

Angelina Lazzareschi
Health and Life Editor
Weekly Contributor: Pet Spotlight

A Beginner's Guide to Small Breeds

In this week's feature, we'll delve into my top three recommended small dog breeds, offering valuable insights into each. It's important to note that I wholeheartedly advocate for adopting over shopping, mixed-breeds shine just as brightly as their purebred counterparts. Additionally, mixed breeds will generally have less health and behavioral issues which in turn can lead them to live longer and happier lives. Now, let's delve into the fascinating details of the Chihuahua, King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, and the Beagle.



Chihuahua/Mix

The Chihuahua breed originates from Mexico, where it was commonly owned by the ancient Aztec civilization. These little companions have a lifespan of approximately 12-20 years, depending on the quality care. Additionally, their weight can vary from a mere 2.5 to 17 pounds, but this is determined by each dog's genetics. Training this breed can vary in difficulty, ranging from moderate to challenging, and depends on your level of patience. My dog, featured on the left, was fortunately a breeze to train. Strangers meet her and end up wanting a dog of their own! Considerations for adopting a Chihuahua include their strong owner orientation. Typically, they form a close bond with one person, designating them as their primary

guardian. When it comes to health, be vigilant about periodontal disease, especially since small dogs often experience dental issues.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel/Mix

The Cavalier breed became wildly popular in the United Kingdom and are seen in many popular art works alongside Kings and Queens. These charming companions boast a lifespan of approximately 10-15 years and a weight range of 12-18 pounds. These breeds are incredibly trainable, they typically love to fulfill their owners' needs. The Cavalier can quickly master a variety of tricks, including sit, shake, and stay, within a short timeframe. The Cavalier loves treats, so take advantage of that motivation for training purposes. While generally healthy, this breed is particularly susceptible to ear infections, so securing pet insurance is highly advisable, considering the recurrent nature of this health issue for them.



Beagle/Mix

Owning a Beagle is both enjoyable and demanding. They do like to test their owners as they require abundant patience and treats during training sessions. With a lifespan of approximately 12-15 years and a weight range of 20-24 pounds, Beagles may face age-related challenges such as eye problems and obesity, making them strong candidates for

reliable pet insurance. This energetic hunting dog is known for its vocal nature and

high activity levels. It is advisable to provide ample space and engaging toys that stimulate both physical and mental activity.

For additional guidance, consistent handling of the mouth, feet, ears, and tail of dogs of all breeds and ages is recommended to achieve optimal behavioral results. Teaching bite inhibition, where your pet learns to control the force of its bite, and reinforcing good behavior with treats, will guide your furry friend away from potential issues in the future. Moreover, it's crucial to conduct thorough research on dog breeds to identify the best match for both your lifestyle and the environment you are in. By incorporating these practices and selecting a compatible breed, you can develop a strong and positive relationship with your canine companion.

Editors: Elizabeth Rosales & Gianna D'Arezzo
Translation Editor: Victoria Alvarado Vicente