



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.

Welcome to our Beloved Breed From The Havanese Club of America

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. *Zolla 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 trails 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.

Right:
"Portrait of a Young Woman" painted by Vicente 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 Nacional de Cuba in Havana.



*For complete information
on the Havanese Club of America,
and the Havanese Breed,
please visit us at
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.