

# HISTORY

Affenpinscher type dogs are shown in artwork dating back to the 15th Century. The Affenpinscher (translated from German as “monkey-like terrier”) originated in central Europe. In France it is also known as “Diablotin Moustachu” or “mustached little devil.” In the 17th Century these wire-haired “ratting terriers” were used in barns and stables and around the farm as watch dogs. They eventually moved to the kitchen to keep mice out of food supplies and from running underneath women’s long skirts.



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Affenpinscher was first used to describe a class of little dogs with rounder heads, shorter muzzles and undershot mouths in a litter of wire-haired rat terriers in 1889. Their pictures can be found on postcards dating from the late 1800’s. They are believed to have influenced the development of other small rough coated breeds. The German Pinscher-Schnauzer Klub began registering these dogs in their Volume 11 (1903-1907). Affenpinschers became popular companions for German film stars and ladies of wealth. In the 1920’s and 30’s Affenpinschers performed in circus and cabaret acts.

In 1935, the Affenpinscher was brought to the United States and the AKC recognized this toy breed a year later. Although the Affenpinscher (or “Affen” as it is fondly called) has gained in popularity through the years, it is still considered a “rare” breed.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



For more information regarding Affenpinschers, the national parent club of the breed, membership opportunities, or help deciding if this is the breed for you as well as breeder referral, please visit Affenpinscher Club of America at our website:

[www.affenpinscher.org](http://www.affenpinscher.org)

# AFFENPINSCHER



**Affenpinscher Club  
of America**

[www.affenpinscher.org](http://www.affenpinscher.org)

# PERSONALITY

Affenpinschers are a “big dog in a small body.” They are intelligent, curious, fearless, and alert. Like other terriers they can be independent and stubborn, and like other toy breeds can be difficult to housebreak.

Affens truly live up to their name not just in looks but in their playful, comic, clever and adventurous spirit.

Expect to see Affens “dance” and grasp with their front paws and don’t be surprised to hear them howl, though they are generally quiet. They make good small watch dogs as they are alert and protective.



While Affens are a toy dog, they are not a dog toy — as with any small breed they aren’t suitable with young children as their rough and tumble enthusiasm far exceeds their size and strength of their bones! Affens also require supervision as they won’t hesitate to jump from the top of a sofa or out of your arms — they are fearless! Affenpinschers can be subject to hip dysplasia or slipping of the knees in the hind legs, both hereditary conditions.

Entertaining, comic, loving and lovable are qualities which lead many Affen owners to have more than one — this breed is highly addictive!

# CHARACTERISTICS

The Affenpinscher is a balanced, wire-haired terrierlike toy dog whose intelligence and demeanor make it a good house pet. The total overall appearance of the Affenpinscher is more important than any individual characteristic. He is described as having a neat but shaggy appearance.

A sturdy, compact dog with medium bone, not delicate in any way. Preferred height at the shoulders is 9 ½” to 11 ½”. Shoulder height is approximately equal to length of body, creating a square appearance.

The head is in proportion to the body and is carried confidently with monkey-like facial expression. The eyes are round, dark, brilliant, and the eye rims are black. Ears may be cropped to a point or left natural. The length of the muzzle is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes. The bite is slightly undershot. A level bite is acceptable if the monkey like expression is maintained. The tail may be docked or natural.

The Affen’s coat is dense hair, rough, harsh, and about 1” in length on the shoulders and body. The mature Affenpinscher has a mane or cape of strong hair which blends into the back coat at the withers area. The longer hair on the head, eyebrows and beard stands off and frames the face to emphasize the monkey-like expression. Little grooming is needed to maintain a “shaggy but neat” appearance.

Affenpincher colors range from black, gray, silver, red, black and tan (“belge”). Blacks may have a rusty cast or a few white or silver hairs mixed with the black. Reds may vary from brownish red to an orangey tan. Belge has black, brown and/or white hairs mixed with red.

# ACTIVITIES

Affenpinschers show in the Toy Group and successfully compete in Conformation.



*Look for  
Affenpinschers  
in Agility.*



*Affenpinschers  
are great in  
Obedience and Rally,  
but most of all,  
Affens are wonderful  
companions!*