

# Miniature Australian Shepherd

Essentially an Australian Shepherd in miniature, they share the same ancestry, digressing from Aussie's ideal only in size.

With no major kennel control recognising the Mini-Aussie there is much debate regarding whether or how they should be classified. Adherents being divided between those wishing to see the breed develop independently and those who prefer it to remain a variety of its full-sized cousin. Australian Shepherd purists, however, have set their face against the inclusion of a smaller version so the latter group's aspirations appear unlikely to gain favour in the foreseeable future.

The MDR-1 mutant gene status of these little dogs is rather more serious than its larger relation, and of the 56 DNA tested for the original study a little under half had inherited at least one copy of the mutated gene.

**Note:** Mini-Aussies are approximate 4 inches (10cm) smaller than the standard size, with some enthusiasts aiming to reduce this still further to produce a **Toy** version; ideally 8 inches (20cm) shorter than the currently accepted Australian Shepherd standard, all agree that both should retain Aussie proportions.

