

A Brief Guide to The Border Terrier



IS THIS THE RIGHT BREED FOR YOU?

Is the Border Terrier the right dog for you and your family?

The Border Terrier is first, foremost and essentially a working terrier. Although he will willingly become part of your family and can become a loyal and loving friend, he does have some habits, or traits, which are part of his breed characteristics, which may not always endear him to you or your extended family and friends.

He was originally bred to work to fox and other vermin, and should be capable of being out and about all day and then still be fresh enough to go to ground to bolt the fox. Because of this, he can have lots of energy. Although he will be happy relaxing on your knee and having a cuddle, he also needs plenty of walks to keep him healthy and happy.

He may be inclined to chase small creatures and it is not always easy to train him to distinguish between the rat you would like dispatched and your child's pet hamster!

He can live peaceably with other animals if introduced at an early age and many people have Border Terriers and cats which live together quite happily, but if he sees a cat which is not part of the family, then see above regarding vermin! Unless socialised at an early age, some may become aggressive towards other dogs, so early socialisation around good natured dogs is important.

They are an intelligent breed, who can be quick to learn, but sometimes slow to obey if confronted with something else they would rather do, such as chasing small creatures, rolling in unmentionables or chewing your best pair of shoes/3 piece suite/wallet full of money etc!

The breed was officially recognised by the Kennel Club in 1920, although its history can be traced back into the nineteenth century. The breed has, in the last few years, become one of the most popular Terrier breeds registered with the Kennel Club and usually has one of the highest Terrier entries at Championship Dog Shows.

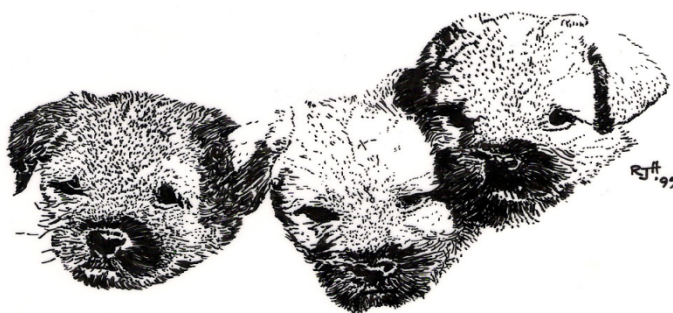
The breed clubs are concerned at the increasing popularity of the breed, as coming with that will sometimes be the surge in breeding by those only interested in the breed for monetary gain, so buyer beware!

Please do not buy a Border Terrier, unless you have the time and space to devote to it and can give it a permanent loving home, with sufficient food, warmth and exercise.

Every member of the family should want the dog; if any of your family has reservations about having a dog in the household, this will impact on the dog's happiness in the future.

What should I do when considering purchasing a Border Terrier puppy?

- Local adverts in newspapers (and on some commercial websites which advertise many different breeds of dogs) are not always the best ways to find a reputable breeder. Consider contacting one of the breed club secretaries in your area when looking for a breeder (see details elsewhere in this leaflet).
- Research – there are many good books on the breed; additionally information can be found on Club websites such as www.theborderterrierclub.co.uk See final page for further details.
- Always see the puppies with their mother (the father of the puppies may live many miles away, so you should not always expect to see him).
- Check which food is being used, as the puppy should be on 3 or 4 meals of puppy food a day at 8 weeks of age. You should not change this in the first few weeks he is with you, as changes in diet, when combined with all the other changes he has to go through, could result in an upset tummy. Sometimes the breeder will give you a small supply of food to take with you and you should always ensure you have a good supply on hand before you collect your puppy.
- Ask if the puppy has been wormed – puppies should be wormed every 3 weeks before they leave the breeder's premises and you should be given information regarding the dates of worming and what brand of wormer was used.
- The breeder should ensure the puppy is also free from other parasites, such as fleas or ear mites.
- Ask if the breeder is a member of any Breed Club, as most of the Clubs will have a General Code of Ethics, which you should read before buying a puppy. Breeders who are members of breed clubs should abide by their Club's Code of Ethics.
- You should expect that a reputable breeder will ask you a lot of pertinent questions about your ability to look after their precious puppy. Be wary of any breeder who only asks if you have the money to pay for the puppy, but does not make enquiries about your lifestyle, house and garden and how you intend to care for the puppy. That may be an indication of the level of aftercare you will receive.
- Check your fencing to ensure it will be proof against one small, determined puppy who may try to escape over or under it – some of them can and will jump over fences, or tunnel out if allowed to do so and be a danger to themselves and other people/road users. Some owners recommend stapling weld mesh to the fencing and burying it under the ground around the perimeter of the fence, to stop escape artists!
- Reputable breeders will undertake to have the puppy back if you have a change of circumstances and can no longer look after the puppy correctly, but when you embark on the idea of purchasing any dog, you should be aware that it is a long term commitment for the lifetime of the dog, which in the case of Border Terriers can be upwards of 15 years.
- If the puppy is around 8 weeks of age, he may already have had his first injection and some breeders will have their vet undertake a simple health check before the puppy leaves the breeder. It is important that you also register with your own vet as soon as possible.
- Puppies should not leave their breeder's premises until they are at least 8 weeks old. By law they should now be microchipped before they leave the breeder, so ensure you obtain the microchip documents.
- If the puppy is registered with the Kennel Club, you should obtain a registration certificate from the breeder when you buy the puppy, or the breeder should advise you when they applied for the registration papers, or when they intend to do so; they can let you know the registration numbers of the mother and father. If you are in any doubt, you could contact the Kennel Club (telephone 0129 631 8540) BEFORE you buy the puppy. Further information can be found on the KC website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk.



Breed Characteristics

The Kennel Club produces a blueprint of each breed. However, reading this brief Breed Standard does not always help the newcomer to understand the breed.

To start with, it is advisable to talk to breeders and owners and to study the breed whenever and wherever possible. You could go along to a local show where the breed is scheduled to be judged and watch the dogs, talking to the owners and getting an idea as to whether the breed might fit in with your lifestyle. For details of local shows, contact your local breed club secretary or view the website www.borderterrier.org.uk, or the Facebook** site "Border Terrier Show Results UK" which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BT.ShowResults123/>

The breed differs from most other terriers in that it does not have a manicured appearance and his sometimes rather dour expression belies his true loveable character and independent nature. The breed's most outstanding feature is its otter-like head with short strong muzzle and moderately broad skull with dark eye, making him a very attractive terrier.

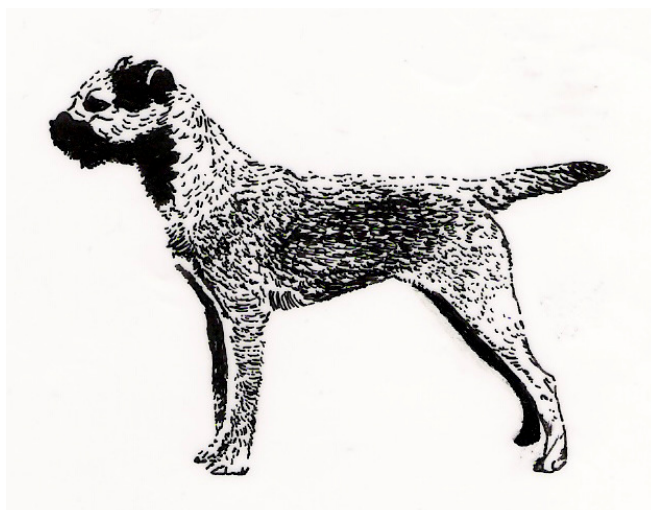
The Border should have a double coat, with a harsh outer coat and a soft undercoat for warmth, both of these being essential in a working terrier. The coat needs to be hand stripped about twice a year and there is a video/CD showing how this is done and articles in some of the books on the breed with photographs of "before and after" There is now also a Facebook** site entitled "Border Terrier hand strippers UK" which gives advice on how to hand-strip your Border Terrier, with videos showing how it is done. The site is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/569980179704269/>

On that site, there are also questions from novice owners and subsequent advice given by those who are familiar with how to groom a Border. The coat should not be clipped (except perhaps for much older dogs or those with a poor coat, or who are ill or infirm, where pulling out the hairs may cause distress). For the novice owner, it is a good idea to seek expert advice on coat care at first and here, your breeder may be able to help. If you decide to use a grooming parlour, you could ask if they know how to hand-strip a Border Terrier. Remember that anyone with no experience can set up as a "professional" grooming parlour and it may be best to check what qualifications and experience they have (for example, a City and Guilds certificate). You will find answers on the Facebook site which advise that it is important that anyone, including an employee at a grooming parlour, does not bathe the dog either just before or just after hand-stripping, as this can cause skin problems as the hair follicles are open to irritation or bacterial infection at this time. If you use a grooming parlour, please consider talking to them about this.

**These 2 Facebook sites are closed groups and require applications to join.

Border Terriers are normally healthy, active and affectionate dogs, who respond quickly to love and attention. As with all dogs, it is best to start training early, be consistent and praise in all the right places.

This breed does not need harsh correction, which can be counter-productive. Borders normally get along well with children, but no child should be allowed to harass a dog; children should be taught to respect the dog and not to treat it as a substitute toy. Small babies should never be left alone unsupervised with any dog. When the puppy is very young, he should have a place of safety where he can rest in peace at bedtime and not be disturbed.



Breed Health

Please see separate **DISCOVER DOGS BREED HEALTH LEAFLET** and **LEAFLET WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BREEDERS AND OWNERS OF BORDER TERRIERS REGARDING CURRENT HEALTH ISSUES**, especially Spongiform-Leuco-Encephalo-Myelopathy (Shaking Puppy Syndrome), Canine Epileptoid Cramping Syndrome, Juvenile Cataracts (Early onset), Cushing's Disease, Gall Bladder Mucocoele, Glioma (Brain Tumour) and Legge-Calve-Perthe's Disease (Perthe's Disease) and our Breed Health Survey Forms, available from the Discover Dogs stand at Crufts and from our Breed Health website at www.borderterrierhealth.org.uk

Breed Clubs

The Breed is at present served by 7 UK Border Terrier Clubs. Each of these Clubs hold on average 3 shows a year. Full details of all shows can be found on the respective Breed Clubs websites.

The object of a Breed Club is to encourage its members to own and appreciate Border Terriers of correct breed type and the essential working qualities. The Clubs listed below also arrange educational days (for example, regarding judging or grooming the Border Terrier) and sometimes "fun days" are arranged where members can get together to enjoy the company of other Border Terrier enthusiasts and their dogs.

Each Breed Club Secretary can give you details of any events planned by their club in the coming year. Most of the Clubs produce a Year Book or Newsletter and new members are welcomed (usually needing a proposer and seconder, both of whom should be fully paid up members of the Club). If you have difficulty in finding a proposer and seconder, contact the relevant secretary of the Club you wish to join.

Border Terrier Breed Clubs

Club	Secretary	Contact	Website
The Border Terrier Club	Mrs Kathy Wilkinson	0191 3719405 Otterkin@aol.com	www.theborderterrierclub.co.uk
East Anglia Border Terrier Club	Mr Mike Hollingsbee	01790 763919 Otterwood@outlook.com	www.eabtc.co.uk
Midland Border Terrier Club	Mr Bob Wright	01335 390572 bob@dabvalves.co.uk	www.mbtc.org.uk
Northern Border Terrier Club	Mrs Christine Horner	01429 837946 allenhorner1@btinternet.com	thenorthernborderterrierclub.co.uk
Scottish Border Terrier Club	Mr Bill Shorthose	01505 850313 s.w.shorthose@btinternet.com	www.scottishbtc.co.uk
Southern Border Terrier Club	Mrs Sue Spafford	07899 875468 sue.spaff1@gmail.com	www.southernborderterrierclub.co.uk
Yorks Lancs and Cheshire Border Terrier Club	Mrs Tina Green	01302 726202 mypaddy@live.co.uk	www.ylcbtc.co.uk

Other breed related websites

Breed Health Website - www.borderterrierhealth.org.uk

Border Terrier Welfare – www.borderterrierwelfare.co.uk

Books on the Breed

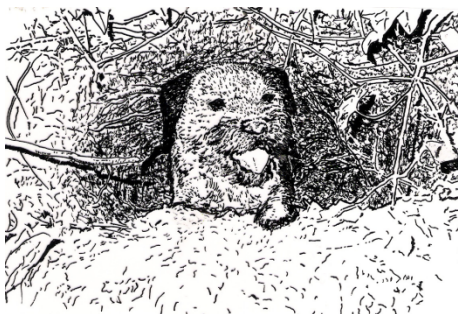
"Border Terriers Today" and "The Border Terrier" by Anne Roslin-Williams

"Border Terrier" by Frank Jackson & W Ronald Irving

"Border Terriers" by Frank and Jean Jackson

"Pet Owners Guide to the Border Terrier" by Betty Judge

"Border Terrier" edited by Betty Judge with contributions from 5 Championship Show judges



*Compiled by The Border Terrier Club February 2005. Updated September 2019
Editor Kathy Wilkinson (Honorary Secretary, The Border Terrier Club).
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Please also see separate Discover Dogs Breed Health leaflet