

Dog Breeds That Don't Shed

Find dog breeds that don't shed or are less likely to shed. There are many small breeds and large breeds of dogs that don't shed.

By Kathy Salzberg, NCMG

Q. I am interested in getting a dog but my wife doesn't like the idea because they shed a lot. Can you suggest some dog breeds that don't shed much?

A. Many people want a dog who does not shed because they have allergies. While this may not be your wife's main concern, it is useful to note that most allergies are caused by dog dander, not the hair they shed. Dander is the dead skin that falls off the dog, depositing itself all over the house and wafting through the air into your nose and eyes in the process. All dogs produce dander, but some dogs produce a lot less of it.

Dogs also pick up pollen when outside, carrying it home to add to their owners' allergy woes. The thicker the coat, the more they can carry. With that said, whether it's housekeeping or allergens that pose a problem, you and your wife are in luck. There are many wonderful dog breeds that are neither heavy shedders nor copious allergen producers.

Here are some of my favorite dog breeds that don't shed, listed by size to help you find the right not shedding companion for you and your family.

Small dogs that don't shed:

Basenji
Bedlington Terrier
Bichon Frise
Bolognese
Border Terrier
Brussels Griffon
Cairn Terrier
Chinese Crested
Coton de Tulear
Havanese
Lhasa Apso
Maltese
Miniature Poodle
Miniature Schnauzer
Shih Tzu
Silky Terrier
Toy Poodle
West Highland White Terrier
Xoloitzcuintli
Yorkshire Terrier

Medium dogs that don't shed:

Cocker Spaniel-Poodle mix
Lowchen
Kerry Blue Terrier
Miniature Poodle
Portuguese Water Dog
Puli
Standard Schnauzer
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
Wirehaired Fox Terrier
Large dogs that don't shed:
Airedale Terrier
Bouvier Des Flandres
Giant Schnauzer
Irish Water Spaniel
Labrador Retriever-Poodle mix
Standard Poodle
Tibetan Terrier

Many of these dog breeds have high-maintenance grooming needs, but are breeds that shed a significant amount less than others. As always, thorough research and evaluation of your lifestyle are important when selecting a dog breed. I wish you well in your search and hope you find the one that is just right for you!