

IS A SHIBA FOR YOU ?

You will need to ask yourself:

...is this really the right breed?

The Shiba Inu is an independent and intelligent dog who will test you. Because of their origins as hunting dogs, they are highly observant and easily enticed into chasing anything resembling prey. Shibas are rather cat-like in their independence and cleanliness.

...how about the costs?

You need to consider the costs of good quality food and vet bills. As well, consider the costs of equipment you will need: bowls, bedding, a crate, collar, leash, and plenty of toys. (Shibas love their toys!)

...will I mind shedding and other aspects of dog ownership?

Shibas “blow their coat”—they shed—at least twice per year. You will need to be rigorous about brushing your dog and removing hairs from your furniture and clothing. They do best with twice-daily walks or other good exercise—with that, they adapt readily to either a small apartment or a large fenced yard.

...am I ready to make a 15+ year commitment?

A Shiba is not a backyard dog who needs just food once a day. They need to be with their “pack”—you and your family. These dogs typically live from 12 to 17 years.

HOW TO ADOPT?



To adopt an MSIR dog, you need to:

1. Complete an **application form** at: <http://application.shibarescue.org>
2. Have a **home visit** (so we can verify the home environment and provide helpful advice);
3. Sign a **contract** (which outlines the responsibilities for your new dog’s care and maintenance*); and
4. Pay an **adoption fee** of between \$200 and \$350. (This helps support the care of rescue dogs while they are fostered. The adoption fee includes spaying/ neutering, all vaccinations, a fecal test, a heartworm test and preventative, and a microchip as well as a collar and lead and other medical expenses, such as teeth-cleaning or heartworm treatment, if needed.)

**The MSIR contract provides for rebates. New owners successfully completing a positive-motivation obedience course with their rescue Shiba will be refunded \$25 for each course. If the rescue Shiba receives a Canine Good Citizen certificate, you will be refunded another \$25.*

WHERE ARE THE DOGS?

Our rescue dogs stay in people’s homes—**foster homes**. This adds substantially to the Shibas’ quality of life because they get personal care, training, and attention to their specific needs. Dogs in kennels just do not get that care. Fostering is a great way to get to know the breed, especially if you can’t decide if a Shiba is right for you. Consider fostering a Shiba—it’s a 4 to 8 week commitment and adopting that dog is up to you. E-mail foster@shibarescue.org for more information.



WEBSITES:

Midwest Shiba Inu Rescue:

<http://www.shibarescue.org>

National Shiba Rescue:

<http://www.national.shibarescue.org>

National Shiba Club of America:

<http://www.shibas.org>

American Kennel Club:

<http://www.akc.org>

WHERE ARE THEY FROM?



Many people ask why Shibas could possibly need to be “rescued.” There are many reasons, but mostly it’s because the dogs are from:

The streets... a surprising number of Shibas are found wandering the streets. Without collars or microchips, the dogs cannot be re-homed.

Puppy mills... not only pups, but breeding adults, come from puppy mills that are going out of business for some reason (frequently due to raids).

Owner surrender... sometimes the reason is death or divorce, a child’s allergy, the owner’s deteriorating health, or other life events where owners realize they cannot properly care for their dog.

Is there anything “wrong” with these dogs? Certainly not! In fact, adopting a rescue dog means you will have a healthy dog who has been thoroughly evaluated and ready for their next family— their “forever family.”

READING AND RESEARCH

A Few Good Books

The Complete Shiba Inu by Maureen Atkinson

The Total Shiba by Gretchen Haskett & Susan Houser

Shiba Inus: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual
by Laura Payton

National Shiba Club of America

POB 2639

Saratoga, CA 95070

nscamembership@yahoo.com

CONTACTING MSIR

If your interest is in adopting, e-mail:

adoptions@shibarescue.org

If your interest is in fostering, e-mail:

foster@shibarescue.org

If your interest is in volunteering, e-mail:

volunteer@shibarescue.org

To reach us by mail:

Midwest Shiba Inu Rescue

1328 S. Abington Lane

Round Lake IL 60073

Fax/phone: **630-225-5046**



Cute Dog! What is it?



©AKC

SHIBA INU

(“She-bah Eee-new”)

The Shiba Inu is the smallest and oldest of Japan's dogs, originally developed for hunting in the dense undergrowth of Japan's mountainous areas. Alert and agile with keen senses, Shibas are excellent watchdogs and companions. The Shiba Inu is the American Kennel Club's (AKC's) 136th breed.

Shibas almost became extinct during World War II. Shibas first came to the U.S. in 1954, brought from Japan by an American armed services family.

These dogs range in weight from 15 to 35 pounds, depending on bone structure and gender. They come in four colors— red, sesame (red with black guard hairs), black-and-tan, and cream.