

Why Choose a Breeder and  
not a Pet Store?

[PAGE 1](#)

- Dog Shows - What are they about? (Article 2 of a series)
- To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate

[PAGE 2](#)

- Toy Corner - Make it Yourself!
- Havanese Roundtable

[PAGE 3](#)

- Havanese - Cuba's Only Native Breed

[PAGE 4](#)

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# HCA Horizons

## "Highlights For Havanese Fanciers"

### Why Choose a Breeder and not a Pet Store?

By Claudia DeVita

Like what you see in HH?  
Then subscribe to the  
Havanese Hotline <http://www.havanese.org/documents/subscribe.htm>  
the official publication of  
the Havanese Club of  
America for more in depth  
news of local clubs, rescue  
stories, rally articles and  
other handy tips.



Got Mail?

Join the many Havanese  
discussion lists online!  
Some of these groups  
include:

Havanese,  
HavaneseShowForum,  
JustHavPuppies in Yahoo,  
and  
Havaneseforum.com

Your kids are dragging you across the street to "SEE THE PUPPIES !!!" which are frolicking in the window of the local shopping mall pet store. You are feeling very torn as you are positive that there are many good reasons why *not* to go into the store, but the kids are now jumping in glee over a special puppy that keeps looking at them begging them to take him home. The kids are inside so you are now stuck .... you dreadfully walk in.

Once inside, the lure of the beautiful, charming bundles of fur are now pulling at you and you are beginning to feel the kids' excitement and overwhelming maternal or paternal feelings are starting to take over. All the practical information you read as you thoroughly researched while looking for a new canine addition to the family has gone by the wayside and the owner of the pet store has started to walk towards you. The worst part of all; the breed that the computer Pet Matcher came up with, is right there in front of your eyes. The perfect children's companion, non-shedding, hypo-allergenic ..... a Havanese puppy! Could this be fate? Could this be a sign that you are the one who will "save" this puppy from the horrors that you have heard about? Could your kids be traumatized for life if you don't save this particular black and white, perfectly adorable wide eyed puppy? Well, that is pretty much what that pet store owner is banking on. That and the fact that emotional buying is going to sell that puppy all by itself. Let's forget for a moment that the pup you are sure that is earmarked to be yours, and all the other puppies there, were probably purchased out of a large load of puppies unloaded off the back of some

truck that pulls into the back of the pet store every month and *not* the "breeder" that the pet store owner is promising you "really" bred that pup. Let's also suppose that there is a *special*/today and that you can get the last Havanese puppy available for a reduced price with a lifetime warranty to boot. Also, these very *rare* minis here today, have real papers and for you only, this special price cannot be beaten.

Sadly, this scenario is all too common, and even the best of us have fallen into this trap. Generally speaking, all puppies sold at pet stores are from puppy millers. The definition of a puppy miller is one who raises and sells puppies for the sole purpose of making money. These puppies are rarely socialized properly, since they are mass produced. The health clearances recommended by the breed's parent club are rarely in place and many times the poor mother has had litter after litter and may be disposed of after her job is finished. The goal of the pet store owner and the breeder is to make money, and nothing else. There will be no follow up when problems arise, and in many cases the puppy will not only have worms and parasites, ear infections, or malnutrition, but it can have more serious and life-threatening ailments. The most important period of time for puppy socialization has passed, and although the puppy seems friendly now, his true temperament will not become apparent until much later. The pet store carries the most *in vogue* breeds and sadly the Havanese is exactly that at this time. The papers are not going to be AKC registration papers, and in many cases falsified papers with fancy seals and emblems are drafted and printed up on the computer. The risk

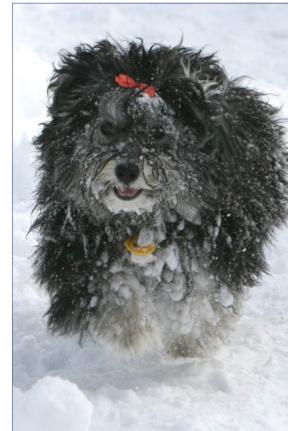
## Breeder not Pet Store...

(Continued from page 1)

of bringing one of these pups home far exceeds the positives. The worst part is that as you walk out that door with that puppy, the pet store owner is now convinced he needs to replace that very pup with five more of the same breed because you have helped to assure him that this breed is a hot-ticket item. You have done the breed much more harm than good. Even if you can make a great pet out of this puppy, you have lost sight of the bigger picture.

Hopefully it is not too late to begin your search for a solid, experienced, respected breeder, and if there is a wait for the right pup, it will be well worth it. Most importantly, the next time you see a pet store in the local strip mall, quickly direct your kids away from it and into the ice cream store.

## From this .... to this! Spring is here!



Piper romps in the snow.  
Photo taken and submitted by Jane and Johnie Thomsen



Lilli observes the ducklings.  
Photo taken and submitted by Karen Banim

## Dog Shows - What are they all about anyway?

(Article 2 of a series) by Cindy Lisai

So, did you see the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show on TV? Isn't that such fun to watch? If you missed it, don't forget you can still go to [www.westminsterkennelclub.org](http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org) and catch up on all the highlights and details, and don't forget the individual breed videos where you can go to watch all of the dogs that competed for the Best of Breed title. We had a wonderful Havanese entry this year of about 30 dogs, so it's a great place to go to see an exciting variety of our enchanting breed! Last time in our article we covered a bit of the history of dog shows, and as promised this time we will go over a bit about just how it is those dogs seen in the "Groups" got there.

At any dog show each breed is judged individually, with the dog that the judge deems to be the best example of the breed on that day being awarded "Best of Breed" and this is the only dog of each breed (some 150+) that will progress to the "Group" for further judging that day. This is why when you see a dog show on TV you only see one dog of each breed as it is represented in its Group. The AKC has seven Groups; the Sporting Group, Hound Group, Working Group, Terrier Group, Toy Group (that's where you will see the Havanese), the Non-Sporting Group, and the Herding Group; each Group having been designed to organize the breeds according to their original function.

The Sporting Group is comprised of those breeds that were bred to assist in the sport of hunting game fowl and retrieving it. The Hound Group is also comprised of hunting dogs but these dogs assist more by chasing the game to where they keep it at bay until the hunter arrives. The Working Group is made up of a variety of breeds that all perform some form of work for their masters. Some are guard dogs, some are sledding or pulling dogs, some are herding dogs and some do a combination of such tasks. The Terrier Group is just that, all the Terrier breeds, whose original function was to hunt and "go to ground" for rats, badgers and other small animals and varmints. The Toy Group was designed for the smaller of the AKC breeds, whose function has always been to be the companion and comforter of their master. The Non-Sporting Group is comprised of those breeds who's original function didn't really fall into any of the other group categories specifically. Today, most of these dogs serve as companions much like those dogs of the Toy Group. Last but not least, is the Herding Group, which is made up of those breeds whose purpose has always been to work and herd the livestock of their masters.

Enough for now? OK! Next time we will go over how a judge judges each breed, and then each group - and then on to the coveted Best in Show!

## To Vaccinate or not to Vaccinate, That is The Burning Question

Over the past three years there have been growing discussions about the over vaccination of dogs (and cats) both as a routine and as an annual booster. Last year the first year of the Canine Rabies Challenge Study began. (<http://www.rabieschallengefund.org/page4.html>) at the University of Wisconsin. It's goal is to demonstrate that the time between rabies vaccinations can be safely extended to 5-7 years.

From the Rabies Challenge Fund Website:

### Why Challenge Current Rabies Vaccine Policy?

Rabies vaccination is required by law in nearly all areas. Even though protection from rabies is documented to last at least three years, current law in some states or areas still requires that boosters be given annually or biannually rather than the standard policy of every three years. However, vaccination against rabies virus is occasionally associated with debilitating adverse effects. According to the CDC domestic animals account for less than 10% of the reported rabies cases, with cats, cattle, and dogs most often reported rabid.

Scientific data indicate that vaccinating dogs against rabies every three years, as most states require, is unnecessary. Studies have shown the duration of protective immunity as measured by serum antibody titers against rabies virus to persist for seven years post-vaccination. By validating the 'true' life of rabies virus immunity and moving to five and hopefully seven years, we will decrease the risk of adverse reactions in our animals and minimize their repeated exposure to foreign substances.

# Toy Corner - Make it yourself !

by Jan Smith

With so many warnings, I've turned to making toys for our dogs. If you're really ambitious you could make elaborate toys, but I've found that my dogs are quite happy with simple things.

To make the toys I look for flannel that is made in the USA and cut six 1 inch wide strips the same length anywhere from 12 to 25 inches long. Using 6 of the strips you cut, tie a knot at one end leaving a couple of inches of fringe then begin braiding. I divide the 6 strands of flannel into 3 parts and braid until I reach the desired length, stopping with plenty of room to tie it off and leave fringe.

Another simple toy to make requires a piece of flannel approximately 8 inches long and 3 inches wide. Fold the material lengthwise and sew across the bottom and up the length of the long open side. Turn the material right side out and stuff the tube with strips of flannel and then sew across the top.

The reason I use flannel strips for stuffing is that should the toy come apart, I can recycle the strips and braid them to make another toy. Also, if the toy rips, I don't have the mess of picking up stuffing materials.

These toys easily handle the dogs taking them outside and we have a few that have been through thunderstorms and mud. Throw them in the washing machine and they're good as new. Here's Peter showing you one of his flannel toys.



## To Vaccinate or not...

(Continued from page 2)

Killed vaccines like those for rabies virus can trigger immediate and delayed adverse vaccine reactions (termed "vaccinosis") While there may be immediate hypersensitivity reactions, other acute events tend to occur 24-72 hours afterwards, or up to 45 days later in the case of delayed reactions. Reactions that have been documented include:

- § Behavior changes such as aggression and separation anxiety
- § Obsessive behavior, self-mutilation, tail chewing
- § Pica - eating wood, stones, earth, stool
- § Destructive behavior, shredding bedding
- § Seizures, epilepsy
- § Fibrosarcomas at injection site
- § Autoimmune diseases such as those affecting bone marrow and blood cells, joints, eyes, skin, kidney, liver, bowel, and central nervous system.
- § Muscular weakness and or atrophy
- § Chronic digestive problems

## Rabies Exemptions and Waivers

Rabies Vaccination is required by law. In some instances, it is possible to secure a written waiver for exemption from rabies booster vaccination. A letter justifying the medical reason for such exemption needs to be obtained from your primary care veterinarian. When seeking a waiver, a rabies serum antibody titer should be performed. Adequate serum rabies titers are at least 1:5 by the RFFIT method. Waiver requests are not generally accepted based on serum antibody titers alone, but may be granted on a case-by-case basis with justification. Waivers are not granted as a matter of personal preference, and localities often do not permit waivers and exemptions regardless of the justification.

Part of the problem is that each locale has a different policy regarding canine vaccinations, so it has taken a while to identify the results of over vaccination. Bookmark the website; discuss it with your veterinarian, copy the press release from the website and take it to your veterinarian. Support the research to the extent that you can.

## Havanese Roundtable

### Question:

"Is it true that Havanese don't shed at all?."

### Answer:

1. All dogs shed, and Havanese are not any different. We are a low dander breed which is why they are less prone to cause allergies; although there are still some people who are allergic. The HUGE difference is that we are not a "drop-shed" breed that leaves clumps of hair all over your home and the amount of shedding is different for different breeds. Havanese hair does not fall out in the quantities that, say, a Labrador coat does. Additionally, the relatively small amount that does fall out generally becomes "trapped" in the rest of the coat and is removed during grooming. If you don't comb the dead hair out, you will get matts, and if it during their cycle it is even worse, as I am discovering this week :) A well maintained and conditioned coat will have a minimum amount of shedding and breakage. This would include, perhaps, keeping your pet in a 'puppy cut', regular shampooing with a gentle shampoo and conditioner, and brushing 3-5 times a week with a pin brush. *Patt McRae*

Have a question for Havanese Roundtable? Please submit your questions to the Editor at [aetzig@comcast.net](mailto:aetzig@comcast.net), and remember to include "Question for Round-table" in the subject line!



Salsa & Lilli

Photo taken and submitted by  
Karen Banim



*Above:*  
Cuban CH "Puppy" (1988-2002) the  
first Bichon Havanese Champion of  
Cuba and beloved lifelong friend of  
Alfredo Sanz Peraza, Havana, Cuba.  
Puppy was born of a litter of six in  
December of 1988, and featured  
here in 1992 on a Cuban postage  
stamp celebrating the nation's only  
purebred dog: the Havanese.

The Havanese, having been known through history by a variety of different names including: the Petit Chien Havane, the Blanquito de la Habana, the Blanquito Cubano, the Perro de Seda de la Habana, the Havanese Silk Dog, the Havana Silk Dog, the Spanish Silk Poodle, the Bichon Havanais, and the Bichon Habanero, remains today as the only native breed of Cuba.

The Havanese is the only Cuban breed recognized by the AKC. The Havanese Club of America (HCA) is the American Kennel Club (AKC) Parent Club of the Havanese Breed.

# Havanese

Cuba's only native breed.



*Petit Chien havane.*

*Above:*  
A steel engraving circa 1860

The Havanese, often said to be the National dog of Cuba, is still the "charming little dog" of the Island today. *Zoila Portuondo Guerra of Cuba writes*, "The Bichon Habanero is a toy companion dog that, over more than a hundred years and with out much of a fuss, has been accepted in the Cuban family as an integral part of people's lives, of the country's history and its culture. It is the only canine breed of Cuban origin."

*The following is an excerpt from the AKC Standard, approved June 1995, effective February 1, 1996.*

"The Havanese is an old breed of the Bichon family. The earliest references to the ancestors of the modern Havanese go back to 23 to 79 B.C. in the Mediterranean region, and quite possibly the island of Malta. Also known as the Havana Silk Dog, today's Havanese descended from the dogs that found a permanent home in Cuba, where they were popular among the wealthy Cubans. After the Cuban revolution in 1959, many of these dogs ended up in the United States.

Today the Havanese is a happy, outgoing, sturdy, short-legged small dog with a soft profuse, untrimmed coat. Combining an outgoing temperament with their trainability, Havanese are excellent candidates for obedience training. He is an affectionate, happy dog with a lively, springy gait."

As guardians of this enchanting breed,  
the HCA and its members are committed to:

Encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Havanese and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;

Urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which Havanese shall be judged; and

To do all in its power to protect and advanced the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials and agility events.



*Above:*  
2002 postage stamp featuring the Bichon Havanais from The Republique De Guinee, a Nation in West Africa with its base at the Atlantic Ocean.

*For complete information  
on the Havanese Club of America,  
and the Havanese Breed,  
please visit us at  
[www.havanese.org](http://www.havanese.org)*

Demonstrating its commitment to the health of the Havanese Breed, the HCA is a founder of the Donor Advisors Fund of the Canine Health Foundation and continues to be a major supporter of efforts to improve the health of the breed.



*Right:*  
"Portrait of a Young Woman" painted by  
Vincente Escobar, famous  
Cuban portrait painter  
(1757-1854) shows a young  
lady with a Blanquito de la  
Habana. The original painting  
is held in the archives of  
the Salas del Museo National  
de Cuba in Havana.