

Frequently Asked Questions

Submitted by Denise McLean

Where do they come from?



- The longhaired trait in Weims is genetically, a simple recessive gene. This means that shorthair is dominant and shorthairs can carry the longhair gene without the owner knowing it. Longhairs can appear in a litter with 2 shorthaired parents if they both carry the gene. Entire litters of longhairs can only be produced by breeding 2 longhaired parents.

Are they registered?

- Yes, longhaired weims are registerable with kennel clubs all around the world. There is no separate registration with either the Canadian Kennel Club or the American Kennel Club.

Can you show them?

- Yes, they may be shown in conformation in Canada and in all countries except for the USA. They are allowed to compete in all performance events such as Obedience, agility, tracking and field both in Canada and the USA!



A litter of Short and Long hairs

Why are they so rare?

Since longhairs are a disqualification in USA, breeders have attempted to eliminate the trait. Longhaired puppies appearing in litters from shorthaired parents were culled, sold as pets or sold to other countries that accept longhairs.

Rarity can also, unfortunately, lead to bad breeding as unscrupulous breeders use any longhair available to produce "rare" puppies. This can result in an overall deterioration in health and temperament in the breed.

Is their temperament different from a shorthaired Weim?

No. Longhairs have the same range of temperaments as shorthairs. The only big difference is that they tend to not like to sleep under the covers like the shorthairs do - they get too hot. They also enjoy playing outside in the snow more than the shorthairs.

How much hair do they have?

The amount of hair that a longhair has can vary. Some have a coat similar to an Irish setter (with out all the long feathers) or a field-bred English Setter. Some have a coarser and more abundant coat making it look more similar to a Flat-coated Retriever. The coat is not supposed to be as abundant as that of a Golden Retriever or a husky. Take a look at the many pictures posted on the internet to see the variation in coats. Some good sites include:

<http://www.weimclubamerica.org/worldweims/longhair/index.html>

<http://www.weimaraners.com/coats.htm>

How much grooming do they need?

During shedding season, they need brushing everyday. Otherwise, once a week is adequate.

Do they shed?

Yes, they shed the same as a shorthaired Weim.

Why is their tail left long (not docked)?

The shorthaired Weim's tails are docked as part of their hunting heritage. Shorthairs have only a thin covering of hair on their tails that doesn't adequately protect the tail from the thorns and brambles that they would encounter. Injuries to tails are notorious for not healing well and many hunting dogs have had to have their tails docked as adults when injuries would not heal. Docking at 3 days of age avoids this problem later in life.

Since longhairs have lots of hair cover on their tails, there was no need to dock them. This became part of the breed standard*Why would I want a longhair?*

If you like the temperament of a Weim but live in a cold climate a longhair may be more suited to your home than a shorthaired Weim. Longhair's also have a "look" that is unique and appreciated by many.

Note: just because they have the coat to live outside does not mean that they should live outside. Longhaired Weims have the same issues of wanting to be a part of the family and they are not a dog that will tolerate a life living in an outdoor kennel separated from their family for long periods.

(* this article has been edited for the website)

