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Fact Sheet: Shih Tzu

Dog type: utility

History:

- The Shih-Tzu originally came from Tibet. Shih-Tzus were kept in temples as sacred dogs.
- Some were given to the Emperors of China as temple dogs. They were carefully guarded in the palace.
- After the death of the Empress Cixi in 1908 Shih Tzus were no longer bred at the palace and the breed almost became extinct.

Did you know....?

- Shih Tzus were very popular with the Royal family in China during the time of the Ming dynasty. People competed to breed dogs that the royals would like to gain favour.
- The name 'Shih Tzu' means 'lion'. The lion is linked to Buddhism, the religion of Tibet and China. Shih Tzus were bred to look like lions.

Shih-Tzus as pets:

- Friendly.
- Strong character.
- Like to be with people.
- Need regular brushing.