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## Bearded collie cross puppies

Unofficial description of the Bearded Collie or Beardie by a Beardie owner. Bearded Collie - reasons you may not want to own one (or have it own you) So you may want a Bearded Collie. You have seen some really cute puppies, or the wonderful graceful adult Beardie on TV or in a book or magazine. You are told they are wonderful with people, kids and even other animals. But - here we are listing off reason you may not want a Bearded Collie. Why? Because the cute puppy grows up. You may not have the background or temperament to own this dog breed. Do you know what you are getting into? Did you investigate the breed, and if you did - did you really read those little comments sometimes quickly said but not wanting to give a bad impression of the breed. As a herding breed, the Bearded Collie has some built in traits. As a breed, it has some characteristics. How often I have heard, with fondness, the Beardie owner laughing at how the 50 pound bouncing pet of theirs herds the kids, cats, other dogs - all the while leaving behind a trail of hair or mud. Or how their wonderful pet managed to outsmart them. We Beardie owners love these stories, we have experienced them ourselves. We have the right temperament or have taken the necessary time and training to become worthy of being owned by our Beardie. If you are reading this you are already making a good decision to educate yourself about the breed - congratulations. You should do this with any breed you are thinking of owning and many of these cautions apply to many other breeds as well. Have you read the following? To start with a puzzle..... How many Beardies do you see in the picture below? Here are some close-ups to help you..... And the answer.....? None! All of these delightful dogs have been carefully bred from a mixture of Poodle and Border Collie and have no Beardie blood at all. They all belong to the same owner and compete very successfully in the agility ring - where they are usually mistaken for Beardies..... What about this one then.....? This is Cassie, the adored childhood companion of Anna Benson, who named her after the Beardie who won BIS at Crufts in 1989 - and this Cassie would not have looked out of place in the show ring herself. But this Cassie is the result of an illicit mating between a Kennel Club registered Old English Sheepdog and a smooth coated Border Collie from a neighbouring farm and does not have a drop of Beardie blood in her veins! Below Cassie as a puppy - looking like a typical Working Beardie and nothing at all like her Old English mother. How does this happen? The answer is quite simple..... All of the dogs above have a Border Collie parent or grandparent, from which most of them have inherited the white 'Collie' markings, while the other breeds in the mix (Poodle in the first examples and Old English Sheepdog in Cassie's)have contributed the shaggy-all-over coat pattern - and the combination has resulted in Beardie-look-alikes. The inheritance of coat type and pattern is extremely complicated and I have included links to some informative (and sometimes conflicting) articles at the bottom of this page for those interested in the relevant genetics. From my own observations, however, it seems that the shaggy-all-over coat pattern is genetically dominant, so that a cross between any smooth-coated or smooth-faced breed and any shaggy-all-over breed results in shaggy-all-over offspring (but see footnote 1). And, of course, the Beardie is by no means the only breed to have a shaggy-all-over coat. The Kennel Club divides breeds into seven groups; Gundog, Hound, Pastoral, Terrier, Toy, Utility and Working .....,and every one of these groups includes breeds with the shaggy-all-over coat pattern. Nor are 'Collie' markings restricted to the Collie breeds - numerous other breeds have white markings which include a facial blaze, collar and lower legs. (see footnote 2) Which means that a vast number of mixed-breed combinations are capable of producing medium-sized, shaggy-all-over Beardie-look-alikes, which have no Beardie ancestors at all. Since it is possible to produce Beardie-look-alikes without any Beardies in their pedigrees, it is hardly surprising that a crossbred dog which really does have at least some Beardie ancestors can be well nigh impossible to distinguish from a pure-bred Beardie. And a cross between Beardie and Border lines can be even more convincing..... Above : Jill Taylor's lovely young Poppy and (below) Beth Ellis's charming Pippa (a eight months old), both believed to be Border/Beardie crosses. Since both Poppy and Pippa were re-homed to their present owners, their parentage cannot be verified - but the very handsome Beardie-look-alike in the following two pictures has a full pedigree which shows him to be the result of a cross between a Border Collie sire and a BorderxBeardie dam - and therefore only 25% Beardie. \*\*\*\*\* We have seen that any medium-sized, shaggy-all-over dog with 'Collie' markings may be mistaken for a Beardie and that a Beardie/Border cross can be especially Beardie-like in appearance - even when the percentage of Beardie blood is very small - because the two breeds are so similar in size, proportions and markings. When a Beardie is crossed with a breed of very different size or proportions, however, the resultant progeny are unlikely to be mistaken for Beardies but the shaggy-all-over coat pattern and some other Beardie characteristics may persist through many generations. A lovely example of the persistence of Beardie characteristics is the beautiful Lurcher bitch, Olive, shown below. Three quarters Greyhound and one quarter Border/Beardie mix. Olive is just one eighth Beardie but still shows the Beardie influence in her coat pattern and facial expression. Interestingly, of all the dogs shown on this page, Olive, with her calm, wise, enquiring expression, is the only one who reminds me of my own Beardies. I think she's gorgeous! Olive was bred by David and Sally Hancock, who specialize in breeding Lurchers of the traditional Greyhound x Collie (Beardie, Border, or both)mix. Above: Hancock's Boycey - Greyhound x Border/Beardie mix - and Below: Hancock's Woody - Greyhound x Border/Beardie. It is worth noting that these two handsome lads both have exactly the same percentage (25%) of Beardie blood as the last of the Beardie-look-alikes pictured above. You can see more of the Hancock's Lurchers at \*\*\*\*\* All the dogs I have shown are lovely in their different ways and most of them have been purpose-bred for particular characteristics. Many of them are Beardie-look-alikes but none of them are Beardies. So does it matter if other mixed-breed Beardie-look-alikes are sold or re-homed as 'Working Beardies', as many are, especially by re-homing centres which have found that crossbred dogs of unknown parentage have a better chance of being adopted if they are described as members of a breed? For the many people who simply want an attractive pet and like the shaggy-dog look, it probably doesn't matter at all. Indeed, the average pet owner, perhaps out at work all day, may well be very much better off with a shaggy mixed-breed dog - such as a 'Labradoodle', perhaps -than with a true Working Beardie, resulting from many generations of selective breeding for high intelligence and inexhaustible energy - and having an insatiable desire to take an active part in whatever his people might be doing, whether managing a flock of sheep or helping with the housework. But if, like me, you feel that the unique Working Beardie character is what makes him so special and that his remarkable problem-solving ability and talent for improvisation are his greatest assets, then only a genuine Working Beardie will do. Sadly, the genuine Working Beardie is becoming increasingly rare and many - perhaps most - of the dogs advertised as 'Working Beardies' today carry a high percentage of Border blood. I am a great admirer of the Border Collie - a breed unrivalled for his ability to learn a task and repeat it again and again without losing his enthusiasm, concentration or accuracy. This is the characteristic that makes him a firm favourite in sheepdog trials, agility, flyball and obedience competitions - all of which require a dog that will carry out commands with precision, never deviating from the given cue. But this character is totally different from that of the Beardie (see my article on 'Temperament' near the top of the menu) and when the two breeds are mixed, although the progeny will almost certainly inherit the Beardie coat pattern, the Beardie character is likely to be lost. So the Beardie-look-alike resulting from a Beardie/Border cross might best be described as a Border Collie with a Beardie coat. Jill Taylor's Poppy, shown above, seems to be a typical example of a Beardie/Border cross which looks like a true Beardie but has a very different character. Jill also owns a Brambledale Beardie, Glenys, and - although the two look so similar that they could be taken for sisters - Jill is struck by the difference in their characters: "Poppy is still very willful and noisy.....she likes to chase everything that moves - trains, tractors, birds, toy remote control airplanes, in fact pretty much anything including the broom and the Hoover. I am trying my best to curb this behaviour but it seems to be deeply ingrained. On the upside, she is very bright, willing and a quick learner." Poppy's obsessive chasing behaviour is something that I see regularly among the numerous Border Collies here in West Wales, where car-chasing Collies are an every day hazard for drivers on country roads and it is not unusual to see dogs which have lost a leg as a result of a misjudged chase - but still persist in their habit. Beardies love to chase too, of course, but the essentially thinking nature of the true Beardie is very different from the obsessive character of his cousin. When I watch my Beardies chasing - whether each other, a ball, or a rabbit - I see them constantly changing tactics according to the situation, always aware of what they are doing and of everything else around them. If we are to preserve the true Beardie character we must recognize that a true Beardie is very much more than a medium-sized shaggy-all-over dog with white markings - and that what makes him so special is very much more than skin deep. copyright Lynne Sharpe May 2014 Footnote 1: Although the shaggy-all-over coat pattern generally seems to be dominant over the smooth or smooth-faced coat pattern, I have seen one KC-registered Beardie bitch with two Border-Collie-type daughters, from two different litters, both sired by KC-registered Beardie dogs. This was in the mid-1960s, when 'Beardies' of unknown background could be registered if approved on inspection and I can only assume that these very handsome Border-look-alikes were the result of Border ancestors on both sides of the family. Footnote 2 : It should be remembered that some genuine Beardies have very little white marking and that the Breed Standard requires a dog "with or without white markings." Copy-and-paste links to articles on the genetics of coat type. (This is the only coat-genetics article I could find which actually mentions the Bearded Collie.) This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "Bearded Collie" - news - newspapers - books - scholar - JSTOR (July 2007) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Dog breedBearded CollieOther namesHighland Collie Mountain Collie Hairy Mou'ed CollieCommon nicknamesBeardieOriginScotlandTraitsHeight Dogs 53-56 cm (21-22 in) Bitches 51-56 cm (20-22 in)Weight 18-27 kg (40-60 lb)Coat long double coat with furnishingsColour black, blue, brown, or fawn with white or tan markingsLitter size 4-12 pupsLife span 12-14 yearsKennel club standardsThe Kennel Club standardFCI standardDog (domestic dog) The Bearded Collie, or Beardie, is a herding breed of dog once used primarily by Scottish shepherds,[1] but now mostly a popular family companion. Bearded Collies have an average weight of 18–27 kilograms (40–60 lb). Males are around 51–56 centimetres (20–22 in) tall at the withers while females are around 51–53 centimetres (20–21 in) tall.[2] History Bearded Collie, circa 1915 The legend of the Bearded Collie's origin is that the ancestors of what is today the Polish Lowland Sheepdog were abandoned on the shores of Scotland, and these dogs then bred with native herding dogs.[3] A variant on this story is that Kazimierz Grabski, a Polish merchant, reportedly traded a shipment of grain for sheep in Scotland in 1514 and brought six Polish Lowland Sheepdogs to move them. A Scottish shepherd was so impressed with the herding ability of the dogs that he traded several sheep for several dogs.[4] The Polish sheepdogs were bred with local Scottish dogs to produce the Bearded Collie. It is generally agreed that Mrs. G. Olive Willison founded the modern Bearded Collie in 1944 with her brown bitch, Jeannie of Bothkennar.[5] Jeannie was supposedly a Shetland Sheepdog, but Mrs. Willison received a Bearded Collie by accident. She was so fascinated by the dog that she wanted to begin breeding, so she began searching for a dog for Jeannie. While walking along the beach, Mrs. Willison met a man who was emigrating from Scotland; she became the owner of his grey dog, David, who became Baile of Bothkennar. Baile and Jeannie of Bothkennar are the founders of the modern breed; there are only a few other registrable blood lines, preserved in large part by the perseverance of Mr. Nicolas Broadbridge (Salen) and Mrs. Betty Foster (Bredon). These are based on Turnbull's Blue—a Bearded Collie from pure working stock, registered in ISDS when ISDS still registered non-Border Collies. He sired three litters of registrable Bearded Collies. The breed became popular during the last half of the 20th century—propelled, in part, by Potterdale Classic at Moonhill, a Bearded Collie who won Best in Show at Crufts in 1989. The Bearded Collie Club celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2005. The bearded collie is also very good natured and is good as a family pet and a working dog and a show dog. As pets A Bearded Collie with a toy rope. The Bearded Collie ranks 117 out of 175 breeds in popularity in the United States, according to the American Kennel Club's yearly breed ranking.[6] A Bearded Collie is best obtained from a reputable breeder or a dog rescue.[7][8] There are Beardie rescue associations, such as Beardie Collie Rescue[9] and "Rescue Me". These organisations attempt to place unwanted puppies and dogs into appropriate, loving homes. Most Bearded Collie breeders take great care in breeding, raising and placing their puppies.[10] Due to this, Bearded Collies are considered an "unspoiled" breed.[11] Bearded Collies make excellent pets for those willing to accommodate their high energy level - they are very enthusiastic and have a bouncy nature. They also require regular grooming; weekly brushing is mandatory for keeping their long hair mat-free. Some Bearded Collie owners opt to keep their pets in a "puppy cut" haircut, which reduces (but does not eliminate) the need for brushing. Bearded Collies are an energetic breed, originally intended to work in the Scottish Highlands herding sheep; they also excel at treibball,[12] dog agility and Obedience trials. A loyal and family-friendly dog, the Beardie can add much to the life of its owner. Bearded Collies are intelligent and obedient dogs, but they can be a bit stubborn. Bearded Collies are intelligent and obedient dogs, but they can be a bit stubborn. Bearded Collies are intelligent and obedient dogs, but they can be a bit stubborn. If you are training dogs too repetitive. Working Life A Bearded Collie herding sheep. The Bearded Collie is used to herd both sheep and cattle. It is essentially a working dog—bred to be hardy and reliable, able to stand up to the harshest conditions and the toughest sheep. The working Bearded Collie has become less common in the last few decades and risked dying out; however, thanks to the efforts of a few shepherds like Tom Muirhead and Peter Wood, the "working Beardie" has survived and is becoming more popular. It has been exported to Australia and the United States, and finds favour among those looking for an independent and intelligent sheepdog. The Working Bearded Collie Society's mission is to preserve the working abilities of non-registered working dogs from "bearded" ancestors. The website Shepherds with beardies has much valuable information on the small population of working Beardies. The KC-registered Bearded Collie has fallen into disfavour with the shepherds of Wales, Scotland and elsewhere because of the show-breeding community's lack of interest in producing "hardy and reliable" animals; show-bred lines tend to develop excessive coats, in particular. However, in some countries (notably Sweden and the United States) herding programmes have been developed for the breed. The breed organisations in those countries actively encourage breeders to emphasise qualities other than appearance. The Bearded Collie may have earned its nickname "bouncing Beardie" because the dogs would work in thick underbrush on hillsides; they would bounce to catch sight of the sheep. Beardies also have a characteristic way of facing a stubborn ewe, barking and bouncing on the forelegs. Whatever the reason, a typical Bearded Collie is an enthusiastic herding dog which requires structure and care; it moves stock with body, bark and bounce as required. Very few Beardies show "eye" when working; most are upright. Herding instincts and tractability can be assessed in noncompetitive herding tests. Beardies exhibiting basic herding instincts can be trained to compete in herding trials.[13] Health A three-year-old Bearded Collie in Scotland. The size of an average litter is seven pups. Mortality The median longevity (the age at which half of the population has died and half is still alive) of Bearded Collies from recent UK and USA/Canada surveys (the weighted average of all surveys) is 12.8 years. Beardies in the UK surveys lived longer (median—13.4 years) than their USA/Canada counterparts (median 12.0 years). Most purebred breeds have median longevityies between 10 and 13 years and most breeds similar in size to Bearded Collies have median longevityies between 11 and 13 years.[14] so the lifespan of Bearded Collies appears to be on the high end compared with other breeds (at least in the UK). Individual dogs may die much earlier or later than the median. In a 1996 USA/Canada survey, 32% of Beardies died (including accidental deaths) before the age of nine; however, 12% lived longer than 14 years.[15] The eldest of the 278 deceased dogs in the 2004 UK Kennel Club survey died at 19.5 years.[16] the age at death of the oldest dog in the USA/Canada survey was not reported. Leading causes of death among Beardies in the UK are old age (26%), cancer (19%), cerebrovascular disease (9%), and chronic kidney failure (8%).[16] Leading causes of death among Beardies in the US and Canada are old age (18%), cancer (17%), kidney failure (8%), cerebrovascular disease (4%) and hypoadrenocorticism (4%).[15] Morbidity Bearded Collie owners in the UK reported that the most common health issues among living dogs were musculoskeletal—mostly arthritis and cruciate ligament rupture (CLR)—gastrointestinal (primarily colitis and diarrhea) and urologic diseases.[16] Beardie owners in the US and Canada reported that the most common health problems were hypothyroidism, cancer, hypoadrenocorticism (also known as Addison's disease), arthritis and skin problems. Morbidity in the two studies is not easily compared, however; the UK report grouped diseases, while the USA/Canada report ranked more specific conditions. Further existing breed dispositions of the Bearded Collie include: Dermatological conditions, such as pemphigus foliaceus and black skin disease, follicular dysplasia, musculoskeletal conditions such as congenital elbow luxation, ocular conditions, such as corneal dystrophy, cataract and generalized progressive retinal atrophy (GPRA).[17] Hypoadrenocorticism Main article: Hypoadrenocorticism (also known as Addison's disease) is an inherited disease in Bearded Collies, although the mechanism of inheritance is not known.[18] It occurs when the adrenal cortex produces insufficient glucocorticoid and/or mineralocorticoid hormones. It affects approximately 2–3.4% of Bearded Collies in the USA/Canada,[15] and causes the death of at least 1% of Bearded Collies in the UK.[16] These are much higher percentages than for the general dog population (0.1%), and hypoadrenocorticism causes a disproportionate number of deaths among young dogs.[15] Early symptoms are vague and easily mistaken for other conditions. Symptoms include unexplained lethargy, frequent gastric disturbances, or an inability to tolerate stress. Untreated, hypoadrenocorticism can cause fatal sodium/potassium imbalances; with lifelong medication, most dogs can live a relatively normal life. In popular culture The role of Nana in the original production of the James Barrie play Peter Pan was performed by a Bearded Collie.[citation needed] A Bearded Collie named Coal[19] featured in the 2006 film The Shaggy Dog starring Tim Allen.[20] Ralphie, a Bearded Collie, appears in the 2009 film Hotel for Dogs. 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