

# The Chinese Crested Dog

## Background:

The Chinese Crested is more likely a native of South Africa than China. They're called "Chinese," because Chinese sailors carried them on their ships throughout the 13th century. At that time the Crested was used as a ratter.

The Chinese Crested is actually available in two varieties: the hairless Crested has hair on his head, tail and feet. The Powderpuff is covered by a soft, straight, double coat. Both types could be born into the same litter because hairlessness is simply a genetic mutation.

The Chinese Crested wasn't seen in Europe until the 1800's when he became a common subject of well respected painters. Later in that century the Crested won the affection and admiration of Ida Garrett, who wrote about the breed for 60 years and was of pivotal importance to having the Crested recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1991.

## Sizing up:

- Weight: 10 to 13 lbs.
- Height: 11 to 13 inches
- Coat: Hairless or puffy, double soft coat
- Color: Any color or color combination
- Life expectancy: 10 to 14 years

## What's the Chinese Crested like?

Chinese Cresteds love to play indoors and spend time with the family. They hate the cold weather (especially the hairless), but they will enjoy a quick trip outside and the opportunity to run. Be careful outside, they are exceptional jumpers and sometimes great climbers too.

Chinese Crested Dogs can usually sense how you're feeling and will try and cheer you up when you're down. They'll also sneak under the covers with you for a nice nap.

It can be trying at times to housetrain the Chinese Crested Dog. It's important that you establish a routine and a schedule that always stays the same. During inclement weather they won't necessarily want to go outside and it's particularly important that you stick to your routine. They can be trained to use a litter box, but

it might only confuse them when they're first learning.

As they were once ratters, the Chinese Crested Dog might be prone to chase smaller animals. It would benefit you to put a stop to this behavior early. Give them another way to use their energy. The Crested loves to play games indoors or outside. They're also a great dog for children.

## Health:

As with any breed there are several conditions to watch for in a Chinese Crested:

- Progressive retinal atrophy
- Congenital deafness
- [Allergies](#)
- [Poor dentition](#)
- Canine multiple system degeneration
- [Luxating patella](#)

## Takeaway points:

- Chinese Crested dogs shouldn't be outdoors for long periods of time.
- Chinese Crested dogs require a good long play session daily.
- Chinese Crested dogs can jump and climb very well. They also may chase small critters and be difficult to catch.
- Chinese Crested dogs are available with or without hair, choose based on your personal needs.
- Powderpuffs require frequent grooming, as much as every other day.
- Hairless dogs may need a sweater when they goes outside.
- Chinese Crested dogs can be difficult to housetrain.

*If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian - they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.*