

"HIGHLIGHTS FOR HAVANESE FANCIERS"

# HCAI HORIZONS

WINTER 2010



A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF HELPFUL INFORMATION AND FUN PHOTOS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HAVANESE CLUB OF AMERICA. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PRINT AND SHARE.

**Celebrate!**  
Your Season ... Your Reason ...  
and always ... Your Havanese!

Photos Submitted By  
Merridith Bickford Oram, Karen Grant,  
Nancy Harrison, Cindy Lisai, Karen Banim



## FEATURE ARTICLE

### **HOW BIG WILL MY PUPPY GET?**

**Written By Suzanne McKay, Mimosa Havanese**

*How Big Will My Puppy Get was first published in Our Havanese Jan/ Feb 2008. This article has received an award nomination from DWAA (Dog Writers Association of America)*

*\*reprinted with author's permission*



Photo By Suzanne McKay

#### **How big will my puppy get?**

Almost the first question anyone asks when thinking about adopting or [buying a puppy](#) is – “How big will he get?” This is an important question to think about when you are considering adding any breed into your home. Looking up breed standards is a good place to start; books such as the Canadian Kennel Club’s Book of Official Breed Standards or the [American Kennel Club’s Complete Dog Book](#) have lots of valuable information about each breed, including average size.

Height ranges for the Havanese according to the breed standard of the American Kennel Club (AKC) is 8½ to 11½ inches and 21 to 29cm (8.3 to 11.4 inches) for the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). Most people assume their puppy will grow to within these acceptable ranges. Although height does get asked about, when people ask “How big will my dog get?” for the most part what they really want to know is weight. The average mature Havanese weighs between about 8 and 13 pounds. Some weigh a bit less, some a bit more and some substantially more, a few weighing in a hefty 20+ pounds.

What about your puppy? Will your Havanese be 8 pounds or 18? How can you tell? You may get some idea by looking at the puppy’s parents. You may also get clues by seeing several other dogs in your puppy’s breedline and by talking to your breeder who knows their line best and how puppies in the past have matured. If that is not enough for you, here are a few insights to give you a handle on a puppy’s growth potential; estimating a puppy’s eventual size is not as tricky as it seems. Looking at weight at specific ages is one of the simplest methods.

The younger a puppy is, the harder it is to predict what size it will eventually be. Birth weights are the least value of all in predicting adult size. Actually, anything less than 8 weeks gives a pretty unreliable answer. Weight estimates before the age of 8 weeks give erratic results in large part because puppies are still nursing or being weaned. Nursing puppies may be heavier because of the high calorie/high fat content of mother’s milk. Puppy weights in these early weeks also depend on the size of the litter. A singleton puppy that has all the milk to himself may have a much sharper weight gain than a puppy having to share the buffet with 6 littermates.

When predicting adult size, the two easiest formulas to remember are FOUR FOLD and DOUBLE UP. Four Fold: The weight of a healthy Havanese puppy at 8 weeks of age is approximately ¼ of adult weight. Double Up: The weight of a healthy Havanese puppy at 16 weeks is approximately ½ of adult weight. The 16 week weight calculation is more reliable than the 8 week one. The 8 week calculation is reasonably accurate to within +/- 15% while the 16 week calculation is +/-10%.

Most breeders will have 8 week puppy weights and can give you an assessment as to what size to expect your puppy to mature. At that age, puppies are approximately ¼ of adult weight. The majority of puppies will see the Veterinarian around 4 months of age as this is a typical age for a check up and Booster shot of puppy immunizations. At 16 weeks, a Havanese puppy is approximately ½ of his adult weight. Whether this weight is measured closer to 15 weeks or 17 weeks may make the difference of up to 1 pound or so less or more than calculated which is a factor to keep in mind.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

(continued)

With the above factors taken into consideration, it is possible to make a reasonable guess of a puppy's weight at maturity using the Four Fold and Double Up formulas. These formulas work quite well for approximately 85% of Havaneese. Many more are either a few ounces below or above. Very few are significantly off. The formulas are not 100% accurate but do provide pretty good ballpark estimates. Where they appear to not work, often you can find a simple reason like weights not taken on the right date, scale variation, not including margin of error, or not taking breedline maturing into consideration. Fast maturing lines may mature slightly lower than calculated and slow maturing lines may mature slightly higher. A preemie puppy or sickly puppy will have a larger margin of error in any calculations and adult weight is much harder to predict. Many factors can also affect the mature weight of a puppy. Weight may vary depending on genetics and bloodline, diet and exercise. An adult dog with 2-3 extra pounds around his middle is not an exception. He needs a diet.

Here are a few examples.

Example # 1) Scamp at 8 weeks weighed exactly 3lbs. Using the Four Fold formula (8wk weight x 4), we figure that his adult weight will be around 12 pounds. Factoring in the 15% margin of error gives a projected range of 10lbs3oz to 13lbs13oz. As an adult, Scamp weighs 12lbs3oz which is right about where we calculated he would be.

Example # 2) Cricket weighed in at 2lbs4oz at 8 weeks of age. A rough estimate using the Four Fold formula (8wk weight x 4) told us to expect about a 9 pound adult. Her 16 week weight was 4lbs 4oz. An estimate using the Double Up formula (16wk weight x 2) gave us 8lbs8oz. So we expected 8½ to 9 pounds. At her first birthday, Cricket only weighed in at 7 pounds. What happened? Even factoring the margin of error, 7 pounds is still well below expected range. A closer look at her breedline and a chat with her breeder told us that she was from a very slow maturing breedline and that we could expect a growth spurt around 18 months. So we waited. At 2 years of age, Cricket weighed in at 8lbs 9oz, which fits in nicely where we initially expected her to be. At 6 years of age, she is at 8lbs11oz.



Photo Submitted by Laurie Frangione

Example #3) Scruffy at 17 weeks weighed 9lbs5 oz. Using the Double Up formula (16 wk weight x 2), we figure that his adult weight will be roughly 18lbs10oz. We know he may be a little less than that as we are using a 17 week weight rather than a 16 week weight, but still can guess pretty definitively that he will be a big boy. Including the 10% margin of error, we calculate a range of 16lbs12oz -20lbs8 oz. As an adult Scruffy weighs 18lbs 5 oz., very close to what was expected.

Although not 100% accurate, the formulas Four Fold and Double Up can give a pretty good insight into answering the question "How big will my puppy get?". Take a peek at your Veterinary records and make note of your puppy's weight around 4 months of age. Try the formula out and see if it worked for you. I would love to hear back from you so that I can add your Havaneese puppy into my breed statistics. Please include litter size, exact age at weight measure, and any special circumstances like any illness etc.

Email [mckay55@mts.net](mailto:mckay55@mts.net)



Photo By Suzanne McKay

## BOOK REVIEW

**Woofs, Wiggles and Wags: Raising a Toy Breed Puppy**

Author: Suzanne McKay

Publisher: SHM Publications: Suzanne H. McKay

ISBN: 978-0-9810997-1-2

Submitted by Patt McRae

When I began switching my focus from working dogs I thought: no problem. A dog is a dog is a dog. Well I and others were in for a surprise. Even a dear friend who is an AKC judge came out of the ring when she first began showing a toy breed huffing and said: 'Did you see that little fluff ball throw me around the ring?' I was smothering giggles because the little fluff ball had, indeed, thrown her around the ring! That was when we began to understand that there is a difference in a toy/companion puppy and other breeds. But it has taken almost ten years for someone to write about it and finally a book about raising a toy breed puppy has arrived.

The author, Suzanne McKay, was among the first wave of Havaneese owners in Canada and has since become known for her work on color genetics producing an amazing gallery showing off and detailing the color changes in [Colors of the Rainbow](#).

Physically :I like this new book, *Woofs, Wags and Wiggles* very much. It's smaller size belies the richness of its content. At 5 inches by 8 inches you can slip it in your pocket or purse to read during 'dead time', insert in a folder for the prospective owner or ship it rather inexpensively to a friend. The layout is crisp making the best use of space without sacrificing information.

## BOOK REVIEW

(continued)

Content: McKay doesn't leave out the standard puppy buying concerns but she begins on page one making the point that toys have being small in common but that is where the similarity ends. Physically they are different within and without the category and temperamentally they can be different. Another welcome is the price of a puppy broken down in budget form. While the prices might be a bit off in some areas they are about 90% accurate. She breaks it down into initial costs then yearly maintenance. What I don't see in the yearly maintenance that I wish had been included was a budget line for health testing, specifically eyes in Havanese. I thought, perhaps, it was under veterinary care but given she only lists \$120-\$175 for veterinary care, it is hard to imagine that would include health checks. Chapter 2 dazzles with her explanation of pedigrees and why they are important, even to a pet owner.

I rarely see a coherent explanation of puppy development but McKay does an excellent job in Chapter Four breaking down the sections into 3-6 months, 4-9 months and 9-12 months. She specifically points out that puppies become teenagers sooner than you are probably ready for and that an adolescent puppy's needs are different. McKay's section on housebreaking is excellent hammering home the notion that if the puppy were a St Bernard, the owner might not be so complacent about toilet training.



Photo Submitted by Karen Grant

Another chapter I rarely see is one dealing with manners. As a breeder and exhibitor myself this has to be my favorite chapter. McKay minces no words with the way humans spoil toy dogs then complain because they've become little hellions. Other topics in the chapter on Manners is mounting; growling; mouthing and biting; barking, and just plain 'spoiled rotten'.



Photo Submitted by Cindy Lisai

And last, but not least, is the small 'cookbook' in the back of recipes for your favorite toy dog.

I have few criticisms of the book but I do wish for more colored photos although I realize that the price would have to go up then. But there are colored photos of each breed as well as black and white photos in each chapter. For sure this will join other dog books on my bookshelf.

Below are instructions for obtaining the book.

For those who want to order online contact, here is the link to the website, for information as well as online ordering [www.woofwags.com](http://www.woofwags.com)

The publishers are currently running a special with free S/H anywhere to continental North America \$24.95 single books

breeder specials (free shipping)  
 5-9 books 30% off (\$17.45 each)  
 10-19 books - 40% off (\$14.95 each)  
 20+ Books - 50% off (\$12.45 each)



Photo Submitted by Jacqui Carney

SPECIAL FEATURE

**HAVANESE RESCUE**

Written By Havanese Rescue, Inc.

**Meet Havanese Rescue Foster Dog, Junie Bug**

This is a portion of a note, written by Junie B's foster mom, following the first of several surgeries she will require, earlier this week.

*If Junie could talk, she'd be screaming "THANK YOU" for all the good wishes sent prior to her procedure today. In the three weeks she's been here we have seen her blossom- from an abandoned street pup, to quarantined dog, to a delightful and loving life-to-the-fullest bundle of love. Junie makes me think my three spoiled Havs take most things for granted!*



*Junie is grateful for every little thing that is done for her. She can't contain herself when I put her little coat and harness on. Can you imagine? She licks my fingers as I clean her eyes or give her a bath! She spins and spins in circles with a huge happy smile when I feed her, take her outdoors, or just because I've arrived home. Three nights ago she scampered into her crate next to my bed when we all went upstairs to turn in for the evening and was so proud of herself for remembering that the warm padded crate was her spot.*

[havanese Rescue.com](http://havanese Rescue.com)

Havanese jewelry, socks, sweats and tees  
Mugs and doggie toys and ornaments for your trees  
Items to tickle and items to please  
We've gathered it all to make your holiday shopping a breeze!



Happy Hadydays from Havanese Rescue  
and the HavToHavIt General Store!

[havtohavit.com](http://havtohavit.com)

Thank you so much for your support of rescue and our little store.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### NATURAL FLEA PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Written By Robin Mosher

Submitted by Jan Smith

#### Natural Flea Prevention and Control

If you don't have a flea problem or you're anticipating "flea season" you can use some easy Natural preventatives that I am listing below. If fleas have already gained entry to your home on your Havanese there are also many ways to address an infestation. You may not think you have an infestation if you only find a few fleas on your Havanese, but remember, for every flea hanging out on your Havanese, there may be as many as 30 more in her environment. Before reaching for chemicals, poisons and pesticides, try these safer more Natural options:

1. Add brewer's yeast, garlic, or apple cider vinegar, to your Hav's food.

2. (This one is my personal favorite): Add GSE (Grapefruit Seed Extract) to your Hav's water. 5 drops each time you fill up her bowl. It not only helps to prevent fleas and ticks from taking up residence on your Hav by changing her immune response, it also helps prevent and protect her from other environmental nasties like Giardia, Coccidia, and general tummy troubles from any bacteria in her food or something she shouldn't have eaten.

3. Citrus is a natural flea deterrent. Pour a cup of boiling water over a sliced lemon. Include the lemon skin, scored to release more citrus oil. Let this mixture soak overnight, and sponge or spray on your Hav to kill fleas instantly. ( Do not use citrus oil on cats). The spray works GREAT as a preventative, just carry it with you and spray some liberally on her legs and tummy before visiting grassy areas where fleas might be hiding waiting to jump on. You can also save any leftover portion in the fridge for 7 days. After that, it's better to make some fresh.

4. Bathe and comb your Hav regularly. Use mild soap, not insecticides. If fleas are found on the comb, dip the comb in a glass of soapy water. Ivory Soap has an excellent reputation for safely and gently killing fleas if you find any. Just use the Ivory Soap full strength and let it sit on her for 3-5 minutes. (longer if you found a lot of fleas.) the soap will kill them and then rinse her off, followed by a good quality dog shampoo and conditioner.

5. Cedar shampoo, cedar oil and cedar-filled sleeping mats are commercially available. Cedar repels many insects including fleas. Try a Google search for pet-safe Cedar products. My Havs have homemade, unstained Cedar boxes for beds. You can buy the Cedar wood at big box hardware stores for closets where they keep out moths and silverfish. Same principle for a flea problem.

6. For long-term nontoxic control of fleas, sprinkle Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth (also called DE) where you see any fleas, including carpets and bedding. You can also rub Diatomaceous Earth into your Hav's hair to instantly dehydrate and kill any fleas. I feed DE to my Havs daily as a immune support supplement and completely Natural wormer. It will kill ALL intestinal worms except for Tapeworm. Heartworm is a whole 'nother subject altogether and if the nice folks at Havanese Horizons ask me to, I will write about Heartworm in the next issue.

7. Fleas in the carpet? The carpet should be thoroughly vacuumed especially in low traffic areas, under furniture, etc. Put Diatomaceous Earth in the vacuum cleaner bag to kill any fleas that you vacuum up, and put the bag in an outdoor garbage bin. (I have a Dyson and you can put some in the cannister.) Also, putting some DE on the carpet before vacuuming is even better.

8. Trap fleas in your home using a wide, shallow pan half-filled with soapy water. Place it on the floor and shine a lamp over the water. Fleas will jump to the heat of the lamp and land in the water. The detergent breaks the surface tension, preventing the flea from bouncing out. There are a couple of commercial products that also use this same principle, but the homemade version works just as well and is considerably cheaper.

9. In the yard or garden, plant Fleabane (Fleabane Daisy Erigeron Speciosus) to repel fleas from your yard and plants. This is an annual growing 16-24" tall with violet, daisy like flowers.

Hope this helps....

Robin and The Havanasilk Havanese



Photo Submitted By Ann Adams

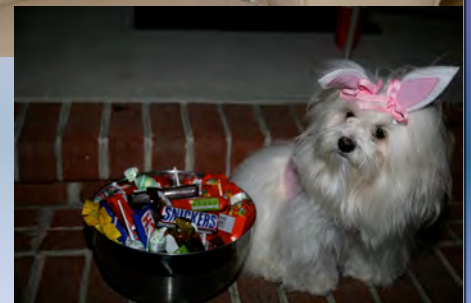
A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF HELPFUL INFORMATION AND FUN PHOTOS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HAVANESE CLUB OF AMERICA. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PRINT AND SHARE.

# Every Day is a Holiday ... with your Havanese!

FUN FOTOS FEATURE



## Celebrate 'em!



Photos Submitted by Pattie Zielke, Claudie Parrish, Laurie Fragione, Nancy Harrison, Kara C K