SOFTWARE & TECH

Shih Tzu Maltese For Sale Perth

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795581175234719

Discover the Charm of the Shih Tzu Maltese Mix in Perth

Finding the perfect companion dog can feel like a search for a needle in a haystack, especially when you are looking for a specific breed or crossbreed in a city as sprawling as Perth. If you have been searching for **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth**, you are likely already captivated by the idea of this delightful hybrid. Often referred to as a "Malshi," this cross between the regal Shih Tzu and the gentle Maltese creates a small dog with an enormous personality. In a city known for its outdoor lifestyle and beautiful weather, the Malshi is an adaptable and loving companion that fits seamlessly into various living situations, from apartment blocks in the CBD to family homes in the suburbs.

The demand for this particular crossbreed has soared in Western Australia, and for good reason. Owners in Perth are drawn to their hypoallergenic coats, their affectionate nature, and their manageable size. Whether you are a first-time dog owner or a seasoned pet parent, understanding what makes this hybrid so special, and where to find ethically bred puppies, is the first step toward bringing home your new best friend. This guide will walk you through everything you need to know about finding a Shih Tzu Maltese in Perth, from breed characteristics to responsible purchasing.

Understanding the Shih Tzu Maltese Mix (Malshi)

Before you look at listings for **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth**, it is crucial to understand exactly what you are getting into. The Malshi is a designer crossbreed that combines the best traits of two ancient toy breeds. The Shih Tzu, originally bred to be a palace companion in China, brings a friendly, outgoing, and sometimes stubborn demeanor. The Maltese, an ancient breed from the island of Malta, contributes a playful, gentle, and incredibly affectionate spirit. The result is a dog that is intelligent, social, and deeply attached to its family.

Physical Appearance and Coat

One of the biggest selling points for this mix is its coat. Typically, a Malshi inherits a long, silky, and soft coat that is low-shedding. This makes them an excellent choice for allergy sufferers living in Perth. While they do not shed much, their coat requires regular maintenance to prevent matting. You will often find them in colours ranging from pure white (influenced by the Maltese) to gold, black, white, or a combination of these colours from the Shih Tzu side. They are small dogs, usually weighing between 4 and 7 kilograms when fully grown, making them the perfect lap dog size for Perth apartments or townhouses.

Temperament and Personality

The personality of a Malshi is generally described as "velcro dog" because they love to stick by their owner's side. They are alert, friendly, and get along well with children and other pets if socialized early. Unlike some terriers, they are not typically yappy, though they will bark to alert you of someone at the door. In the context of Perth living, this makes them great companions for retirees, singles, or families with older children. They are not

high-energy dogs, but they do enjoy a short walk along the Swan River or a play session in Kings Park.

Why Choose a Shih Tzu Maltese in Perth?

Perth offers a unique lifestyle that suits the Malshi perfectly. The city's climate, from warm summers to mild winters, is generally comfortable for this breed, provided you take care to avoid the extreme heat of the midday sun. Here are a few reasons why this mix has become so popular in WA:

- Apartment-Friendly Size: With their small stature, they are ideal for the growing number of apartment dwellers in Perth.
- Travel Companions: Their compact size makes them easy to take on road trips down South to Margaret River or up North to the Pinnacles.
- Low Exercise Requirements: While they enjoy a daily walk, they are perfectly happy with indoor play, which is great for less active owners.
- Affectionate Nature: They are known for being excellent emotional support animals, providing comfort and companionship in a busy world.

Finding Shih Tzu Maltese For Sale in Perth

When you start searching for **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth**, you will encounter a variety of sources. It is vital to approach this search with caution and care to ensure you are supporting ethical breeding practices rather than puppy farms. The demand in Perth is high, and unfortunately, this can lead to unscrupulous sellers looking to make a quick profit.

Reputable Breeders in Western Australia

The best place to start is by locating a reputable breeder who specializes in this crossbreed. A good breeder will be transparent about the health of the parent dogs, allow you to visit their facility (or home), and ask you questions to ensure their puppies are going to good homes. Expect to be placed on a waiting list, as ethical breeders do not always have instant availability. When you look at listings for **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth**, look for breeders who provide health certificates for the parents, including testing for conditions common in these breeds such as Luxating Patella, eye problems, and dental issues.

The Second-Hand Market and Rehoming

Another viable option is to look for adults or puppies being rehomed. Sometimes, owners in Perth find that their lifestyle does not match the needs of the dog, or they have to move overseas. While these dogs may not be puppies, they are often already house-trained and socialized. Websites like Gumtree and Facebook groups dedicated to pet rehoming in Perth can be valuable, but again, caution is required. Always ask for proof of vet history and meet the dog in person before any money changes hands.

Pet Stores and Online Marketplaces

Be wary of pet stores or online ads that offer immediate delivery of "rare" Shih Tzu Maltese puppies without showing you the environment they came from. Many of these operations source from puppy mills, which can lead to serious health and behavioural problems. A genuine search for **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth** will involve patience and research.

What to Look for in a Reputable Breeder

To ensure you are getting a healthy and well-socialized puppy, you need to vet the breeder thoroughly. Here is a checklist of what to look for when you contact sellers advertising Shih Tzu Maltese pups in Perth:

1. Transparency: They should willingly show you the mother of the puppies and, if possible, the father.

2. Cleanliness: The environment where the puppies are raised should be clean, spacious, and stimulating.
3. Health Guarantees: A written health guarantee and vaccination records are non-negotiable.
4. Knowledge: They should be able to answer questions about the breed's temperament, grooming needs, and common health issues.
5. Contracts: A reputable breeder will have a contract that includes a clause requiring you to return the dog to them if you can no longer care for it.

Preparing Your Home for a Malshi Puppy

Bringing home a new puppy from a litter of **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth** is an exciting time. Perth's lifestyle means you will likely want to take your dog everywhere, so preparation is key.

Puppy-Proofing Your Space

Malshi puppies are curious and small. They can get into places you might not expect. Secure any electrical cords, remove toxic plants (common in many Perth gardens), and ensure there are no small spaces where they could get stuck. Because they are small, they can also be injured by falls, so ensure balconies are secure.

Grooming Essentials

Given their long coats, you will need to invest in grooming tools early. A slicker brush, a metal comb, and detangling spray are essential. Many Perth owners choose to take their Malshi to a professional groomer every 4 to 6 weeks for a tidy-up, especially during the hot summer months. Consider a "puppy cut" which keeps the hair short and manageable.

Climate Considerations in Perth

Perth summers can be harsh. Shih Tzu Maltese mixes have flat faces (brachycephalic traits) which can make them prone to heat stress. Never walk your dog during the peak heat of the day. Ensure they have constant access to fresh water and a cool, shaded area. During winter, they might appreciate a small jumper or coat for those chilly mornings.

Caring for Your Shih Tzu Maltese

The ongoing care for your Malshi is relatively straightforward, but it requires consistency. The keyword is "routine." When you purchase a puppy from a **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth** listing, you are committing to a lifetime of care.

Diet and Nutrition

Small breed dogs have fast metabolisms and specific nutritional needs. High-quality kibble formulated for small breeds is recommended. Be careful not to overfeed, as these dogs can easily become obese, leading to joint problems. Treats should be given sparingly. Perth has several excellent pet supply stores and raw food providers if you wish to explore a mixed diet, but always consult your vet first.

Training and Socialisation

Malshi are intelligent but can be stubborn (that Shih Tzu trait!). Positive reinforcement training works best. Because they are small, owners sometimes neglect training, which can lead to Small Dog Syndrome. Enrolling in a puppy school in Perth is a great way to socialize your dog and establish basic commands. They respond well to praise and treats.

Health Monitoring

Being a crossbreed, the Malshi is generally healthier than purebreds, but they are still prone to certain conditions. Common issues include:

- Dental Problems: Small mouths can lead to overcrowding. Regular teeth brushing is essential.
- Eye Issues: Tear staining is common, and they can be prone to eye infections.
- Patellar Luxation: A condition where the kneecap dislocates.

Having a good relationship with a local Perth vet is crucial. Regular check-ups will help catch any issues early.

The Cost of a Shih Tzu Maltese in Perth

Price is a significant factor when searching for **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth**. You should expect to pay a premium for a well-bred puppy from a reputable source. Prices in WA typically range from $2,500 to $5,000 or more, depending on the lineage, colour, and the breeder's reputation. This price usually covers the first vaccinations, microchipping, deworming, and initial vet checks.

If you see prices significantly lower than this, be suspicious. Cheap puppies often come with expensive vet bills later on. Remember, the upfront cost is just the beginning. You also need to budget for food, grooming, vet visits, pet insurance, toys, and bedding. The annual cost of owning a small dog in Perth can run into the thousands, so financial preparedness is part of responsible ownership.

Adoption vs. Buying

While many people specifically search for **Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth** to find a puppy, adoption is a wonderful alternative. There are several rescue organizations in Western Australia dedicated to small breeds and crossbreeds. Adopting an adult Malshi or a similar mix can be incredibly rewarding. These dogs often come already trained and are desperate for a second chance at a loving home.

However, if you have your heart set on a puppy, ensure you are buying from a source that prioritizes the dog's welfare over profit. The rules in

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