all meats.

Finally, do not give your dog any type of vitamin C supplements, or foods loaded down with Vitamin C. In Yorkshire Terriers, this can cause considerable liver and kidney problems. If you don't have a custom meal plan designed for your Yorkie, at the very least discuss his nutritional needs with your veterinarian. There is no one diet that is right for all dogs. Each dog, like each person, is an individual, with individual nutritional needs.

Your Yorkie should be fed twice a day, and more often while he is a puppy. He also needs a constant supply of fresh water to drink. If you are cooking his food, as soon as he is finished eating, pick up his bowl and wash it well, just as you wash your own dishes. Dispose of any food left in the bowl.

Training Your Yorkie

Yorkshire Terriers are easy to train – for the most part. Many Yorkie owners have stated that these dogs are actually easy to train in terms of tricks and commands, but the hardest breed to housebreak, and obviously, housebreaking is the first thing you will want to teach your new puppy.

The first step to housebreaking your Yorkie is to confine him. If he is running loose in the house, potty training will be very difficult – and frankly, as a puppy, he is much too small for so much freedom at this point. Unless you are holding the dog, playing with him, or working with him directly, he should be confined until he is housebroken. He may be confined in a crate or pet carrier, in an exercise pen, or in a small room.

If he is confined in a pen or small room, there should be a litter box, newspapers, or puppy pads where he can get to them. If he is confined in a crate or carrier, you will have to take him outside to relieve himself regularly. The key here is to

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create a habit. If he starts going on your expensive carpet – even one time – this has become his habit, and you are going to have problems.

On the other hand, if you are picking him up and taking him outside, or putting him on his newspaper or puppy pad, this becomes his habit, and that's the habit that you want. Patience and consistency are key to success. Always take him out after he wakes up from a nap, after playing, after eating, first thing in the morning, and the last thing in the evening.

The only other thing that you should be teaching your puppy during housebreaking is his name. These are smart dogs, but they have short memories and short attention spans. You want to stay as focused as possible on the housebreaking until you have succeeded. Housebreaking, if done correctly, shouldn't take more than two or three weeks. If you work, this is a good time to take your vacation. Your Yorkie needs constant attention during this time.

Set a routine early. Routines are very important to Yorkies. There should be a time to wake up and a time to settle down for the night. Dogs have internal clocks, and before you know it, they will get up and go to their bed when bedtime comes without being told. There should be regular meal times, and his food and water dishes should always be located in the same place. Establish his sleeping quarter's right from the start as well, and again, keep this in the same place. Establish a place for his toys as well, and take the same route each time you walk him. You may think this would create a boring, predictable life for your dog, but in reality, it creates security for him. Dogs don't like surprises. They like to know what to expect, and when something unexpected happens, it can be upsetting to them.

When your Yorkie is about three months old, you can start additional training. This is the time to teach him the meaning of words, such as 'No.' At the same time, teach him words of praise. Make sure that he understands the difference between the words, as well as the tone of your voice.

This is also the time to start teaching him some manners. For instance, when he barks at inappropriate times, you need to let him know, with your tone and with words, that this is not good behavior. During this time he will also learn some very basic commands while you are grooming him. You can teach him to sit, stand, and even to open his mouth. When you feed him, use words that pertain to eating, such as eat, hungry, supper, lunch, breakfast, or treat.

This is also the time to socialize him, and to teach him how to get along with humans. As a puppy, he doesn't realize that it hurts when he uses you as a chew toy, and again with words and the tone of your voice, you have to let him know that this is not acceptable. Teach him to be gentle with you and with other people.

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At four or five months of age, you can start teaching him different commands. Some he will already know, such as sit, stand, and open your mouth. You should now teach him how to lie down, how to stay, how to stop barking, how to shake hands, how to walk on a leash in an appropriate manner, to come when he is called, to drop items in his mouth, and even to play games, such as hide and seek.

Remember that he is smart, and that he can learn your language. Repetition is key, and you shouldn't miss a single day of working with your puppy – otherwise, he will forget. Teach him the names of items, such as his various toys, but teach him one thing at a time.

By the time he is six months old, you can really get serious with training your Yorkie. You can teach him the things that he needs to know for shows, teach him more complicated tricks, to fetch, and even to run obstacle courses. You can even teach him how to recognize the names of all of your family members as well as other pets in the home.

When you are training, use treats as rewards for following your commands. Give the dog your full attention and make training time serious, but follow it up with a little play time, where things aren't quite so serious. When you are training, make everyone else leave the room, so that the dog is fully focused on you. Don't teach a new command until one has been mastered. One thing at a time is the key.

It takes time and patience, but training your Yorkie is really important. Their intelligence begs for it – and you will find that life is much more pleasant when your dog is well trained, and well mannered.

Play and Exercise for Your Yorkie

Your Yorkie will be very playful, but play isn't always enough exercise. The amount of exercise that your beloved Yorkie needs depends on his size. This doesn't mean, however, that smaller dogs don't need any exercise at all. In fact, a smaller dog with no energy may need more exercise than a larger dog that is full of energy.

Your Yorkie may not get the exercise that he needs without your help. Good exercise for Yorkies includes running, jumping, and walking. You can get him to run and jump with the use of toys. For example, play ball with him to get him to run, and play Frisbee with him – using a very small Frisbee – to get him to jump. Walking, on the other hand, is usually easy, and should be done at least once a day, on a leash.

Your Yorkie needs a nice collection of toys, and those toys must clearly belong to him. As mentioned earlier, keep his toys in a specific place, and give each toy a

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name, and teach your Yorkie the names of his toys. Many pet owners actually have small toy boxes for their Yorkies. This can be as simple as a small cardboard box. Make sure that the box is small enough for your Yorkie to get toys in and out.

When you purchase toys for your Yorkie, make sure that you purchase higher quality toys that can withstand his chewing. Toys that have small parts or that can be chewed into small pieces which may then be ingested should be avoided.

Play with your Yorkie at the very least once a day. While he is independent, and perfectly capable of amusing himself, like a human child, he needs your time and attention as well. You may invest in an automatic fetch machine, and he will fetch, but he won't get as much satisfaction out of playing with the machine as he will when he sees how happy and pleased you are when he brings the ball back to you to throw again.

Like small children, dogs can be cheaply amused. Non-toxic soap bubbles offer you the ability to entertain your Yorkie for long periods of time. He also needs toys that he can chew and gnaw on, as well as toys that he can hide.

Your Yorkie will also adore toys that squeak, however the squeaking may drive you nuts. Toys that make noise should be kept up out of the dogs reach, and only made available to him during times when the noise won't drive you crazy.

If you don't provide your Yorkie with enough suitable toys, he will make his own. Unfortunately, you won't appreciate his creativity. He will chew your shoes and belts, electrical cords, and anything else that he can wrap his mouth around. This is why you need a varied selection of toys. If you see him chewing your house shoe, replace it with a dog house shoe. They do make these now. You must let him know right away what is and is not acceptable, but realize that if you don't provide him with the toys to meet his needs, he will ignore what you don't like and chew what he wants to chew.

Ask your veterinarian about giving your Yorkie rawhide to chew. There are numerous rawhide products on the market, but not all are really suited for small dogs. Chewing rawhide will satisfy your Yorkies craving to chew and help to keep his teeth clean at the same time.

Many experts believe that training and play should be kept separate, and in the beginning this is true. However, once your Yorkie is catching on to what you are trying to teach him, you can incorporate training into play. For example, use certain commands while playing with him. When you throw the ball, tell him to fetch it. Use the word 'ball.' When he brings it back to you, tell him to sit and to drop the ball. This helps to reinforce the training that he already kind of understands.

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Yorkies also get a lot out of playing with other dogs. In many locations, if you are a member of an organization devoted to Yorkshire Terriers, Yorkie Meet ups will be arranged, and you should plan to attend with your Yorkie. It is important that you start socializing your Yorkie with other dogs at an early age, if possible.

While your Yorkie will be happy playing indoors, he also needs time outdoors when the weather permits. Make sure that he is safe. Obviously, you will take him for regular walks, but he also needs a safe area where he can run freely outdoors. This can be a fenced in yard or a park where dogs are not required to be leashed.

When your dog is outdoors, whether he is on a leash, in a fenced yard, or in the park, you must watch him. This is not only for his safety, but it is also to prevent him from being stolen. Yorkies are worth a lot of money, and thieves know this. There have been many instances of Yorkies being stolen, for the purpose of being resold to someone else.

Just as your Yorkie will make his own toys if none are provided, he will also find ways to amuse himself if you aren't paying enough attention to him. This usually entails getting into things that you don't want him to be in. It is important that you devote time and attention to your Yorkie each and everyday, and that you ensure that he is getting enough exercise to remain healthy.

Working With a Yorkie Breeder – Selecting Your Yorkie

When you are ready to adopt a Yorkshire Terrier, you should locate several different breeders, so that you have a good selection. Note that not all breeders have to be in your general location. Most breeders will ship your dog to you, via air, but there is usually a \$200 to \$250 fee for doing so, on top of the cost of the Yorkie.

This also means that the most that you will see of your Yorkie is a picture before you actually pay for him and receive him. A picture is difficult to examine to the extent that one must to ensure that they are getting a healthy dog. Therefore, when you select a breeder, select one that guarantees the dog's health for one year, and one that offers a health certificate with the dog.

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In terms of selecting a breeder, you do not want a puppy mill operation. Instead, seek out breeders who really care about their dogs and those that breed one or two litters at a time. If the breeder has numerous puppies available, this includes numerous different breeds, use caution.

If possible, try to go see the litters in person. Meet their parents, or at the very least, make sure that you see pictures of the parents. The female should weight more than five pounds, as it is believed that females smaller than this do not always produce healthy puppies.

A purebred Yorkie will have a skull that is basically flat on the top. His muzzle will be short, and he should not have an overbite or under bite. His lips and nose should be black in color, and his eyes should be dark colored and clear.

The dog, although small, should feel stout. Handle him, if possible, and determine whether or not he is experiencing any pain from being handled. Check his coat to make sure that it has a healthy appearance as well. It should be shiny. There should not be any discharge from the eyes, ears, or nose.

Pay attention to his personality. He should appear to be alert and aware of his surroundings. He should be full of energy and quite active. If a Yorkie appears to be listless or withdrawn, this is a sign that he isn't feeling well, or that he does not have a pleasing temper.

Spend some time with the entire litter if possible. It could be that your Yorkie picks you, instead of you picking him. Often, an owner and his dog feel a profound connection right from the very start. Pay attention to your gut feelings and instincts, just as the Yorkies will.

You can find breeders through your local newspaper, your local Humane Society, or online. However, most experts advise that you avoid purchasing a puppy that you cannot see in person first. If you must make your purchase this way, it is vital that you have the breeder take a picture of the dog with a sign that has your name on it. This is proof that the dog exists, at the very least.

Just as people will steal Yorkies, on the Internet, they may state that they have Yorkies for sale, when they actually do not. In this case, they will collect the money that you pay to them, and you will never hear from them again. The puppies' parents should be named, and they should be AKC Registered. You can check out that registration yourself.

A reputable breeder will make sure that the puppy is well socialized by spending a great deal of time with him. He will also offer the health guarantee. The puppy will have been examined by a veterinarian, and he will have already had his first

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shots. He may even be micro chipped for you. Some breeders will have the puppy spayed or neutered as well.

A reputable breeder will answer any question that you may have regarding their puppies, the parents, or their breeding operation in general. However, a good breeder will also have numerous questions for you. They want to make sure that their puppies are going to good, life long homes where they will be well cared for, loved, and safe. It is not unusual for a breeder to turn a potential customer away if they feel that the customer will not make a good Yorkie owner.

The best type of breeder to work with is one that shows his own dogs in the dog shows. This breeder is breeding in an attempt to improve the breed, and not to make money. In most cases, they really aren't making any money from their puppy sales, as that money goes into showing or caring for the dogs and litters. Avoid back yard breeders, puppy mills, and pet stores when purchasing a Yorkshire Terrier.

If you intend to breed Yorkies, please be aware that you need breeding stock from a show breeder, and those breeders typically spay or neuter their puppies before sending them home with new owners. One of these breeders needs to mentor you, and when they feel that you are ready to breed the Yorkies, they will sell an appropriate male and female to you – unaltered.

Note that a great deal of information about the breed is needed before you start breeding. Also note that breeding these special dogs can be time consuming and hard work. If you just see dollar signs when you look at Yorkies, you shouldn't get into breeding them.

Showing Your Yorkie

Yorkie show dogs are actually very different from those dogs that are simply members of the family. In dog shows around the United States and in the United Kingdom, the Yorkshire Terrier is shown in the Toy Group.

A show Yorkie will have long, straight hair. Growing the Yorkies hair to this length, and keeping it well groomed and conditioned can be very time consuming, but this is one of the breed standards. These show Yorkies must also be well trained.

A healthy show quality coat begins with the Yorkies diet. Ideally, his diet will consist of green vegetables, bread, meats, and gravies. Some people feed their

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show dogs fish, to improve the coat, but this isn't necessarily good for his overall health. Most show dog owners do not give their Yorkies bones to chew at all, because this puts the dogs beard and moustache at risk.

After the dog has been groomed for a show, he must still be fed, but his hair will be so long that it may become soiled from the food. It is important to hand feed a dog that has already been groomed for a show, or at the very least to tie his hair back from his face while he eats.

The Yorkies long coat is very delicate, and the hairs can easily be broken. He must be brushed everyday, and all tangles must be removed. Combing should follow brushing. If your Yorkie has a skin irritation, which is common, you should purchase cotton stockings for his hind legs. These will keep him from breaking his hair when he scratches. Make sure that you use a good conditioner when you bathe your Yorkie.

Otherwise, groom your Yorkie for a show just as you would groom him if he were not going to be in a show. Make sure that his ears and teeth are clean, and that his nails are properly trimmed. You can finish off his look with a topknot bow.

Note that Yorkies are perfect for additional competitions, other than the main event at dog shows. Yorkies should be trained in tracking and agility, as these are areas where they excel. Rally is also a competition that you should train your Yorkie for, as well as obedience.

Again, training is essential for these show dogs, and you should consider formal training for you and the dog. A good breeder may be able to help, or to at least point you in the right direction.

Make sure that your Yorkie meets the breed standard set by the American Kennel Club (AKC). This means that the Yorkie should have long, straight hair (without curls or waves). The coat should be blue and tan, and should be parted on his face, and the part should continue down to his tail. His body should be small and well proportioned, and he should hold his head high.

The Yorkie should have a flat head on top, with a short muzzle. There should not be an overbite or an under bite. His teeth should be in excellent condition, and there should not be any discharge from the eyes, nose, or ears. His nose should be black, and his eyes should be dark. His ears must stand erect, in the shape of a V, and they should not be set too far apart. His feet and legs need to be straight, and his tail must be docked to medium length. He must not weigh more than seven pounds.

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Your Yorkie will be disqualified if he does not meet the standard for color. Blue and tan are the approved colors. He may have a small white mark on his chest, but it must not be longer or wider than one inch.

If showing your Yorkie is really what you want to do, contact a show breeder near you. They will first be able to tell you if your Yorkie is show quality. Second, they will allow you to tag along with them to various shows just so that you can see what all is involved before you go through the trouble and expense of entering into shows yourself. This mentor will also be able to teach you what you need to know in terms of grooming your Yorkie for showing, as well as training.

Not all Yorkie lovers show their dogs. Some aren't interested, and only own Yorkies because they are fabulous, fun dogs who offer a great deal of happiness and companionship. Some Yorkies simply are not show quality, but are ideal as loving, faithful pets. It is okay not to show your Yorkie, even if you have a show quality dog.

Show dog or not, Yorkshire Terriers are excellent dogs to own. When you get your own Yorkie, you will see why they cost so much, and you will see why so many people love these special little dogs. Your Yorkie will become like a child to you, and he will be happy to go anywhere that you are willing to take him.

As with any pet, in all fairness to Yorkies, make sure that you are truly ready to adopt one of these special, high maintenance dogs, and that you are prepared to care for the dog throughout his life. Don't allow a Yorkie that you adopt to end up in a shelter simply because you were not truly prepared to keep him in your home for his entire life. He will never abandon you – make sure that you will never abandon him.



Natural Supplements for Pets

Just like the multivitamins we take, dog and cat supplements can offer numerous benefits to your pet's health - preventing illness, boosting immunity and promoting general well-being.

Poor diet, aging and illness and other factors can lead to nutrient depletion and an increased need for vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and other nutrients necessary for maintaining bodily functions and warding off disease.

Natural pet supplements not only offer a way to ensure that your dog or cat is getting proper nutrition, they can also be effective treatments for a variety of health conditions, from heartworm to distemper to arthritis. Many of the most common health problems can be treated with dog supplements formulated specifically for those ailments.

If you are interested in dog and cat supplements that can [boost your pet's health and treat common health conditions](#) take a look at Pet Alive's line of natural products. They have an entire line of safe, effective herbal and homeopathic remedies for you pets.

How do supplements differ from conventional medications?

Although prescription drugs can be effective in treating a number of health problems that your dog or cat may face during its lifetime, there are unfortunately a number of side effects to contend with, just as there are with our medications.

These chemical-based drugs only treat symptoms, without taking into account the cause of the problem or your pet's health as a whole. Dog and cat supplements are all natural, usually containing a wide spectrum of nutrients that can safely treat symptoms, as well as prevent reoccurrence and stimulate general health and well-being.

Natural pet supplements deal with the entire picture of health, not just masking symptoms like most pharmaceutical medications.

Since many dogs and cats are allergic to pet meds, or experience serious side effects such as liver and kidney damage, dog supplements offer a safe, natural alternative, and in many cases they can be just as effective as their pharmaceutical counterparts.

So if natural supplements for your dog or cat are something you want to consider, take a look at [Pet Alive Natural Supplements](#) and discover how you can improve your pet's health today!