



We wish you a merry Christmas



Educate yourself on popular dog breeds of the world



## Yorkshire Terriers

The Yorkshire Terrier, often nicknamed as the "Yorkie", is a breed of small dog, one of many toy dog breeds. Though pedigrees are not available for the first Yorkshire Terrier ancestors, several breeds have been suggested, including the Old English Black and Tan, which is also considered the ancestor for the Welsh Terrier and the Manchester Terrier, the Waterside Terrier, the Clydesdale Terrier, and the Paisley Terrier. The original Yorkshire terrier, known as the "Broken-Haired Scotch Terrier" was a 12-to-14 pound dog with wirehair whose intended purpose was the catching of rats and other vermin that lived in small spaces.

In 1870, the breed was renamed the Yorkshire terrier, after the county of Yorkshire, England, where the breed is believed to have originated. The father of the breed is considered to be Huddersfield Ben, who was born in 1865 and died in 1871 from a carriage accident. Huddersfield Ben was bred by Mr. W. Eastwood Huddersfield.

The Yorkie has a compact, small

build. It holds itself in an upright, sprightly manner which makes it look confident and self-assured. Its appearance should be one of spirit, cleverness, curiosity, and vigour. The Yorkie should have a long, purple and tan coat that hangs straight and parts down the middle. However, many Yorkies do not conform directly to the standard. Some coats are black or silvery grey on the body. The face and legs are tan in colour. The hair is usually straight and will grow long. Yorkies can also have somewhat wavy hair. Yorkie hair is soft, silky, fine, and high-maintenance, and must either be trimmed short or washed and brushed frequently. Show dogs often have their hair 'wrapped' in rice paper, after a light oiling. This prevents the hairs from being broken easily, and keeps the coat in condition. The nose, paw-pads, lips, and eye-rims must be darkly pigmented.

Yorkies, especially males, are very territorial and are known for their disregard for the limitations of their own size. They will often

attack much larger dogs despite their extreme size disadvantage. They get along well with cats and other dogs, and love to play together.

Yorkies tend to develop cataracts in their old age, but their small size limits the effects of conditions such as arthritis. There is also the possibility of tracheal collapse, the cause of which is thought by many to be partially genetic and partially caused by environment.

There are several famous Yorkshire terriers linked with celebrities and mentioned in books. Such dogs are: Toto from the original book version of L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, Mignon, Lisa Douglas' Yorkshire Terrier on the television series *Green Acres*, and Spike, former canine sidekick of television celebrity Joan Rivers.

Intelligent, independent and spunky, this home-loving companion is best suited for an owner who can spare time to look after the animal as it requires to be groomed to perfection.

## Christmas at home WITH your pets



Christmas time... A time of harmony, celebrations and excitement. It is a time when people are busy with all sorts of activities at school, at home and at church. It's a very happy time, but it can be a confusing time for your pet.

\* You probably will have a

Christmas tree. Especially young puppies and kittens are attracted to it, just as you are - the bright lights and the ornaments are too hard to resist. And cats can climb right up the trunk of the tree and when they get to the top, the tree can tip and come crashing down.

Generally, as pets get older, they leave the Christmas tree alone, but if you have young pets, it is a good idea to put the tree in a baby playpen.

\* Cats and dogs like to chew on cords - like the tree lights. So keep a close watch on such items.

\* Most households have plenty of food and sweet goodies around during the holiday season. If you have company over, it's easy for plates to be held on people's laps and then on coffee tables, other pieces of furniture and even on the floor. It is easy for pets - especially dogs - to help themselves.

\* Mistletoe, holly, and poinsettia plants decorate our homes during the holidays. These are poisonous plants if your pet eats them. Please keep them away from your pet.

\* Aspirin used as a preservative in Christmas tree water can be fatal to cats that drink it.

With a little extra thought, your pet can have a safe, enjoyable holiday season too! We wish you all a meowey Christmas!

## Pet Clinic

With Dr. Asoka Dangolla, Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Clinical Sciences.

Q: I have a 6-year-old male Alsatian who does not permit me to trim his nails. He would not bite, but he would not stay still long enough for me to trim them. What do you suggest that I should do?  
Pet Lover, Hambantota

A: It seems to me that you are keeping your dog tied indoors. You can either trim the nails yourself or get a vet to do the job. There are special trimmers, available in the market, which are very safe for this purpose.

There is also the option of sedating the dog with certain types of medications that you can give at home. When the dog is asleep, you can do the trimming. If you feel that you need veterinary assistance, then the vet can inject a sedative.

The easiest method that you can use is to let the dog out into the garden to play. Then the problem will be settled by itself. However, you should not take this step at once as your dog, who has been indoors always, may have soft footpads.

# The World of Flowers & Pets

Edited by Ruwini Jayawardana

## Special Christmas Edition

Dear Readers,

This page will bring latest information, tips, pictures, methods, and much more to make your dream garden a reality and look into the needs of your faithful companions - pets. Opening the stairway for knowledge, guidance, and pleasure, all in one package, *Flowers & Pets* will come to you every Monday. Tell us what you like us to feature in this page or share with us good tips and news. Write to us at: Daily News Features, Lake House, Colombo 10 or e-mail us at features@dailynews.lk

## Flower of the week



# SYMBOL OF CHRISTMAS: POINSETTIAS

Highly prized throughout Florida and widely beloved as a symbol of the Christmas season is the Poinsettia. No other flower can make such a brilliant show of bright red throughout the festive weeks.

Poinsettias are flowers native to southern Mexico, Central America, and Africa. They are named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States ambassador to Mexi-

co, who introduced the plant in the U.S. in 1825. The Poinsettia is a member of the spurge family. An interesting point about this species is their "flowers". The true flowers are small, green and yellow and inconspicuous. The showy red parts, often called flowers, are not parts of the flower; instead, they are highly modified petal-like leaves, which the botanist calls bracts. The bracts are formed

below each flower. Poinsettias are predominately greenhouse grown as pot plants for Christmas in most of the United States, but in South Florida they can be utilized as colorful landscape shrubs.

Poinsettias make beautiful house plants. If the new varieties are properly watered and placed in a cool, sunny, draft free area, the bracts will remain lovely for one to two months.

## SHOOT FOR FUN 'N' FAME



"Dear Santa...All I want is a juicy bone for Christmas. Love Smoky." This is what Smokey the German Shepherd seems to be reflecting as he dreams his cares away under the Christmas tree. Picture sent by Shari Atukorala

