

Discover the essential information you need to
select, raise, train, and have fun with your Boston Terrier

Boston Terriers

FOR
DUMMIES®



Wendy Bedwell-Wilson
Dog writer

A Reference for the Rest of Us!®



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WILEY

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Boston Terriers For Dummies®

Published by

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

111 River St.

Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

www.wiley.com

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Indianapolis, Indiana

Published simultaneously in Canada

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2007926395

ISBN: 978-0-470-12768-1

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2



About the Author

Pets and their quirks have been a part of Wendy Bedwell-Wilson's life for as long as she can remember, but it was through her profession that she grew to truly appreciate them. After working in the publishing industry as a writer and editor for a variety of pet-themed trade, consumer, and online magazines for nearly 15 years, she ventured outside the cubicle and delved into writing professionally about four-legged friends from her home in Hawaii.

Her work has appeared in a range of pet publications, including *Pet Product News*, *Veterinary Practice News*, *DogChannel.com*, *Cat Fancy*, *Koi World*, *FAMA*, *Aquarium Fish*, *Cats USA*, *Kittens USA*, and the *Popular Pets* series. She completed one book — *Yorkshire Terriers* for the Animal Planet Pet Care Library series — before tackling *Boston Terriers For Dummies*. Her muses include a rescued Pointer-Hound mutt named Pete and two spoiled cats, Bubba and Benny. They're no Boston Terriers, but they're still little gentlemen.

Dedication

To my mother, Ruth Bedwell, the strongest woman I know.

Author's Acknowledgments

Publishing a book like this requires a team of dedicated individuals, including editors, illustrators, production staff, and breed experts. My thanks goes out to Stacy Kennedy, acquisitions editor; Chrissy Guthrie, project editor; Vicki Adang, copy editor; Patty Kovach, DVM, technical editor; Barbara Frake, illustrator; and the production, printing, and distribution teams who made the book a reality and delivered it to the consumers.

I also owe gratitude to the many Boston Terrier experts I consulted, including dozens of breeders and Boston lovers associated with the Boston Terrier Club of America; trainers Ricko Rask and Ellen Carscadden; Andy Tesene, co-owner of Two Bostons in Naperville, Illinois; Mark Daly, DVM, who answered a host of veterinary questions; the American Kennel Club; the American Veterinary Medical Association; and the countless dog lovers who provided advice, support, and plenty of dog-inspired laughs. Thanks, too, to fellow author Eve Adamson, who helped to guide me to and through the project, and Lee Ann Chearney, my agent and book producer. And I can't forget my patient and loyal husband, Ryan, my family, and our four-legged menagerie that brings unending joy to our lives.

Publisher's Acknowledgments

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments through our Dummies online registration form located at www.dummies.com/register/.

Some of the people who helped bring this book to market include the following:

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Cover Photo: © ROBERT PEARCY/Animals Animals

Cartoons: Rich Tennant (www.the5thwave.com)

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Layout and Graphics: Heather Ryan, Alicia B. South

Special Art: Illustrations by Barbara Frake, color section photos by Jean Fogle (www.jeanfogle.com), Isabelle Francais, and Cathi Winkles

Anniversary Logo Design: Richard Pacifico

Proofreaders: Aptara, Susan Moritz

Indexer: Aptara

Publishing and Editorial for Consumer Dummies

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Contents

Title

Introduction

About This Book

Conventions Used in This Book

What You're Not to Read

Foolish Assumptions

How This Book Is Organized

Icons Used In This Book

Where to Go From Here

Part I : That Bullish Terrier

Chapter 1: Welcome to Boston!

Lovers, Not Fighters

Give Me Shelter — And Food!

How to Be a Good Boy

Caring for Your Boston's Needs

Chapter 2: Tracking the Boston Terrier

Breed Origin and History

Building the First Boston

Developing a Standard

Personality Aplenty

Chapter 3: Committing to a Lifetime of Care

Judging Your Compatibility

[Establishing Family Dynamics](#)

[Divvying Up Duties](#)

[The Real Costs](#)

[Chapter 4: A Match Made in Boston](#)

[Battle of the Sexes](#)

[Puppy or Adult?](#)

[If You Choose a Puppy . . .](#)

[If You Choose an Adult . . .](#)

[Part II : Caring for Your Boston Terrier](#)

[Chapter 5: Preparing for Your Boston's Homecoming](#)

[Puppy-Proofing Basics](#)

[License and Registration, Please](#)

[Time to Go Shopping](#)

[Chapter 6: Welcome Home!](#)

[Taking the Home Tour](#)

[Meeting Other Members of the Pack](#)

[Surviving the First Night](#)

[Creating Consistency](#)

[Chapter 7: Eating Well](#)

[Feeding a Carnivore: Cost versus Quality](#)

[Knowing Your Ingredients](#)

[How to Read Pet Food Labels](#)

[Checking Out Your Commercial Diet Options](#)

[Choosing To Feed a Noncommercial Diet](#)

[Special Diets for Bostons with Health Issues](#)

[Come and Get It! Serving Meals](#)

[Supplementing Your Dog's Diet](#)

[Treating Your Boston](#)

[Chapter 8: Looking Good](#)

[Grooming at Home](#)

[Visiting the Groomer or Spa](#)

[Clothes and Accessories for Your Boston](#)

[Part III : Stepping Out](#)

[Chapter 9: Housetraining for Bostons](#)

[Setting the Stage for Success: Housetraining Basics](#)

[Training Your Boston](#)

[Mistakes Will Happen](#)

[Okay Ways to Go Inside](#)

[Chapter 10: Socializing for Life](#)

[Understanding Your Boston's Developmental Timeline](#)

[Socializing Your Puppy](#)

[Socializing Your Adult Dog](#)

[Reading Your Boston's Body Language](#)

[Preventing Fear](#)

[Chapter 11: Training and Behavior](#)

[School Days](#)

[Establishing a Commanding Presence](#)

[Correcting Behavior Gone Bad](#)

[Calling in the Professional](#)

[Chapter 12: Taking Training to the Next Level](#)

[Training for Sport](#)

[Becoming a Therapy Dog](#)

[Having Some Organized Fun](#)

[Attending a Conformation Trial](#)

[Chapter 13: Traveling with \(Or without\) Your Boston](#)

[Preparing for the Journey](#)

[Hitting the Road](#)

[Flying the Skies](#)

[Leaving Your Boston Behind](#)

[Part IV : Health and Well-Being](#)

[Chapter 14: Your Visit to the Veterinarian](#)

[Finding a Vet for Your Pet](#)

[Your Boston's First Vet Visit](#)

[Vaccinations: Protecting Your Dog from Deadly Diseases](#)

[Patrolling for Parasites](#)

[To Spay or Neuter](#)

[Making Annual Visits](#)

[Chapter 15: Breed-Specific Ailments](#)

[With a Snort and Wheeze](#)

[What Big Eyes You Have!](#)

[Say What?](#)

[Trick Knees](#)

[Chapter 16: First Aid](#)

[First-Aid Kit Essentials](#)

[Knowing Normal Vitals](#)

[Managing First-Aid Emergencies](#)

[Chapter 17: Caring for the Senior Dog](#)

[Knowing the Signs of Aging](#)

[Age-Related Disorders](#)

[Handling Your Senior Boston with Kid Gloves](#)

[Bidding Adieu to Your Boston](#)

[Part V : The Part of Tens](#)

[Chapter 18: Ten Trivia Tidbits about Bostons](#)

[The Dogfather](#)

[An American Original](#)

[What's in a Name?](#)

[Manly Moniker](#)

[Top Billing](#)

[Little Men on Campus](#)

[Popular beyond Boston](#)

[The Incredible Shrinking Dog](#)

[State of the Boston](#)

[Odds 'n' Ends](#)

[Chapter 19: Ten Ways to Make Your Boston's Day](#)

[Get the Day Off to a Good Start](#)

[Take a Walk](#)

[Stroll to the Park](#)

[Throw a Party](#)

[Give Your Boston a Bone](#)

[Take a Spa Day](#)

[Bake Your Boston Some Cookies](#)

[Toss a Ball](#)

[Do Some Homework](#)

[Enjoy Each Other's Company](#)

[: Further Reading](#)

Introduction

If you've picked up this book, you're either considering whether to add a Boston Terrier to your life or you have already. Educating yourself is the first — and most important — step in becoming a responsible pet parent. Kudos to you for furthering your knowledge about the breed!

Learning about Boston Terriers, however, is just the beginning. After you encounter a Boston and get a feel for her good-natured personality, see how intelligent and devoted she is to her owner, understand her diverse and American-bred origins, and experience what a sheer delight she is to be around, you'll be hooked for life.

Making the most of your human-pet relationship involves not only educating yourself about what makes your dog tick, but also realizing how to nurture her and help her develop into the dog she was born to be: a devoted friend, wise companion, and all-around dapper dog.

About This Book

This book serves as a reference guide for life with your Boston Terrier. Its purpose is twofold: First, it'll help you decide whether a Boston is the right breed for you and your family. Some families want a larger breed like a Labrador; others want a fluffy lapdog, like a Bichon

Frisé. These pages break down the basics and give you enough practical insight to make an informed decision about whether a Boston will fit into your household.

Second, this book addresses some basic questions about the breed and general dog care. You'll find answers to questions like:

- ✓ Where did the breed originate, and why?
- ✓ What is a Boston's temperament like?
- ✓ How do I prepare my home for her arrival?
- ✓ Will a Boston get along with children and other pets?
- ✓ How do I housetrain my Boston?
- ✓ What are her basic nutritional and grooming requirements?
- ✓ What are some common health concerns associated with the breed?
- ✓ In case of a medical emergency, what do I do?

Conventions Used in This Book

This book contains a lot of information, so to help you navigate through the text, I set up a few stylistic conventions, including:

- ✓ *Italics*: Italic type is used for emphasis and to highlight new words or terms that are defined.
- ✓ **Bold**: Boldfaced text is used to highlight points in a series and bring attention to key concepts.
- ✓ **Monofont**: Monofont is used for Web sites and e-mail addresses.

You'll notice one other convention, and that's the alternating use of masculine and feminine pronouns. With the help of my astute copy editor, I alternated between male and female, chapter by chapter. I'm not trying to give our four-legged friends human qualities; it just seems much more personable to use "he" and "she" rather than "it."

What You're Not to Read

The information in this book ranges from the absolutely essential — like how to provide adequate nutrition for your Boston — to the not-so-important — like how handlers dress in the dog-show ring. You can find the necessary reading within the body of the book, but you can find the nonessential information in two places:

- ✓ **Sidebars**: The shaded boxes of text that appear throughout the chapters contain supplementary information you can skip or flip through later. It's interesting stuff, but it's not necessary.
- ✓ **Paragraphs highlighted with the Technical Stuff icon**: If you're the type who likes to know why

or how, you'll appreciate the technical information contained in these paragraphs. You can, however, skip those nitty-gritty tidbits and still glean what you need to know about Bostons.

Foolish Assumptions

As I wrote this book, I assumed several things about you and the type of information you'd be looking for:

- ✓ You either have a Boston or you're seriously thinking about adopting one.
- ✓ You're enamored with the breed and want to know more about its history, distinguishing characteristics, and care requirements.
- ✓ You've adopted your first Boston and you're not sure what specific things your dog will need.
- ✓ You have some experience with dogs, but you can use a refresher course in basic care and training.
- ✓ You're overwhelmed with all those doggy doodads that are out there and you're looking for some guidance.
- ✓ You're having difficulty with housetraining or obedience, and you're looking for practical advice.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is put together in a logical way that allows you to find information quickly and easily. It contains five parts, each dedicated to a particular topic and broken down into several chapters that go into greater detail.

Part I: That Bullish Terrier

This first part gives you a general overview of what to expect in this book, and it provides an overview of the breed's history and temperament. It describes where and how the dog originated, what a Boston needs, and what will be required of you and your family.

Ideally, you'll read the chapters in this part before you adopt your puppy so you know what you're getting yourself into! Deciding to add a Boston to your family is an important decision that will take some education. Part I is a great place to start.

Part II: Caring for Your Boston Terrier

After you've decided to welcome a Boston into your life, you'll need to start thinking about how to care for her. This part guides you through how to puppy proof your home and yard, what products you'll absolutely need, how to provide for her nutritional needs, and how to keep her looking her best.

You'll also see the importance of setting up regular schedules for your Boston. Dogs are creatures of habit and like routine in their lives, from eating in the same place to going for walks at the same time every day. Part II will help you through the different routines to set up for your dog and your family.

Part III: Stepping Out

Well-trained and well-behaved dogs are a joy to be around. This part delves into how to mold your dog into a healthy and happy adult who thrives on being around humans and other dogs. You'll find out how to housetrain your dog. You'll understand the importance of proper socialization at all stages of her life. And you'll get an introduction to basic training, competition, and trial events.

Because your Boston will likely shadow you wherever you go — from the grocery store to Grandma's house — you'll want to keep her safe while traveling. Part III also outlines ways to restrain your dog in the car and how to prepare her for an airplane journey. If you can't take her with you, this section also describes how to find a reputable dog sitter or dog daycare center.

Part IV: Health and Well-Being

Perhaps the most important portion of the book, Part IV addresses health and well-being issues through all stages of your Boston's life. It offers guidelines for basic Boston care, including what to expect during your dog's first veterinary visit, breed-specific ailments, first aid, and senior care.

You'll also get an introduction to vaccinations, internal and external parasites, and details about the special needs of *brachycephalic* breeds (dogs with short heads), like your Boston. After reading this section, you'll have plenty to discuss with your veterinarian!

Part V: The Part of Tens

This part contains two chapters that give you fun facts about Boston Terriers. You'll find out ten interesting facts about the breed and discover ten ways to enhance your pet's life.

Icons Used In This Book

A useful feature in the *For Dummies* series, icons draw your attention to — or away from — particular types of information. I use the following icons throughout the book:



This icon appears wherever a bit of advice can save you time, money, hassle, or stress.



This icon points out important information that's worth remembering.



When you see this icon, pay particular attention to the paragraph next to it. It highlights information about dangers that could cause your dog harm.



For those detail-oriented readers, the Technical Stuff icon indicates interesting but unnecessary information that you can skip.

Where to Go From Here

Each chapter and part of this book is self-contained, so you can jump to just about anywhere and find complete information. Though you'll get a more well-rounded understanding of Bostons if you read the book from cover to cover, you don't have to, especially if you're looking for a certain topic, like how to housetrain your dog (Chapter 9), what to expect during your first veterinary visit (Chapter 14), where the breed originated (Chapter 2), or what kennel to purchase (Chapter 5). The Index will guide you to more specific topics.

A logical place to start, of course, is Chapter 1, which is a general overview of the book, and Chapter 2, which details the breed's history, standard, and temperament. Regardless of where you begin, however, you're about to embark on a new adventure — with your Boston!

Part I

That Bullish Terrier

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



“To be fair, the people at the kennel said he liked to play, not that he was playful.”

In this part . . .