SOFTWARE & TECH

Bichon Shih Tzu Puppies For Sale In Calgary

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Discover the Charm of Bichon Shih Tzu Puppies for Sale in Calgary

Calgary, a city known for its stunning Rocky Mountain views and vibrant urban lifestyle, is also a wonderful place to find your next furry family member. Among the most sought-after companion dogs in this region is the delightful Bichon Shih Tzu mix. Often referred to as a Shichon or a Zuchon, this crossbreed combines the playful, fluffy personality of the Bichon Frise with the regal, affectionate nature of the Shih Tzu. If you have been searching for **Bichon Shih Tzu puppies for sale in Calgary**, you are likely looking for a small, loving, and low-shedding dog that fits perfectly into both a bustling family home and a quiet apartment. This article will guide you through everything you need to know about this charming hybrid, from understanding their temperament to finding a responsible breeder in Calgary.

Understanding the Bichon Shih Tzu Mix

The Bichon Shih Tzu is a designer dog that has gained immense popularity over the past decade. These puppies inherit the best traits from both parent breeds. The Bichon Frise is celebrated for its cheerful disposition and hypoallergenic coat, while the Shih Tzu brings a calm, loyal, and people-oriented attitude. The result is a small dog that typically weighs between 9 and 15 pounds and stands about 9 to 12 inches tall at the shoulder.

One of the standout features of this mix is its coat. It is usually soft, curly, or slightly wavy, and it tends to be low-shedding. This makes the Bichon Shih Tzu an excellent choice for allergy sufferers in Calgary who still want a dog that loves to cuddle. Their coat colors can vary widely, including white, cream, black, brown, gold, or a combination of these. Their dark, expressive eyes and a button nose give them an almost teddy-bear appearance that is hard to resist.

In terms of temperament, these puppies are known for being incredibly affectionate and social. They thrive on human companionship and are happiest when they are part of the family's daily activities. They are generally good with children and other pets, making them a versatile addition to many households. However, early socialization remains important to ensure they grow into well-adjusted adults.

Why Choose a Bichon Shih Tzu Puppy?

There are many reasons why families and individuals in Calgary are drawn to the Bichon Shih Tzu. First and foremost, their size makes them ideal for apartment living or homes without a large yard. They are not high-energy dogs that require hours of intense exercise; a daily walk and some indoor playtime are usually sufficient. This makes them suitable for seniors, busy professionals, and first-time dog owners alike.

Another key advantage is their temperament. Bichon Shih Tzu puppies are known to be:

- Friendly and outgoing: They rarely show aggression and are quick to greet new people with a wagging tail.
- Adaptable: They can adjust to different living situations, whether you live in a downtown Calgary condo or a suburban home.
- Low-shedding: While no dog is truly 100% hypoallergenic, this mix produces less dander and hair than many other breeds.
- Intelligent but gentle: They are smart enough to learn basic commands but are not overly stubborn, making training a pleasant experience.

Their playful yet calm demeanor means they are equally happy snuggling on the couch during a snowy Calgary winter or exploring a green space like Nose Hill Park in the summer.

Finding Reputable Bichon Shih Tzu Puppies for Sale in Calgary

When searching for **Bichon Shih Tzu puppies for sale in Calgary**, it is crucial to prioritize ethical breeding practices. Unfortunately, the popularity of this mix has led to some less scrupulous breeders and puppy mills. A healthy, well-bred puppy is worth the extra time and effort it takes to find a responsible source.

Researching Breeders in Calgary

Start by looking for breeders who are members of the Canadian Kennel Club or other reputable dog organizations. While the Bichon Shih Tzu is not a purebred recognized by the CKC, responsible breeders still follow rigorous standards for health and temperament. A good breeder will be transparent about their breeding program and will invite you to visit their facility or home to see the puppies and their parents.

When visiting a breeder, pay attention to the environment. The puppies should be raised in a clean, indoor setting where they receive plenty of human interaction. The parent dogs should appear healthy, well-fed, and friendly. A reputable breeder will also provide you with documentation of health clearances for both the Bichon Frise and the Shih Tzu, including tests for hip dysplasia, eye disorders, and patellar luxation.

In addition to dedicated breeders, you may find Bichon Shih Tzu puppies through rescue organizations in Calgary. Occasionally, mixed-breed dogs end up in shelters, and adopting can be a wonderful option. Groups like the Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS) or the Calgary Humane Society sometimes have Shichon mixes available.

Questions to Ask Before Buying

To ensure you are getting a healthy puppy and not supporting a puppy mill, ask the following questions when contacting a seller:

- Can I meet the puppy's parents? Seeing the sire and dam provides insight into the puppy's future size, coat type, and temperament.
- What health screenings have been performed? Ask for certificates from a veterinarian or a certified testing facility.
- How are the puppies socialized? Good breeders start socialization early, exposing puppies to different sounds, textures, and people.
- Do you offer a health guarantee? A responsible breeder will stand behind the health of their pups for at least the first two years.
- Can you provide references from previous puppy buyers? Happy customers are a strong sign of a quality breeder.

Avoid sellers who pressure you into a quick sale or who cannot answer your questions clearly. Remember, a well-bred puppy may have a wait list, but that is a good sign that the breeder is serious about placing their puppies in loving homes.

Preparing Your Home for a New Puppy in Calgary

Once you have found the right Bichon Shih Tzu puppy, it is time to get ready for their arrival. Because Calgary experiences cold winters, you will need to think about indoor comfort and outdoor safety. These small dogs are sensitive to extreme temperatures, so puppy sweaters or boots may be necessary for walks in sub-zero weather.

Essential supplies for your new puppy include:

- A comfortable crate or dog bed for a safe haven.
- High-quality puppy food appropriate for small breeds.
- Food and water bowls (stainless steel is easy to clean).
- Collars, harnesses, and a lease for walks.
- Toys for mental stimulation, as Bichon Shih Tzu puppies can be curious and may chew if bored.
- Grooming tools, such as a slicker brush and a comb to prevent matting.
- Puppy pads or a designated potty area for house training.

Puppy-proof your home by removing small objects they could swallow, securing electrical cords, and blocking off areas that are not safe. Since this mix is intelligent, they may figure out how to get into cabinets or climb on furniture. A little preparation goes a long way in creating a safe and happy environment.

The Cost of Bichon Shih Tzu Puppies in Calgary

The price of **Bichon Shih Tzu puppies for sale in Calgary** can vary significantly based on the breeder's reputation, the puppy's lineage, and the region. On average, you can expect to pay between $1,500 and $3,500 CAD for a well-bred puppy from a reputable source. Puppies from champion bloodlines or with rare coat colors may be priced higher.

However, the initial purchase price is just the beginning. Owning a dog comes with ongoing costs that you should budget for:

- Veterinary care: Annual checkups, vaccinations, flea/tick prevention, and potential emergency visits.
- Food: Premium small-breed kibble or fresh food can cost $50–$100 per month.
- Grooming: Because of their coat, Bichon Shih Tzu mixes need professional grooming every 4–6 weeks. In Calgary, a groom may cost $60–$100 per session.
- Training: Puppy classes or private sessions can help with obedience and socialization.
- Pet insurance: Highly recommended to cover unexpected health issues.

While the costs add up, the joy and companionship these little dogs provide are truly priceless. It is wise to plan your finances to ensure you can give your puppy a comfortable, happy life.

Caring for Your Bichon Shih Tzu

Proper care is essential to keep your puppy healthy and thriving. Let's break down the main areas of care.

Grooming Needs

The Bichon Shih Tzu's coat is one of its most appealing features, but it requires consistent maintenance. Daily brushing is recommended to prevent tangles and mats. Professional grooming every month or two is necessary to keep the coat neat and to trim the hair around the eyes, paws, and sanitary areas. Many Calgary groomers offer breed-specific cuts. Additionally, regular ear cleaning, nail trimming, and dental care are important to avoid infections and dental disease.

Exercise and Mental Stimulation

Despite their small size, these puppies have moderate energy levels. A 15- to 20-minute walk twice a day is usually enough. They also enjoy interactive toys, puzzle feeders, and short training sessions. Calgary offers

many dog-friendly parks and pathways, such as Fish Creek Provincial Park or the Bow River pathway, where your Shichon can explore safely on a leash. Keep in mind that they are not built for long hikes or extreme weather, so adjust your activity accordingly.

Training and Socialization

Bichon Shih Tzu puppies are eager to please but can sometimes have a stubborn streak inherited from the Shih Tzu. Positive reinforcement methods—using treats, praise, and play—work best. Start training early with basic commands like sit, stay, come, and leave it. Enrolling in puppy kindergarten classes in Calgary can also help your dog learn to interact with other dogs and people. Socialization should continue throughout their life to prevent shyness or small-dog syndrome.

Health Considerations

As a mixed breed, the Bichon Shih Tzu is generally healthy, but they can be prone to certain conditions common in both parent breeds. These include:

- Dental issues: Small breeds often have crowded teeth; daily brushing and dental treats help.
- Eye problems: Conditions like progressive retinal atrophy or tear staining require regular vet checks.
- Patellar luxation: A condition where the kneecap dislocates; keeping your dog at a healthy weight reduces risk.

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