

Fido Facts

Feature by Robert Killick

Studio photography by Tim Rose

Fact File: Bolognese

Group:	Toy
Country of origin:	Italy
Original function:	Companion
Availability:	Difficult
Average life span:	10-12 years
Age at maturity:	2-2.5 years
Height:	Dogs 10.5-12 inches; bitches 10-11 inches
Approximate weight:	9lb
Is the breed a natural guard dog?	No, but they do bark to alert you. They are not yappy - once they have alerted you to something, they will stop
With strangers?	Reserved until they get to know you - and then friendly and loving
Coat type:	Flocked - meaning a natural-looking coat that falls in soft ringlets
Colours:	White
Does the coat mat?	Yes, if neglected
Coat care:	A thorough comb through at least twice a week
Does the coat need professional grooming?	No
Special trimming for the show ring?	No
Exercise:	When fully grown, a minimum of two 20-minute walks a day, plus plenty of quality play
Average food bill:	£5 per week for an adult
Ease of training:	Moderate
Temperament with children:	Excellent with well-behaved, sensible children
With dogs?	Good
With cats?	Good, if brought up with them
Town or country dog?	Either
Would he happily live in a flat or apartment?	Yes, if adequately exercised
Will he live in a kennel if necessary?	No, he likes human company and home comforts
Does the breed suffer from the cold, wet or heat?	Doesn't like being wet
Hereditary anomalies?	See Dr Malcolm Willis' article
Special considerations:	This dog is miserable when left alone - he's a companion dog and thrives on contact with his family. Grooming must be ongoing - any neglect will cause suffering.
Character sketch:	A happy little dog, who thrives on sharing time with his family and taking part in all household activities.

FURTHER FIDO FACTS

How many in rescue each year?	None
Main cause?	Occasionally, a change in owner's circumstances means an older dog is in need of a new home
Rescue contact:	Gina Taylor (south) 01452 536069 or Kate Leigh (north) 01625 524254
Breed club:	Membership to the British Bolognese Club costs £6 (single) or £7 (joint), for which you'll receive two to three newsletters each year, and reduced entry to the annual club Open show, which is a friendly event that welcomes pet owners as well as serious show-goers. For details, call club secretary Kathy Begg on 01270 582233 or download an application from the club website www.bolognese.org Soon, the site will be updated to include a members-only area.
Want to know more?	Call our breed advisors on www.dialadog.co.uk

Living with a Bolognese



THESE LITTLE DOGS, with their distinctive, white, non-shedding coats, are true companions. Loyal, intelligent and so willing to please their owners, they are very easy to train and respond well to the clicker.

Bolognese become very attached to their family and will follow you like shadows. Ours will be curled up in their beds, sound asleep, looking so comfortable as I work in the kitchen; I quietly creep outside so as not to disturb them, but when I look behind, there they all are. I can be in the living room at night, reading or watching television, with the dogs all settled.

I only have to uncross my legs to get up to make a cup of coffee and they instantly get up, ready to follow me. When I return, the dogs resume their original positions.

My interest in the Bolognese began in 1992 when I saw an article in a magazine about this beautiful rare breed. There was a photograph of a little dog called Figaro, who melted my heart. It seems like only yesterday that my husband, our youngest daughter and I sat on the lawn at the kennel of the Shiarita Bolognese, surrounded by a litter of cheeky white bundles of fluff, trying desperately to choose our special friend. We finally made our decision; we called her Amy, and could not wait for her to come to live with us.

Amy will be 16 in May and is now completely deaf. She has a touch of arthritis and cannot walk too far, but she would hate to be left at home when we go for a walk, so we purchased a pushchair specifically made for dogs, which she seems to enjoy. When we reach a place we think she might like, we get her out and she has a good sniff around, then we pop her back in. Yes, I admit that I am completely mad, but my husband understands me.

Nine-year-old Billy is a real character. His love of squeaky toys is second to none. He will lie on his back, holding a toy between his front feet, and look at it with adoration. Bill will get very excited about nothing in particular, and, completely out of the blue, he will shoot around the living room, out through the door, up the hall into the kitchen, slide across the tiles,

zoom back into the living room, repeat the whole route again, then lie down as if nothing has happened.

Lottie, also nine, watches from the sofa. Sometimes she will join in; sometimes they all join in.

Lottie has a thing about water. We

have bought stands for the water bowls to sit in, to raise them off the ground, otherwise she would paddle in them, starting slowly with a pat of a paw and ending with a two-footed frenzy, sending water everywhere. She will even put her head in the bowl! In the

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summer we fill a baby bath with water and put it in the garden, where she is in her element, splashing about to her heart's content.

Life is certainly not dull with a Bolognese to entertain you, which leads me to Peter, who is nearly seven and who loves to entertain our grandchildren when they visit. I get him to touch certain objects - for example, I say, "Touch the fridge" and he will race off in great excitement, touch the

fridge with his paw, then return for his treat. Then I will ask him to put the toys back into the toy box, which he does. I ask the grandchildren to circle their hands and Peter will spin around left and right. He can do obedience, heelwork, retrieves, send-aways etc, but he much prefers to be the clown by rolling over and over, or walking backwards on his hindlegs, or weaving in and out of my legs.

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Introduced early, in a controlled manner, there should not be any problem. When we had a litter of our own, we allowed children to visit as soon as the puppies were old enough. The children had to sit on the floor quietly and allow the puppies to come over to meet them, not the other way around.

Travelling in the car is a real joy for our Bolognese - they love it so much, they would not mind if there were no walk at the end.

Daisy May is the only one we show. She is nearly three and has travelled up and down the country to dog shows since she was 10 months old. She twirls and twirls in excitement by the front door as soon as the show bag appears; she has to be groomed, bathed and prepared ready for the show, but she never seems to remember this.

Walks in the woods are thoroughly enjoyed by all - they run like the wind. Once, when walking in the woods, the dogs took off around the corner. Not liking our dogs to be out of sight of us, we called for them to come back. All but Lottie returned. We called her again, and, as we approached the corner, Lottie appeared from the undergrowth. She had found water - the only trouble was, it was a stagnant pool. She was as black as coal from head to toe and smelled like a drain! That was one time when her love of the wet stuff got her into hot water!

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Feature by **Justine Hankins**
Picture research by **Paul Keevil**

YOU MIGHT SUPPOSE that the oldest breeds of dog are likely to be the most functional. Pet dogs, after all, are a luxury - you'd have thought that before there were supermarkets, people would have most valued a dog that could assist with catching dinner.

In fact, though, many useful dogs, such as spaniels and retrievers, are relatively modern, while a lot of the toy breeds can confidently trace their roots back many thousands of years. But then, ancient history isn't all about building mud huts and fashioning garments out of chariot-kill.

By the first millennium BC there was a thriving trade across the near east and southern Europe in luxurious fabrics, exotic spices, precious metals and small dogs. These petit paches had no particular purpose beyond being attractive and affectionate. This is where our Bolognese friend comes in.

The Bolognese is closely related to other toy breeds with connections to far-flung corners of ancient empires. The Bichon Frise, the Maltese, the Havanese and the Coton de Tulear are probably all related and all came about because some adventurous sailors a long time ago took off in search of a lucrative sale. Strong opinions are sometimes expressed about which one of these breeds is the oldest. But we'll never know for sure. In any case, it doesn't really matter.

This particular variety of small, white, curly-coated dog has become associated with the Italian city of Bologna - home to Bolognese sauce, situated in the region that also gave us parmesan cheese. This is not to say that the Bolognese is, strictly speaking, an Italian native. The breed's ancestors had become well established in France during the 16th century, when they were immensely popular with the French aristocracy.

History of the Bolognese

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Following a series of religious wars that caused havoc in France, the breeding of these dogs switched to Bologna. In her book, *Reigning Cats and Dogs*, Katharine MacDonogh tells us that these dogs became known as 'bottoli' and that "they were fed by duchesses in the peninsula from gold vessels." Pet dogs were often bred by monks and nuns as a source of income. Dog breeding could be an extremely profitable business, especially for those who supplied royalty. The French King Louis XIV had crates full of dogs transported by mule across the Alps.

Intriguingly, MacDonogh suggests that the toy spaniels famously owned by King Charles II probably had "no ties of kinship to those preferred

by his father" and may have been Bolognese dogs acquired in France. The breed also found favour with Frederick the Great's sister, Wilhelmina, and, by the late 18th century, had nearly eclipsed the once ubiquitous and closely related Maltese among the fashionable set in Paris.

It's been many millennia since a curly white dog first found a lap to sit on. Over time, the fortunes of this dog's various descendants have waxed and waned with fashion. At the moment, the Bichon Frise seems to be in ascendancy, while the Bolognese has been relegated to relative obscurity. But this breed has had plenty of practice of being a charming companion and will surely continue to do so for a very long time to come. ::



Above: This fabulous portrait by Spanish Artist Raimundo De Madrazo (1842-1920) clearly shows a young puppy of the Bolognese type confirming the Mediterranean influence on the breed.



Above: Giovanni Boldini was a renowned Italian/French portrait painter and this charming portrait completed circa 1885 and entitled *Madame Rejane* (Gabrielle Rejane) illustrates the popularity of long-haired white continental dogs in Europe in the 19th century.



Above: Madge Bellamy (1903-1990) was a popular Hollywood star of the silent movies and early talkies. She starred in several prestigious films including *Lorna Doone* (1922) and John Ford's *The Iron Horse* (1924). Her first marriage in 1928 lasted only four days, whilst in 1943 she was given a six-month suspended sentence for shooting her then fiancé, when he abruptly married another woman! This is a still from her 1925 silent film for Fox, *The Dancers*.



Above: This wonderful marble dog was believed to have been presented to Queen Charlotte (1744-1818) the wife of King George III, by the "amateur" sculptor, Anne Seymour Damer (1748-1828). Lost for many years, it was offered for sale in 2004 by Christie's for £60,000 - £90,000.



Left: There has always been a fascination in Europe for white long-haired toy breeds and many portraits include them with the main sitter. Sometimes the breeds merge into one and identification can be difficult as in this charming painting.



Above: Dated 1879 and signed by the artist George W Horlor this painting is another example of a small white fluffy dog, which could well be of the Bolognese type.



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Above: The "Queen of Cat Painters" Dutch artist Henriette Ronner Knip (1821-1909) would frequently include toy dogs in her paintings which had great charm and chocolate box appeal.



Above: This black and white print from a painting attributed to German artist Hans Sperling dates from about 1890 and shows Pucky, a Bologneser Honhe owned by Mevr. A Behr of Berlin.

Feature by **Robert Killick**
 Studio photography by **Tim Rose**

THE BRITISH CLASSIFY the Bolognese as a toy dog; the Europeans classify the breed as a companion dog, which a much more accurate classification because the Bolognese has been living as a lap dog with human beings since the 11th century. It was a great favourite of European royalty and aristocracy until it was supplanted in their affections by the Poodle in the 19th century.

The Bolognese, thought to have once been associated with the city of Bologna in Italy, is highly intelligent and able to adjust himself easily to his owner's moods. Training, which they take to very well, has to be done with patience and love; these dogs are sensitive to anger and will sulk if shouted at.

Bolognese hate being left alone and will become unhappy if they are left out of family activities. They really are true companion dogs, as this has been their job for centuries, and are miserable if unable to fulfil their career! They can become very attached to one person and will follow them like a shadow. Generally, they like children, but they are not hyperactive with them; they enjoy gentle play, so children should be trained not to be rough.

FUTURE FIDO FACTS

DO YOU OWN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BREEDS?

- Schipperke ● Scottish Terrier
- Keeshond ● Lowchen

Would you like to attend one of our photo-shoots in Slough, see your dog in the magazine and get to keep some of the excellent photography? We're looking for dogs of all ages and colours (where relevant) and are particularly keen to know if you are expecting a litter or are about to get a pup. Write to: Julia Owen, *Dogs Today*, Town Mill, Bagshot Rd, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8BZ enclosing a photo.

Would you be able to express what it's really like to live with one of the breeds we're soon to feature? If you have experiences to share please write in to Julia, at the address above.

Suitability Bolognese

One of the breed's most outstanding features is the snow-white coat; it is a single coat (without an undercoat) designed for hot weather. The breed does not need clipping or shaping, but it does require a commitment to daily attention - a deep comb through will do the trick. Without commitment the coat will tangle and mat, compromising the health of the dog. Mats are uncomfortable to live with and are natural hiding places for parasites such as fleas and lice. Bolognese do not moult excessively; grooming removes the dead hair and allows new hair to take its place. Regular combing also removes all the bits of rubbish that the breed picks up - being low to the ground, they collect all sorts of debris on walks!

It is not generally necessary to

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bath the dog more than about once a month; the hair naturally repels dirt, which will brush out. The exception, of course, is if he rolls in something objectionable. Ears should be examined frequently and kept clean.

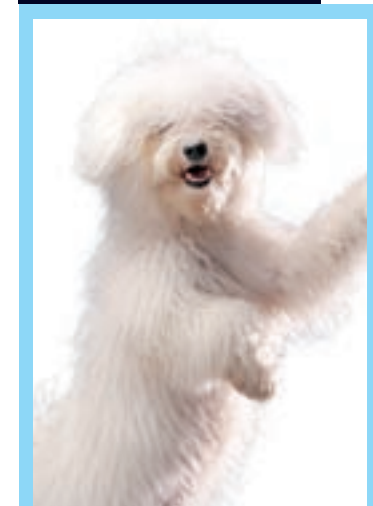
Feeding presents no problems. Being so small they don't need very much food - in fact, great care should be taken to feed the correct amount because they have a tendency to get fat if allowed to. The breeder and the vet will advise on a suitable diet. Sweeties and cakes are on the banned list of foods.

A properly trained and loved Bolognese will bring happiness into a home. These dogs are particularly appreciated by the young and the very old, simply because they are so gentle and easy to handle. ::

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FIDO PHOTOGRAPHY



The Bolognese featured on these pages are ?????, ?????????? and ?????????? ?????? ?????????? ???? ???? ?????????? ?????????????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? They are owned by ?????????????????? ??????????????.

See below for details of breeds needed to attend future photo sessions.

Studio Photography: Tim Rose at MDP Ltd.

Alternative breeds: ©Animal Photography/Sally Anne Thompson.

Similar size and appearance



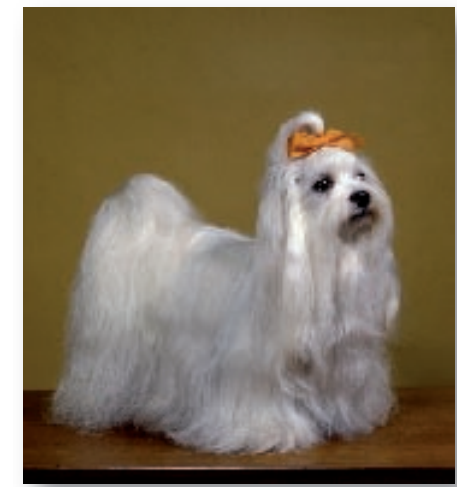
Bichon Frise



Coton de Tulear



Havanese



Maltese

IF YOU LIKE THIS, CHECK OUT THESE...

Fido Facts

Feature by **Dr Malcolm Willis** (geneticist)

Studio photography by **Tim Rose**

THE BOLOGNESE is a small breed in terms of stature - and it is also small in numerical terms. In 2005 the Kennel Club registered a mere 67 of the breed.

Studying canine genetic disease is made difficult when one is dealing with numerically small breeds. If a defect occurs every 100 litters, for example, then it might never crop up in numerically small breeds - or, if it does, it may not be recorded. Scientific verification is crucial when one is examining genetic disease.

Health MOT Bolognese

None of the standard works in this field mention the breed, apart from Professor Padgett's book on *Canine Disease* (1998), which mentions the Bolognese in connection with abnormal behaviour. This relates to unprovoked aggression against people and other dogs and the breed is among a very large list of breeds. One has to be cautious in interpreting such a finding, since it may be seen in very few dogs of the breed and may also be non-genetic in origin.

BREED READ

Bolognese - A Comprehensive Owner's Guide

This book, written by Wolfgang Knorr, contains interesting facts and information on the history of the breed and on how to look after your Bolognese. Copies can be purchased via www.amazon.co.uk or contact the British Bolognese Club for further details (www.bolognese.org).



The sort of problem one might expect to see in the breed is Legg-Perthes disease (necrosis of the femoral head), often mistaken for hip dysplasia. This is a condition that can sometimes be found in small breeds. Another skeletal condition that sometimes crops up in small dogs is luxation of the patella (a 'slipping kneecap').

Small breeds also seem more prone to mouth problems and to such conditions as undescended testicles.

I am not suggesting that these conditions are to be found in the breed, but merely that it is the size of dog in which these might be expected. One would not, for example, expect hip dysplasia to any degree in a toy breed, and any such occurrence would be an exception. ::

Fido Facts

Bolognese Essentials

GROOMING PRODUCTS

Groomers has put together all the products you need to keep your Bolognese in tip-top condition. They are also suitable for other breeds, so your dog need not miss out!

The Bolognese coat needs regular grooming and should be combed through at least three times a week to prevent

matting. The small Tender Care Soft Slicker Brush - £5 - and the Show Tech Greyhound Combination Comb - £7.95 - are perfect for the job.

Bathing is necessary to keep your Bolognese clean, but it should not be done too frequently, as it can have a negative effect on the skin and coat. Use Groomers' Blue Pearl Whitening Shampoo for enhancing white coats and removing stains. Containing evening primrose oil, this shampoo will also help maintain and soothe the skin - £6.49. All these prices include UK p&p.

Eye Envy from PetLondon is the ultimate in tearstain removal. Externally applied, this safe, non-irritating and effective cleanser and beautifier removes unsightly stains and inhibits dark staining production. The starter kit includes all the essential products needed for the cleansing and beautification process. Packaged in a shimmering gingham bag, the kit contents include: a 2oz bottle of solution; a 1/2oz jar of application powder; and a jar of dry non-woven application pads. We are able to offer this fantastic kit for the amazing price of £14.99 plus £2.95 UK p&p, an incredible £5 saving.



BOOTS

The new Pawo Boots from PetLondon are the ultimate in comfortable footwear, as they allow your dog to feel the ground, providing him with a sense of security.

Made from rubber, they are easy to put on - no zippers or straps - and are available in six sizes - xxsmall (Chihuahua, Maltese); xsmall (Jack Russell, Dachshund); small (Lhasa Apso); medium (Cocker Spaniel); large (Boxer, Collie); xlarge (Mastiff, Great Dane). Each pack contains 12 waterproof boots that can be used multiple times. We can offer the Pawo Boots at the fantastic price of £8.99 plus £2.95 UK p&p, a saving of £4.

ESSENTIALS ORDER FORM

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING BOLOGNESE ESSENTIALS:
Insert quantity required in space to left of product
(overseas prices on application)

GROOMING PRODUCTS:

- Groomers Small Tender Care Soft Slicka @ £5 (inc UK p&p)
- Show Tech Greyhound Combination Comb @ £7.95 (inc UK p&p)
- Groomers Blue Pearl Whitening Shampoo @ £6.49 (inc UK p&p)
- Eye Envy Starter Kit @ £17.94 (inc UK p&p)

BOOTS:

- XXSmall Pawo Dog Boots @ £11.94 (inc UK p&p)
- Xsmall Pawo Dog Boots @ £11.94 (inc UK p&p)
- Small Pawo Dog Boots @ £11.94 (inc UK p&p)
- Medium Pawo Dog Boots @ £11.94 (inc UK p&p)
- Large Pawo Dog Boots @ £11.94 (inc UK p&p)
- Xlarge Pawo Dog Boots @ £11.94 (inc UK p&p)

YOUR DETAILS

Name:.....

Address:.....

Postcode:.....

Daytime tel no (in case of queries):

PAYMENT DETAILS

I enclose a cheque/ PO payable to *Dogs Today* for £..... OR

Please debit £..... from my credit/debit card

Credit/debit card no:

Expiry Date: Valid from Date:

Security code (last three digits on signature strip):

Issue No (Switch only):

Signature: Date:

Please tick if you do not wish to receive information from charities and companies who we feel may be of interest to you.

Allow up to 28 days for delivery. Overseas prices on application.

Please make cheques payable to *Dogs Today* and post to:
Bolognese Essentials, Pet Subjects Ltd, Town Mill, Bagshot Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8BZ or fax (01276 858860) or phone (01276 858880) credit card orders or send your order via email to: enquiries@dogstodaymagazine.co.uk

BREED NEEDS

The British Bolognese Club has a variety of handcrafted blank cards and birthday cards for sale, designed by committee member Christine Rushbrook. The cards display various images of Bolognese and the birthday cards have 'Happy Birthday' or 'Best Wishes' printed on the front and inside. All cards are sold in packs of six for £5.50 plus £1.50 UK p&p, and proceeds go directly to the club. Christine can also individually design and personalise cards if you send her a picture.

Please send your order with your contact details and the number of packs required, along with a cheque or postal order payable to 'The British Bolognese Club' to: Mrs C Rushbrook, 8 Dale Close, Toddington, Beds, LU5 6EP. The club will soon be offering other Bolognese merchandise, so keep checking the website www.bolognese.org for details or call 01525 873079.

