Pekingese Dog - What Is So Special About Them?

For those that have never owned a Pekingese, they are a truly special breed of dog. They are known by many names all around the world, such as the Lion Dog, Chinese Spaniel, the Peking Palasthund, and their nickname, the Peke. They have grown in popularity throughout recent years especially as many celebrities have made it popular to carry around a small dog with them wherever they go as the ultimate accessory.

While they are one of the smaller breeds of dogs out there, their origins have a very unique tale. The Pekingese originate from China over 2000 years ago. In fact, with DNA testing, it has been confirmed that the Pekingese is actually one of the oldest dog breeds out there. Most of the other dog breeds today can trace their origins to the wolf, but the Pekingese is one of the very few breeds that can say they aren’t really a cousin of the wolf. Here is a bit more about the history of the Pekingese and how they went from being only a royal dog in China to being a beloved pet throughout the world:

For many centuries, the Pekingese lived in China, and only was owned by those that were members of the Chinese Imperial Palace. No one else in the country was allowed to own one of these majestic animals. Then in 1860, during the Second Opium War, one of the palaces in Beijing was taken over and occupied by both French and British troops. All of the members of the royal family had fled except for one elderly aunt who stayed behind. After she died, the troops found her with her five Pekingese dogs, which were all removed before the palace was burned.
One lord took a pair and gave them to the Duchess of Wellington back in Britain. Another duke took a pair, and the fifth Pekingese went to Queen Victoria herself. From there, the British royal family fell in love with these wonderful little dogs and they were only owned by the members of this royal family.

Later, in the 20th century, Empress Dowager Cixi gave several Pekingese to different Americans as a gesture of friendship. One of these wonderful little gifts went to the daughter of Theodore Roosevelt and this started a love affair with the breed here in the US. After this, the rise of the Pekingese started to spread throughout the world as they were given as gifts for different works in China, such as Dr. Heuston helping to eradicate smallpox.

Since the Pekingese have such a royal heritage, it shows in their mannerisms as well as their attitudes. They have become a very popular small breed throughout the world and millions of people all over the world own them, from royalty to celebrities to normal families. Once you own a Peke, you will easily see that they truly believe that they are the royals of any canine breed out there.

But it’s not just their royal attitudes that make them so lovable, they are also fiercely loyal to their “family”. They make absolutely perfect family pets as they are great with children and adults. They also will become attached to their family, and usually to one particular member especially, and they are happy to protect them however they can. The Peke makes an excellent guard dog as well, even though they are smaller, and will let their owners know when someone is outside before the doorbell ever rings.

With their extremely unique history, their wonderful personalities, and their adorable little faces, it is too easy to see how the Pekingese have come to steal the hearts of millions around the world.
Pekingese Care
Just like any breed, the Pekingese needs special attention to their care. From their diet to their grooming, their exercise patterns to their social needs, new owners need to know how to take care of their new Peke properly. For new owners out there, you want to know the ins and outs of taking care of your new furry kiddo to avoid mistakes that can cause health problems on down the road. Plus, if you start out right in caring for your Peke, you won’t have to make harsh changes later on that can upset your Pekingese’s routine or cause other problems with them.

Let’s take a look at all of the different needs of a Pekingese that new owners should know, starting with helping them adjust to their new home.

Adjust to a New Home
No matter what age Pekingese you are bringing home, you will want to remember that any new dog needs time to adjust to a new home. Keep in mind that they are going from the home that they have known into yours and things will be different, and sometimes scary, for them. Some dogs adjust well to change and others don’t, so if you find that the Pekingese you are bringing home isn’t adjusting well at first, give them lots of love and encouragement. Your new friend will come around to you, your family, and their new home. Here are some tips to help your new Peke adjust to your home and family:

- **Space** – Your new dog needs their own space as a comfort zone just for them. Even if your new Peke is adjusting well to everyone and everything, you want to still set them up their own “spot” in the house where they can go to nap, relax, or just get away. Sometimes this can be a crate, it can be just an area of a room, or it can be a secluded spot in the closet, try and let your dog show you which room they feel most comfortable in. Place their bed, toys, and other items that they have in that area for them. When they go to that spot to relax or get away, let them have their space.
- **Routine** – Start to establish a routine with your new Peke that will help them settle into their new home. You want to make sure that you feed, exercise, walk, and so on. After a few days, your dog will start to expect this routine and it will not only help them adjust, but it will give them something to look forward to.

- **Patience** – No matter what, keep your patience with your new Pekingese. Some Pekes will take a liking to you or one person in your family and want to just stay with that person constantly at first, but this will eventually wear off. Once your Pekingese gets used to your family and your house, they will start to relax a bit and enjoy everyone instead of just one person.

- **Socialize** – After a few days when your dog starts to feel more comfortable, start to socialize your new Peke by taking walks through the neighborhood, having some fun at a local park, or just take your new pet for a ride or two with you. Introduce them to other friends and family members at your home and let them determine how long you visit or do something. As they become more comfortable with their new surroundings and you, they will enjoy doing more things.

Just remember that every Peke is different, and just like a child, they need your love and reassurance that everything will be ok.
Food & Diet

While some people insist that Pekingese dogs should always eat a diet from their native China, others will tell you that plain old dog food is ok and you don’t need to do anything else. The truth is somewhere in between. The main thing that you need to have is a balanced diet for your Pekingese.

Small breeds need different nutrients in their foods than larger breeds do, and you need to know what your new Peke needs before you start buying up different foods. First, you want to make sure that they have a well-balanced diet to ensure that they grow up strong and healthy. Keep in mind that smaller dog breeds, especially when they are puppies, don’t have a large enough tummy to hold the amount of food needed to go through their day. So they have to have several smaller meals throughout the day so their bodies don’t have undue stress from lack of nutrients. Many companies out there now make dog food that is specially formulated for smaller breed dogs, meaning that they offer the nutrients needed for a smaller body to maintain during the day.

You do want to steer clear of any type of fatty foods, processed meats, and other meats and foods that have a high volume of any type of sugar. Fatty foods, processed meats (like lunch meats and hot dogs), and greasy foods (especially bacon), while yummy to your Peke can cause serious health problems. Pancreatitis is one of the main problems that can pop up with greasy and fatty foods in small breeds like the Pekingese and can be life threatening. Some symptoms include: diarrhea, lack of appetite, vomiting, gagging, oily stools, weakness and lethargy, and not wanting to drink water. If you notice any of these symptoms or you are worried that your Peke has gotten into too many table foods they aren’t allowed to have, speak with your vet right away. There are some remedies that you can do at home if you catch it early enough, but you always want to speak with your vet as this is a very serious problem.

One of the main problems that new owners face is the recommendations that they find a good dog food with the proper nutrients for a small breed dog and add in extra supplements. This is not true and you can actually hurt your dog if you are giving them additional supplements on top of a balanced diet.
Make Your Pekingese the Happiest Dog on Earth

Make sure that you always have water out where your Peke can find it. If you have a larger home, have two bowls out so that they always have access to water when they need it. Keep it in one central area so that your Peke always knows where it will be when they need it.

Of course, depending on the age of the Pekingese that you are bringing home, there will be different nutritional needs for each one. Let’s look at the differences in the diet and feeding of both puppies and adults:

**Puppies**

Puppies usually have just moved up from their mom’s milk to a solid (or at least soft) food. Peke puppies need to be fed about three to four times every day. Unless they are the sleeve Pekingese, which are smaller, and will need up to six meals per day. Once a puppy reaches about nine months old, they can have their meals lowered to about two times per day (three for a sleeve Peke). Of course, we recommend having a small amount of food available after exercising, naps, and any time that your new Peke might be hungry.

Small breed puppy food will also have different nutrients than adult small breed food will, this is because a puppy needs different nutrients than an adult will. When you are looking for a dog food for your Pekingese puppy, we recommend asking your vet which brand they prefer for small breed dogs. They will have several types that they recommend and you should be able to make a decision on which is right for your dog. Make sure that you choose a dog food that says it is specially for small breed puppies so the nutrients will be right

**Adults**

Adult Pekingese have different nutritional needs from puppies and they will also have different needs depending on their ages. For example, a young adult will need different nutrients versus an elderly Peke. We always recommend that you talk with your vet if you are adopting an adult Peke and have them ensure that your new dog doesn’t need any type of special foods for an injury, health problem, or other issue that they might have.

As far as feeding times each day, most vets recommend that you offer your adult Pekingese two to three times per day, just like you would when they reach about nine months old. You do want to make sure that they always have water available throughout the day. If you have a larger house, you want to have a couple of water bowls out where they can find them.
Nutrition Problems

Sometimes the wrong nutrition can cause problems with your dog. This can be a result of a food change, too many or too little nutrients that your Peke needs, or a problem with the dog food that they are eating. If you notice that your Pekingese has any of the following symptoms, you want to check with your vet right away:

- **Gas** – Every dog has gas now and then, but when it is constant and not getting better with time or water, check with your vet.

- **Diarrhea** – Sometimes changes in their diet can cause this for a day or so, but if it lasts longer than that, gets worse, has blood or mucus in it, or lasts for longer than a day, call your vet.

- **Hot spots** – While you may not think that this can be diet related, a change in nutrients or a lack of them can cause these hot spots that can mean major discomfort for your baby.

- **Constant itching** – If you notice that your Peke is itching constantly and there is no other reason (such as dry skin or insect bites), it could be due to a problem with their diet.

- **Constant snorting** – Again, Pekingese do snort. If you notice that it is a constant thing, not slowing down, or getting worse, talk with your vet as this can be a sign of an allergic reaction to a food.

- **Feet chewing** – Constantly chewing on their feet can also mean a problem with their diet, and if it does not stop within a day or so, or gets worse, call your vet.

If you are keeping a close eye on your Peke, you will easily notice any changes in their behavior that could be related to their diet quickly. By noticing problems when they start, you can head off any major issues by taking care of it right away.
Vaccines
We all know that dogs need their shots, just like we do. Pekingese are no exception and you need to make sure that they get their vaccines on a regular basis. There are several different vaccines that can save their lives and it will put your dog at risk if you do not have them administered. For Pekingese dogs, we don’t recommend giving them vaccines by yourself. It is always best to have a vet administer your Peke’s vaccines so that they can watch for any adverse reactions, common problems, and can also make sure that your dog is healthy and developing as they should.

Vaccines are important because they protect your dog from serious diseases. Of course, these vaccines aren’t without their risks as well, which is why we recommend that only a vet give your Pekingese any type of immunizations. The types of vaccines that are available will depend on your Peke’s health, age, and other factors, which is another good reason that your vet do the administering. Your vet can easily determine which vaccines your Peke needs and set up a good solid schedule for them to receive these vaccines.

Here is a basic vaccine schedule that the majority of vets around the world agree on:

- **6-8 Weeks of age:** DHPP vaccine which covers distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus.
- **10-12 Weeks of age:** DHPP second dose
- **14-16 Weeks of age:** DHPP third dose
- **Annually from a year old on up:** Rabies and Bordetella (some vets consider the second one optional)
- **Every three years:** DHPP booster
Keeping your dog’s vaccines up to date can also help if your dog is ever bit by a wild animal or in a dog fight, and it can keep them safe from harm when you are out playing at the park or visiting another dog for a play date. Many diseases that the DHPP protect your dog from can live on the ground or in another animal’s feces for a long period of time (Parvovirus lives in the ground for seven years and can easily attack your dog if it comes into contact with him or her). By keeping their shots up to date, you can save them from these problems and they have a better chance of survival if they come into contact with any of these viruses.

Wash And Clean

Pekingese dogs have a very unique type of coat and unique grooming needs when compared to other dog breeds out there. For this reason, you need to be prepared for their grooming and washing needs. For example, unlike some other breeds, the Pekingese doesn’t need regular or frequent baths. In fact, if you do bathe them too much, you can actually cause damage to their coats and their skin. Normally, a Peke requires a bath about once a month or so, and you want to have a special sensitive skin shampoo and conditioner for them that is made specifically for dogs. You can easily find these types of dog shampoos and conditioners online or at a larger pet store.
To wash a Pekingese properly, start by putting cotton in their ears to keep water and shampoo out. Next, run a bath of warm water and place them in it. Gently, wet them completely and then apply the shampoo to the length of their body. Lather up the coat carefully, paying special attention to any areas that get dirty the most, like their paws. Be careful that the soapy water doesn’t get into their eyes, as it does sting, just like soap stings your eyes. Once you have lathered your Peke completely, rinse them thoroughly and then apply the conditioner if you choose to use one. Work the conditioner into their coat and allow it to sit for a minute or so. Rinse it completely as well, making sure that no residue is left over in their coat.

Once you have washed them, you do not want to towel dry your Peke because it can tangle their fur and cause mats to form. A Pekingese’s coat has to be completely dried with a blow dryer and you will want to be careful doing this as well, since it can cause tangles too. The best possible way to blow dry a Pekingese is to keep the dryer at a distance from the dog and brush their coat gently as you dry, without moving the dryer too swiftly or using a “sweeping” motion with it. Using a brush will help you to separate the fur so that every part of it can dry and will help keep tangles at bay.

From this point, you can move into the other grooming areas for your Peke.
Grooming

Pekingese are one breed of dog that require constant grooming. While they may not need a bath regularly, they do need grooming several times a week to ensure that they are healthy and that no problems arise with their coats or their wrinkles. Plus, most Pekes enjoy their groomings and it can be a bonding experience for both of you. It is always best to start a grooming schedule with your Peke when they are a puppy to get them used to the noises, the smells, and the different things that need done. Of course, if you adopt an adult Peke, you will need to work into a grooming schedule, complete with a lot of doggie treats to help them see that this is a good thing to do with you.

One of the main reasons that the Pekingese needs a lot of grooming is that they shed a lot of hair constantly. If they are not brushed and their coats kept up regularly, this can cause large mats and tangles that can break off and remove large chunks of their coats. It can also cause problems with their coat overall if this is a constant thing that happens with their fur, leading to hair loss in that area.

Grooming is one of the main ways that you can remain vigilant and keep an eye out for any problems that can arise with your Pekingese. It will ensure that you notice things quickly and can get your dog to the vet before a small problem becomes a big one.
When grooming your Peke, you will need several tools at your disposal:

- Brush (ones with natural bristles are preferred on Peke’s so that you don’t damage their coats)
- Fine tooth comb
- Nail trimmer
- Nail file
- Toothbrush
- Tooth paste for dogs
- Cotton balls
- Mineral oil or ear oil
- Small scissors
- Matbreaker
- Baby powder or corn starch
- Grooming spray
- Warm, damp wash cloth (a soft one)

You can get these items either online or at a larger pet store. You can also ask your vet if they have any specific brands that you should stay away from or those that they recommend specifically for a Pekingese. Have all of these tools together and ready when you start to groom your Pekingese so that you don’t have to stop in the middle of your session and have your Peke dart for parts unknown (especially for adult dogs that are new to grooming). There is a special way that you should groom your Pekingese, and here are the steps:

Start by laying your Peke on one side, whichever you prefer, as this will give you access to their legs, stomach, and rear. Then spray their coat lightly with the grooming spray and then sprinkle baby powder along the area that you are grooming. This will help not only to clean the coat but it will help the brush and comb go through easier without tangles.

Brushing a Pekingese is different than brushing another breed. You want to use upward strokes, instead of downward ones, as this adds the volume that the Peke is known for with their long hair. Keep in mind that you may need to trim hair around the paws, their stomachs or the genital areas to ensure that they are healthy and to take out any mats that might have formed. Do so carefully, and try not to trim too much hair if it doesn’t require trimming.
As you are brushing the legs, you want to check your Peke’s feet. Inspect each paw, and separate the toes to check in between them. This will help you find any problems with items stuck in their feet, cuts or scrapes, or anything that looks odd. If you find anything that needs treated, do so right away. Clip their toenails while you are doing this as well so you do not have to go back over this area and mat the hair back up trying to clip them. Use a file to smooth any edges that might be a bit rough after clipping so that your dog doesn’t hurt themselves or you when they are scratching.

Once you have this done, you can start on the front leg and brush the hair. Then move to the side and the stomach area, then on to the back leg. After you get one side done, turn your dog over on their other side and do the same thing, spray, powder, and then brush them in the same way that you did the other side. When this side is done, you want to stand the dog up and brush the fur down on the back and the tail as well as the head. The main goal is to get all of the tangles or mats out and ensure that the fur is slick and clean.

For those brushing a Pekingese for a show, there are different methods that you should use to ensure that their coat is puffy and beautiful.

After you have your dog brushed completely, it’s time to groom their face. You want to use your warm, damn wash cloth to clean the wrinkles on your Peke’s face. Carefully wipe down the wrinkles, making sure that any foreign objects or eye crusties are wiped downward instead of up into their eyes. If you need to, go over this area several times to help remove any eye stains. If the hairs around the eyes are too stained, they can be trimmed down to help remove some of the stain. You can also apply a small amount of powder to help keep the area dry if you notice that there is an excess of tears or liquid that is coming out of their eyes.
Brushing Teeth
While you don’t need to do this every time you groom your Peke, you do want to brush their teeth regularly. You can easily pick up a dog tooth brushing kit that will include everything you need to do this. Every time you groom your dog, you want to check their gums. Simply lift their lips and look at their gums, they should be a healthy pink color, not white, red, or brown. And you should see clean teeth, without any brownish colored build up. If you notice any swelling or other problems with your dog’s teeth or gums, make sure that you talk with your vet right away to prevent problems from getting worse.

If you don’t want to use a commercial tooth paste for your dog, you can use a simple paste of baking soda and water. It will help keep their breath smelling good and their teeth clean and healthy. You don’t want to use anything with fluoride in it, or human toothpaste, it can cause your dog to have stomach problems. To brush your dog’s teeth, you need to use small, circular strokes along their teeth and be very gentile. It won’t take much to damage your dog’s gums, and you want to be easy so you don’t scare them from brushing next time.

Ear Care
Every time you groom your Pekingese, you want to check their ears for problems. Since a dog’s ear has plenty of crevices, twists, and turns in it, it’s a great breeding ground for parasites, bacteria, yeast, and other nasties. The way that their ears are shaped also means that any debris that gets into their ears will have a hard time working it’s way out.

Just like a human ear, you never want to stick anything down into your dog’s ear like a cotton swab. Instead, use a cotton ball that is dampened with mineral oil or ear oil to gently clean their ear. Remember that the inside of a dog’s ear is very delicate and can easily be damaged, if you aren’t sure the proper way to clean their ear, have your vet show you. If you notice any foul odors, swelling, redness, crusty skin, or discharge from your dog’s ear, make sure that you call your vet right away.
Fitness
Pekingese need their exercise, just like any breed, but they don’t require constant movement. Since the Peke is a smaller breed, they do have bursts of energy followed by nap time. The fun thing about the Pekingese is that they are extremely playful and love to enjoy fun times with you and your family. They are very energetic dogs, and coupled with their strong will and their bravery, it can be fun exploring new things with them no matter where you are.

Your Pekingese will need a daily walk or playtime with you to help ensure that they stay healthy. We recommend that you take time out of your day for a few play times with your Peke to ensure that they bond with you and do not get bored. A bored Peke can get into trouble if you aren’t careful!

Since Pekingese are smaller dogs, they are great for those that have apartments or those that want an indoor dog. It also means that they cannot stay outside for long periods of time and they aren’t suited for outdoor living. Of course, their small size means that they don’t require much room for play time either.

Take your Peke on a walk every day and have a play time set aside just for them. This can be as simple as throwing a toy for them to find, wrestling around with you (carefully of course), or chasing you around. Take note of when your Peke feels playful during the day, such as before meals or before bedtime. Modest exercise a few times a day will help your Peke sleep better and will improve their appetite as well. Just remember to throw that walk in there as well to ensure that you take care of their need to run and move about.
Day Care Center

Some of us are gone for long periods during the day and this can get a bit boring for your Pekingese, who is stuck at home. The good thing is that there are plenty of great doggie day care centers out there that can help your baby stay active and enjoy their day away from home too. Finding a good dog day care center is like finding a good child day care center and doesn’t have to be hard. Here are some helpful tips for finding the right dog day care center for your Peke:

- **Talk with your vet** – Ask them for recommendations for dog day cares in your area.

- **Talk with friends** – If you have friends with smaller dog breeds that work, ask about dog day care centers that they use.

- **Look through the Yellow Pages** – You can easily find a list of dog day cares online that advertise. Make a list of those that advertise for smaller breed dogs.

- **Make a list and go for visits** – Make a list of ones that your vet, your friends, and those that advertise online. Then, go visit them. This is the best way to find one (or more) that you feel comfortable with as well as those that you will know to steer clear of. Check the rooms and the facilities, ask about schedules and what is provided for your Peke every day, find out how many people supervise the dogs while they are there, and make sure to ask all the questions that come to your mind. You need to know that your dog is safe, cared for, and will be able to eat and drink when needed. The last thing you want is to have your baby at a place that you don’t trust.

- **Trust your gut** – If you immediately don’t like a place, don’t leave your Peke there even if your friends or vet recommend it. Always trust your gut and your dog’s gut as well, if one of you doesn’t like a place, it won’t be a good place for them to stay.

- **Take your time** – Even if you need one right away, we recommend that you find a couple that you like and visit them at least twice before you make a choice. Don’t make a snap decision that you may regret later.
Save Expenses

With any dog, there can be expenses that add up if you aren’t careful. Of course, there are some great ways to help you save on expenses for your Peke:

**Coupons** – Start clipping coupons, printing them online, and asking friends and family members to save them for you. Coupons can be a great way to save money on dog food, toys, medications, and more.

**Specials** – You can easily find great online and offline specials on treats, foods, toys, and more if you take the time to look for them. Couple specials with coupons and you have a great way to save a lot of money. Plus, they can be a great way to stock up on items that will save you money for months.

**Freebies** – There are always dog shows and other events where you can register for samples and free services. Take advantage of these, as you can usually get a great deal after your freebie if you purchase that item, sign up for that specific service, and so on.

**Vet samples** – Ask your vet for samples of new foods or treats to try out when you are there. They also have different types of medication samples that they are usually happy to give to get their furry patients to try new things that can help them.
First Aid

Dog first aid is something that every owner should be aware of before anything bad happens. We will go through some basic first aid for your Pekingese below, but we recommend that you pick up a first aid book for dogs at your local book or pet store or online for a solid background into first aid for your furry baby. We also recommend that you pick up a dog first aid kit, or make one of your own. Here is a short list of items that you will want to have with you just in case an accident does happen:

- Medical records (including shot records, local vet numbers, national poison control numbers, emergency vet clinic number and hours)
- Rectal thermometer
- Rubbing alcohol or peroxide
- Lubrication jelly or vaseline
- Benadryl liquid
- Tweezers
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Bandage scissors
- Band aids
- Splints
- Blanket
- Ear syringe
- Eye wash
- Ziplock baggies
- Nail clippers
- Styptic powder
- Gauze
- Neosporin
Here are some common first aid areas that you will want to know before an emergency or accident happens:

Remember that all dogs (even adults) get into trouble due to curiosity, boredom, and playfulness. This means that they can easily ingest something poisonous to them, chew on toxic plant, choke on an object, chew on a plugged in electrical cord, and so on. We recommend that you dog-proof your home by ensuring that toxic items are locked up, cords are up or hidden, and anything that your Peke can choke on is off the floor and out of their reach.

Calm your dog if they are scared or having anxiety issues by holding them, petting them, speaking softly, or doing other things that help your Peke to calm down. A scared dog will bolt or tend to get hurt more easily because they are simply trying to get away from the thing that is scaring them. If your dog is calm, it is easier to ensure that they are less likely to get hurt if something happens.

Check your dog daily during your time alone petting them. Look for any cuts, scrapes, injuries, mats in their fur, or other things that can mean your dog isn’t feeling well. If you are vigilant in keeping an eye on your dog when they are normal and feeling well, you will quickly notice when something is wrong and they are feeling bad.

Be vigilant when you are away from home with your dog as accidents can happen more often when you’re someplace new. Your dog can be scared by new sounds, be in a traffic accident with you, or get hurt while swimming. Make sure that you have the proper safety equipment for your dog when you’re out, such as a restraint for them in the car, a life jacket for them at the lake, and reflective tape when you’re out for a walk. The more vigilant you are about safety when you are out and about, the safer time your dog will have with you.

Carry with you dog first aid supplies, even if you can’t carry your whole kit. Keep a small first aid kit in your purse or keep a separate dog bag with you when you’re out. This can help you treat injuries quickly if something happens and prevent them from getting worse while you’re on your way home or to the vet.
Talk with your vet about the proper way to bandage an injury, put a splint on, and how to wrap a broken leg so that you don’t cause any more damage if the unthinkable happens.

Learn doggie CPR in case your dog is seriously hurt. This can save their life while you’re on the way to the animal emergency clinic.

Remember to be calm and not panic if something does happen. If you panic, your dog will see and feel your anxiety and it can make it harder to keep them calm if they are hurt. Handle your dog very carefully and gently if they are hurt so that you do not damage them any further when trying to get them to the doctor. Keep in mind that even the most calm dog in the world can snap or bite if they are hurt, so try not to panic and react harshly if this happens.

Know how to assess a situation if your dog is hurt. For example, if your Peke is hit by a car, you want to assess the area and situation before you rush out into traffic. If you’re hurt, you can’t get your baby to the doctor.

Dog first aid classes are available in every area of the world and your vet can easily recommend some for you. Keep in mind though that dog first aid classes aren’t a substitute for a good vet and the proper care.
Cleaning After A Pekingese

A Pekingese is like any other dog and will make a mess sometimes. There are two types of messes: normal clean up and accidents.

Normal clean up involves things like hair that has been shed, food that has been spilled, spilled water, and something that they have torn up. You want to have the right items to clean up messes around the house, such as a broom and dustpan, lint roller, paper towels, and bleach wipes. As soon as you find a mess or other area that needs to be cleaned, do so right away. You don’t want bacteria to form or odors to set in, and the quicker they are cleaned up the less chance the mess has to make your dog, or you, ill.

Remember that Pekes do shed – a lot – so you want to have a good lint brush or even just a large roll of tape available. A wide roll of cheap masking tape can work wonders for getting dog hair off of your couch or other furniture before company comes by, and it can help to remove hair from any other area of your home that you cannot use a broom on.

Accident clean up is a whole different matter and will require a bit more cleaning that just the normal hair pick up. No matter how well trained your Peke is, there will be accidents sometimes. Maybe you had to work late and didn’t make it home in time, or maybe you are out and about and your dog gets sick in the car. It doesn’t matter what happened, you need to know how to clean up properly after an accident and what to do when it happens.

First, don’t yell and scream at your dog. Accidents do happen and remember that they have smaller bladders and more sensitive tummies than you do. Plus, they won’t understand why you are yelling at them after it has happened.

Next, clean your dog and get any fluids off of their fur, paws, and other areas. Then move your dog to a safe area so you can clean the accident up.

Have the right type of cleaning supplies with you for the area that you are cleaning. For example, if you are cleaning a tile floor, you want to use bleach spray and mop the area well. If you are cleaning carpet, you want to have a pet odor and accident removal spray that won’t stain or discolor your carpet. The same goes for your car interior, you want a product that won’t damage your car but will
get the smell and the fluids out. Make sure that you have something to sanitize the area as well so that any bacteria or other infectious nasties can be killed so they don’t cause harm to your dog again or anyone else.

If you are out and away from home, clean up the accident and dispose of the cleaning items in a trash can. If you can’t find one, we recommend that you carry ziplock baggies and a larger plastic bag with you to dispose of any accidents right away. This way, they can be sealed up and the odor and fluids won’t leak out anywhere.
Health & Care

Before you bring your Pekingese home, you should already have a vet in mind for their care. But we understand that sometimes you don’t plan to bring home a new Peke. So, once you know that you might be getting a dog, you want to find the right vet that can ensure your Pekingese is healthy and there when you need them. There are so many different vets out there, how can you choose the right one for you? Well, here are some helpful tips that we recommend to ensure you find the perfect vet for you:

- **Ask** – Talk with friends and family to see who they use for their dogs, especially those with Pekingese dogs or other small breeds. This is a great way to find good and bad vets in your area and can save you a lot of time and effort.

- **Check the phone book** – Both online and offline, you can easily find a long list of vets in your area to choose from. Make a list of the ones closest to you and check reviews of that vet online for a peek into what others think about their services, their mannerisms, and how their office runs.

- **Visit** – Once you make your list, call and make visits to their offices. Tour their office and ask questions about their practice, what breeds they specialize in, and if they are familiar with Pekingese dogs and problems that smaller breed dogs have. Feel free to ask any question that comes to mind, the more you know, the better a decision you can make about your furry kid’s care.

- **Trust your instinct** – If you don’t feel that this is the right vet for you and your pet, don’t use them. Just because you visited their offices, don’t feel obligated to schedule an appointment or bring your dog there.

- **Schedule an appointment to meet your dog** – Schedule an appointment with the vet that you like to have them meet your dog and look them over to make sure that you and your dog are both comfortable with how they interact with your Peke.
Once you choose a vet, you can then talk with them about the right health care plan for your dog. This will depend on your dog’s age, any existing health problems, or other concerns that you might have for your Peke. Your vet should always discuss different options for care with you before treating your dog, and you both should be able to see eye to eye on treatment and care for your Pekingese.

**Spay and Neuter**

We always recommend that you spay or neuter your Pekingese for their safety and to help keep the population of puppies down. Your vet can easily walk you through the details of getting your dog spayed or neutered, such as the costs, the procedure, any problems that might arise, and medications your dog might need. This procedure is very common and Pekingese do very will with it. Plus, it can help to curb aggression in males and stop them from marking their territory in your home. It can also help keep your female from going into heat and keep them healthy and clear of problems that pregnancy and puppies can cause.
Senior Pekingese

When your Pekingese becomes older, they will need different care than when they were a puppy or even an adult. Senior Pekes need special food, special exercise, and special care to ensure that they live a long, happy, healthy life. You want to start with their vet and talk with them about caring for a senior dog. Chances are that your vet will have already talked to you about this anyway as your dog gets older, so take their advice and talk with them about a health care plan for your Peke.

You will need to make sure that the food they are eating is right for them and that they are getting the right nutrients they need for their older body. One of the main things you want to avoid is cheaper, low quality food that doesn’t have the nutrients that senior dogs need. Senior dogs need more protein in their diet, and most senior dog foods will have a larger amount of protein. You will want to look at labels carefully and make sure that there are plenty of vitamins and other nutrients that will help your aging Peke feel more like a young dog again. Talk with your vet and see if there are specific brands that they recommend.

Watch for physical changes in your Peke that mean you need to offer more vitamins, supplements, or even schedule an appointment with your vet. Older Pekingese will develop joint problems or even arthritis and your vet can help you find the right combination of medications to make them feel more comfortable and move about better.

You’ll also notice that your Peke might get a bit more grouchy toward people or they may not want to be away from you at all. This is just something that all senior dogs go through and you and your Peke will have to find ways to deal with it. Sometimes this means keeping them away from other new people or other family members when they are especially cranky, or keeping them with you more during the day. Separation anxiety can easily turn to depression if they are left alone too long, so you might consider a dog day care or having a family member that they trust look after your dog while you are at work.
Training

Obedience training is key to helping your Pekingese stay safe. Training will help your Peke and you have peace of mind when you’re away from home, it will help when you introduce your Peke to new places and people, and it will help you both become better bonded. There are several ways to train your Pekingese, such as with a professional class or with home-training methods. Either way, you must work with your dog to ensure that everything they learn doesn’t go right out the window.

If you decide to go with a professional class, we recommend that you talk with your vet about local trainers that they recommend. You can also speak with friends and family to find out about places that they have used before that they liked and didn’t like. There are plenty of professional training classes all around you, no matter where you are, and you can easily find a good class that will be in your price range and ensure that you and your Peke get the training you both want.

Of course, some people opt to train their Peke at home with a book or video. There are literally thousands of different at home training programs that you can use and again, we recommend that you talk with your vet and family and friends for those that they have used. Don’t go out and spend money on one online or offline simply because it looks good, you want to check reviews of the program, check any references or memberships that they claim to have, and check the program out in general. If you have concerns about a certain program, don’t buy it. The very best thing to do is to ask around and speak to your vet about what they recommend.

Keep in mind that the earlier you start to work with your Pekingese, the better results you will get. Training bonds the two of you together and it helps to show your dog that you are the alpha dog in the family. It will also help to keep you and your dog safe if a problem happens, or help you keep your dog from getting into trouble.

Now, we aren’t saying that an older Peke cannot be trained. There are always great training programs that are geared toward older dogs. These programs can be another great way for you to bond with your Peke, no matter how old they are.
Summer Care

Summer offers a special time of fun in the sun with your Peke but there are several hazards that you should be aware of during this time of year. Here are some tips and hints to help you keep your Pekingese safe during the summer months:

**Never leave your Peke in the car** – This means even if you’re just running into the store for a second. During the heat of the summer, the temperatures inside a car can quickly rise, causing serious problems for your Pekingese and can even cause death if they are left in a car too long in the heat.

**Leashes can keep your dog safe** – If you’re outside enjoying the weather, always keep your Pekingese on a leash. This can keep them from getting lost, eating or drinking something that can hurt them, fighting with other dogs, or just getting into trouble without you right there.

**Water should always be available** – You want to always have a way to give your Peke water during the summer. Since your Peke is a very small dog, they don’t have the ability to regulate their body temperature like larger dogs do. If you’re out and about, always keep a small bowl or dish with you and bottled water so you can give your Peke water whenever they need some.

**Sunscreen isn’t just for you** – You can use sunscreen on your Peke as well when you’re out in the sun to keep their nose and ears from getting burned. Most of their long fur will keep them from getting sunburned on their body.
Antifreeze is especially dangerous – With the heat up, your dog will get thirsty easier, meaning that they’ll want to drink a lot. Keeping your dog on a leash and keeping plenty of water with you can help to curb this, but if they do get away from you, you want to keep an eye out for antifreeze that could puddle up anywhere a car would be. This can kill your dog, or at the least poison them with serious effects.

Inside is best – During the heat of the day, don’t let your Pekingese be outside for any length of time. Since they cannot regulate their body temperatures well, overheating is a very real threat to them. Keep them inside where the temperatures are normal so that you don’t have to worry about your dog overheating. If they do get overheated, cool them down quickly and if they don’t respond to this you want to get them to an emergency center right away. Watch for hard panting, anxious expressions or actions, warm, dry skin, high fevers, rapid heartbeat, collapsing, and vomiting in a dog that has been exposed to the heat for too long.

Hot concrete can hurt – If you are out when it’s hot, keep your Pekingese off the hot concrete, asphalt, or metal. This can burn their pads on their paws and cause serious pain and damage to your baby’s feet. Carry them across areas that can be too hot for them or put shoes on your dog to ensure that their feet are safe from harm.

Winter Care
Just like in the summer, there are hazards that winter weather can cause for your Pekingese. Here are some tips and tricks to help you keep your Peke safe in the winter:

Warmth is key – Remember that the weather can easily drop to a temperature that is way too cold for your Pekingese to be outside. If you have to be outside or if your Pekingese gets too cold, you need to warm them up. They cannot regulate their body temperatures well and cold weather can hurt them quicker than larger breeds. They can get the chills, sinus problems, respiratory problems, and have other illnesses that can pop up after getting too cold. Keep your Pekingese inside so that you don’t have to worry about your Pekingese getting too cold. If you have to go out, keep them warm with blankets, sweaters, shoes, and hats.
Keep their bed warm – If your Pekingese sleeps on the floor, make sure that there are no drafts that are going across their bed while they sleep. If so, you can move their bed to an area with no drafts or plug the draft to keep it warm. Make sure that they have a warm bed, such as one lined with wool or flannel that can help maintain body heat and ensure that they stay snugly and toasty all night long.

Increase their food – During the winter, dogs may get colder and need more food to keep their body temperature up. You might want to increase their feedings so that they have the energy to produce more body heat.

Don’t let their fur be wet for any period of time – Make sure that your Pekingese is completely dry after a bath or hold off on bathing for a while with waterless shampoo. Keeping your Peke dry will help keep them warm as well, and a wet Pekingese in the cold can get sicker faster.

Keep their feet safe – Just like in the summer, there are certain things (like the salt used to melt ice) that can burn a Pekingese’s pads on their feet. Keep them off of this material or keep boots on their feet to ensure that they don’t come into contact with it.

Cold can cause itchy skin – If you are walking your dog in the cold and then bringing them inside in the heat, it can cause itchy, flaky skin. You can treat this with a dog moisturizer and ensure that they are dried off as soon as you get inside. Pay attention to their feet and paws when you come in and be sure that they are dry as well.

Frostbite can happen to a dog too – Make sure that you aren’t out in the cold with your Pekingese too long, as frostbite can happen to their tails, feet, ears, and noses. If you are worried that your Peke might have frostbite, get them to your vet as soon as possible for treatment.
Traveling Tips

We all love to take our babies with us when we travel and there are special things that we need to do to keep them safe while we’re away from home. Depending on how you’re traveling, there are special things that you need to do to keep them safe. Let’s go through traveling in a car and on a plane with your Pekingese:

Car Travel

Keep your car ventilated with either warm or cool air (depending on the season) so that your dog is comfortable. Watch for signs of being overheated or too cold, and make sure that you adjust the temperature in the car to accommodate your dog.

Stop for potty breaks often. Remember that your Pekingese has a smaller bladder than you do, and even if they can hold it for a while, don’t make them and risk an accident.

Don’t feed them right before you leave, instead give a small meal about three hours before you go so that your dog doesn’t risk getting sick in the car. And, don’t feed your baby while you’re driving, water is fine, but food can cause an upset stomach in a moving vehicle.

Don’t leave your Pekingese in a car alone no matter what. Too hot or too cold temperatures can cause serious illnesses with your dog and it is never a good idea to leave your Pekingese alone in a car when you’re traveling.

Have your vet put in a microchip in your Pekingese before you go on a long trip. These are painless injections that place a small chip in your Pekingese’s skin which can help them find their way home again if they are lost. These cost less than $40 for the injection and the first year of service.

Keep a traveling kit for your dog that includes first aid items, water and food bowls, baggies for accidents, and their paperwork.
Make sure that your dog has a secure place to ride in the car that will keep them from getting hurt. There are plenty of soft and hard travel crates as well as doggie car seats that can ensure your baby is safe from harm and still allows them to see out and you to see them while you’re traveling.

Bring your own water with you when you travel. Bottled water is great and you can easily purchase this anywhere you stop. It’s best to feed your Pekingese bottled water instead of allowing them to drink from puddles or other water on the ground and keep them away from potential health hazards when you’re away from home.

**Plane Travel**

Traveling on a plane can be stressful for us, much less for our dogs. We recommend that you consider leaving your Pekingese at a boarding house instead of flying as an airplane trip can cause severe stress on your dog, especially if they have to be checked in as cargo. Most airplanes allow smaller breeds to ride in the cabin with you if their crates or travel carriers can fit under your seat. Make sure that you check with the airline that you’re considering about taking your pet with you before you book a flight. If you are taking your dog with you on a flight, here are some tips to consider:

Make an appointment with your vet for a check up before you fly to ensure that your dog is healthy enough for a flight. Get copies of their shot records and other medical information to keep with you.

Make sure that your dog has a collar with an ID tag on them at all times and get your pet microchipped before you leave.

Try to book direct flights whenever you can without layovers or stops along the way. This can separate you from your dog if you cannot take them in the cabin with you and can mean the possibility of your dog getting lost.

Buy a USDA approved crate that is large enough for your dog to stand in, turn around comfortably, and lay down in.

You want to have the words “LIVE ANIMAL” in at least 1-inch letters on the...
top, sides, and bottom of your crate. Make sure that you have large arrows on all sides indicating which way is up for your crate and have your information in case your dog gets lost on the crate where it cannot come off.

Don’t tranquilize your pet while traveling, this can cause undue stress on them and can set them up for health problems if they have to be in the cargo hold.

Freeze a small dish of water before you leave and place it in the crate in a small dish attached to the crate securely. This way the water will be unfrozen by the time that your dog is thirsty and it won’t spill all over them while you’re on your way to the airport.

Put a small pouch of food on the outside of the crate so that airline employees can feed your dog while you travel when they get hungry.

Make sure that you tell every airline employee you see when you are boarding, landing, flying, and getting off the plane that you are traveling with a pet. This way they can make sure that any special needs are met and that your pet is kept watch over while you travel. It will also help them make sure that your dog is checked on while in flight.

If your flight is delayed or has any problems, insist that your pet is checked on immediately. This can save your pet from heat or cold, and can keep them fed and watered and safe while you’re waiting.
Introduce a Second Dog

If you are bringing a Pekingese home to an older dog, you want to make sure that you take steps to keep both dogs happy and safe. Here are some tips that you should follow to make sure that everything goes smoothly:

Introduce both dogs in a neutral location before you bring the new dog home. This way, the old dog doesn’t feel territorial when they are first meeting and there will be no immediate fights over you, toys, food, or other items.

Keep them separated when they are at home for a bit. This means that the older dog stays in his or her home for the most part, but the new dog gets a small part of a room or the house so that your older dog can ease into the idea of a new dog in the house. Make sure that you pick an area that your older dog doesn’t spend a lot of time in to give to the new dog. This will help to make your older dog feel more comfortable with the new dog and ensure them that the new dog isn’t taking over their spots.

Reward them both for being nice and good behavior toward each other. It can take a while for two dogs to feel that they both belong in a new home, and when they act good toward each other, reward them. This will reinforce their good behavior and help them consider consequences when they act bad.

Make sure that your older dog keeps their bed, their food dishes, and other things that are specifically theirs. By making them share things with the new dog, you can make the older dog feel unwanted and make them act out toward the new dog.
Introducing a Cat

What if you want to bring a cat into the family with your Pekingese? There are some special considerations that you want to keep in mind when bringing in a new cat to the house. Here are some tips to help this go smoothly:

Create a safe area for the car that can be as big as a whole room or as small as a crate. Make sure that they have their own food and water as well as a litter box and a place to sleep here. Keep the food and water separate from the litter box. Keep your new cat here until they are acclimated to your house and the smells and sounds of your house.

Once the cat has been in your house for a day or so, take some of the bedding that the cat has been sleeping on and show it to the dogs. Place this in the dog’s bedding area and then take a piece of the dog’s bedding and put it in the cat’s bed so that they can both get used to smells from the other pets.

After a couple of days, put your dogs in their crates or in an area where the cat can get out of it’s room and roam around the house without feeling threatened. Give the cat an opportunity to meet the dogs and smell them without the possibility of them jumping on it.

Ease the dogs and the new cat into interacting with each other while you are there and while you have your Pekingese on a leash or in their crate. Keep the interactions to a minimum at first, and lengthen the visits a bit each time until they are doing well in the same room with each other for longer periods.

Don’t leave the new cat and your Peke unattended for a while until both are completely comfortable with the other one. We recommend that you don’t leave them alone together for at least a couple of months. If you need to leave, place the cat in it’s room or crate and the Pekingese in it’s room or crate and keep them separated.
Building a Doghouse

Even if your Pekingese isn’t going to live outside, you may want to build them a doghouse that will give them a place to play and enjoy some lazy time. You do want to make sure that you have a good design for the dog house and that you pick materials that are safe and durable. Plus, you want the dog house to look good as well. Here are areas that you want to consider when building a dog house for your Pekingese: the size, safety for your pet, materials you need, how durable it is, how your dog can move around it in, how easy it is to clean, where it will be, and the temperature that it will be at.

Wood, plastic, or metal are common materials that are used for dog houses. There are plenty of great premade dog houses that you can purchase out of all of these materials. Plastic is one of the top materials that owners choose because of it’s lightweight material and how easy it is to move around. Plus, it’s cleaner and doesn’t allow a place for parasites to nest in. It’s not a great choice for dogs that love to chew though, as it can easily be torn up. Wood is a better material for those that like to chew and it can be made to look better. It’s also easier to insulate but it can give fleas and ticks a place to nest in. Metal isn’t a good material because it cannot have the temperature regulated very easily and it’s hard and heavy.

When you build a dog house for your Peke, here are some tips and things to consider:

- **Size** – You don’t want one so big that a mastiff can live in it but you don’t want it too small either. You want to make sure that it’s about the same size as their crate would be, where they have room to turn around, lie down, and stand up comfortably. Dog houses that are too big are harder to heat or cool and won’t provide your dog with much protection.

- **Ventilation** – Make sure that the dog house has a good airflow so that in the heat there is air moving around and that in the cold there isn’t a huge amount of cold air or snow coming in.
• **Raise it up** – Don’t place it flat on the ground where water can run into the flooring or under the dog house. Instead, build it up just a little bit so that nothing can easily run into the dog house and cause problems for your dog if they are inside.

• **Safety is key** – You want to make sure that the dog house is positioned so that rain, wind, snow, and other weather won’t be able to get inside but your dog can. Put an overhang on the door to keep weather out and ensure that there are vents around the top under the overhang on the roof so that fresh air can get in without letting in the weather.

Make sure that the materials you use are pet friendly – You can get paint and other materials that are pet approved at any hardware store. Also make sure that any nails don’t come through on the other side and possibly harm your dog.

**Love Your New Pekingese**

Now that you know the basics of the Pekingese, their care, and other information about them, you can be better prepared to provide the best possible home for your new pet. Make sure that you visit http://www.pekinews.com/ often for great information, in depth care articles, and fun new things to do with your Pekingese.

*While we strive to provide the best possible information on Pekingese dogs, the information in this report is no substitute for professional veterinarian advice. Make sure that you see your vet if you have any concerns about your Pekingese’s health.*