



### Average size, weight & lifespan

Less than 30cm  
4kg – 6kg  
14 – 17 years

### General Appearance

The Bichon is a small sturdy white powder puff. The breed is considered to be “non-allergenic” by many people, and so may be the ideal dog for people with allergy problems. It is suggested to visit the breeder and have contact with the dogs before purchasing to ensure that they suit if allergies are a problem.

### Background

It is believed that the Bichon Frise was first known as the Bichon Tenerife, came from the Canary Islands and the Spanish sailors and pirates in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century took them as gifts to their ladies and used them for bartering. They were first introduced into Australia in the 1970’s.

### Characteristics/Temperament

They are gentle mannered, sensitive, playful and affectionate. A cheerful attitude and very merry is the hallmark of the breed. It should be primarily an inside dog because of its devotion to the family.

### Exercise

They do not require a lot of exercise as they love a walk regularly and they also love to run and play in the backyard with the family.

### Grooming

The Bichon Frise requires regular grooming and brushing of at least twice a week. They need to be bathed regularly and also need to be kept trimmed every 6-8 weeks.

### Health

The Bichon Frise is considered to be a “clean” breed and is not known to have any life threatening inherited diseases. A few minor problems can be Patella luxation (slipping knee caps), Bilateral hereditary cataracts and bladder stones which can be inherited or can be diet. Bichons also need dental care as they are prone to losing teeth at an earlier than normal age if not attended to.

### Contacting Council

If you require any further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issue, please call Council on 1300 878 001 or visit the Townsville City Council website at [www.townsville.qld.gov.au](http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au) and follow the links to Pets and Animals.

