

## A Short History of the Maltese

Submitted by Theresa Meyer

The Maltese dog was depicted on artwork of ancient Greek and Romans dating back to approximately 500 B.C. Egyptians have left artwork showing them in great esteem. The breed derived its name from the island of Malta, but the origin of the breed is relatively unknown. From trade port to trade port, Maltese spread throughout the lands on ships all the Mediterranean and farther.

The first evidence of the actual breed arrived in England somewhere around 1840. The first evidence of the breed in the United States starts around 1875. In 1888, the Maltese was first registered with the AKC, and was listed as a Maltese Terrier. The Terrier part of the name was dropped prior to 1928. They are more Spaniel like than Terrier like. The Maltese standard states weight under 7 pounds, with from 4 to 6 pounds preferred. Overall quality is to be favored over size. They have grown in popularity worldwide because they are so loving, portable and adapt well to changes as long as they are with their masters.

The Maltese coat is described in the breed standard as covering the body from head to foot with a mantle of long, silky, white hair. Modern techniques of caring for and preparing the coat for the show ring have added to its glamorous appearance. The white coat and coal black eyes provide quite a contrast and makes the Maltese very attractive and in demand.

The Maltese have become an important part of the purebred dog scene in the United States.

We feel the Maltese just wrap their little paws around your heart, and then there are not others to compare. They train us well!