GENERAL

shih tzu maltese for sale perth

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Introduction

Perth's vibrant pet friendly community is growing every year, and with it comes a rising demand for adorable, low maintenance companions. One of the most sought after choices among dog lovers in the region is the Shih Tzu Maltese mix, often affectionately called a "Shih Tzu Maltese" or "Shih Tzu Maltese mix." These small, affectionate dogs combine the best traits of both parent breeds, creating a charming, hypoallergenic companion that thrives in apartment and family homes alike.

In this guide, we'll walk you through everything you need to know to find a Shih Tzu Maltese for sale in Perth, from understanding the breed's characteristics to spotting a reputable seller, ensuring health and welfare, and making your first purchase a smooth, joyful experience.

Why Choose a Shih Tzu Maltese Mix?

When you're considering a new pet, the decision often comes down to temperament, size, and maintenance. The Shih Tzu Maltese mix excels in all three areas, making it a popular choice for Perth residents.

Physical Traits

These mixed breed dogs typically weigh between 5 and 9 kilograms and stand about 20–25 centimeters at the shoulder. Their coats are silky, long, and often wavy, with colors ranging from white, cream, and apricot to combinations of black, brown, and tan. Because they inherit the low shedding coat of the Maltese, they're considered hypoallergenic—ideal for people with allergies.

Temperament

Shih Tzu Maltese mixes are renowned for their gentle, friendly nature. They're highly sociable, enjoying both human companionship and the company of other dogs. Their calm disposition makes them excellent apartment dogs, while their affectionate personality ensures they're a joy in family settings. They also tend to be good with children and other pets when properly socialized.

Low Maintenance

Unlike many larger breeds, these dogs don't require extensive exercise. A short walk each day, a few play sessions, and some mental stimulation will keep them happy. Their grooming needs are moderate; regular brushing and occasional professional trims keep their coats healthy and tangle free.

Finding Reputable Sellers in Perth

While the internet makes it easy to search for "Shih Tzu Maltese for sale Perth," it's essential to approach the process with caution. Below are key steps to ensure you find a trustworthy source.

Check for Licensing and Health Guarantees

Reputable breeders in Perth hold valid licenses from the **Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)** and adhere to the **Australian Animal Welfare Standards**. Look for breeders who provide:

- Proof of health testing for both parent breeds (hip and elbow evaluations, heart screening, eye exams).
- Vaccination records and deworming logs.
- A written health guarantee covering genetic conditions for at least 12 months.
- Clear documentation of the puppy's birth date, pedigree, and parental information.

What to Ask During a Visit

When you schedule a visit to a breeder's facility, prepare a list of questions. These will help you gauge the breeder's professionalism and the puppies' welfare:

1. What is the typical litter size?
2. How often do you socialize the puppies with other dogs, humans, and new environments?
3. Can I meet the puppy's parents?
4. What is the feeding schedule and diet?
5. Do you provide any post sale support or training advice?
6. What is your return policy if I can't keep the puppy?

Online Platforms and Local Kennel Clubs

In addition to visiting local breeders, you can use reputable online platforms that vet sellers, such as:

- Petfinder Australia – Offers a wide range of breeds and allows you to filter by location.
- Adopt a Dog Perth – Focuses on adoption but often lists reputable breeders for sale.
- Local Facebook groups like "Perth Dog Lovers" or "Perth Breeders" – Provide community reviews and direct contact with breeders.

Always cross reference online listings with the breeder's physical location and licensing status.

Health and Wellness of the Shih Tzu Maltese Mix

Because this mix inherits traits from two distinct breeds, it's important to be aware of potential health concerns and how to manage them.

Common Genetic Issues

Shih Tzu Maltese mixes can be prone to:

- Dental problems – Small teeth often crowd, leading to periodontal disease.
- Eye conditions – Cataracts and dry eye are common in both parent breeds.
- Hip and elbow dysplasia – Though less common in small breeds, it can still occur.
- Heart murmurs – Both breeds can carry congenital heart defects.

Regular veterinary check ups and early detection are key to managing these conditions.

Vaccination and Deworming

Before you take your new puppy home, confirm that they have received:

- Core vaccinations: DHPP (distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, parainfluenza), rabies, and bordetella (kennel cough).
- Optional boosters: Lyme disease and leptospirosis, especially if you live in an area with high tick or mosquito activity.
- Annual deworming schedule.

Nutrition and Feeding Guidelines

Nutrition is foundational to your puppy's health. Use high quality commercial dog food that meets the **AAFCO**

standards and is appropriate for small breeds. Feeding recommendations vary by age, weight, and activity level:

- Puppies (up to 6 months) – 3–4 small meals per day.
- Juveniles (6–12 months) – 2–3 meals per day.
- Adults (12+ months) – 1–2 meals per day.

Always provide fresh water and monitor for any digestive upset after changes in diet.

Grooming and Care Tips

Shih Tzu Maltese mixes enjoy a luxurious coat but require regular maintenance to keep it looking its best.

Coat Care

Brush your dog's coat at least 2–3 times per week to prevent mats and tangles. Use a slicker brush or a metal comb with wide teeth. For longer coats, consider a professional grooming session every 4–6 weeks. Keep the ears clean and check for signs of infection or irritation.

Dental Hygiene

Dental care is crucial for small breeds. Brush your dog's teeth daily using a dog specific toothpaste. Provide chew toys that help clean teeth and reduce plaque buildup.

Exercise Requirements

Although they don't need intense workouts, daily short walks (15–20 minutes) and playtime help maintain muscle tone and mental stimulation. Puzzle toys, scent games, and gentle training sessions keep their minds sharp.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Owning a pet in Perth comes with responsibilities. Understanding local regulations ensures you're compliant and your pet stays healthy.

Pet Ownership Laws in Western Australia

Key points include:

- All dogs over 12 months must be microchipped and registered with the local council.
- Leash laws: Dogs must be on a leash in public parks, and owners must control them at all times.
- Vaccination proof: Owners must provide vaccination records upon request.
- Pet waste removal: Owners must clean up after their dog in public spaces.

Responsible Breeding Practices

When selecting a breeder, look for:

- Transparent breeding practices, including genetic testing for both parents.
- Healthy, well socialized puppies raised in a clean environment.
- Post sale support such as veterinary advice, training resources, and a return policy.
- Compliance with the Australian Animal Welfare Act and Dog Breeding Regulations.

Cost of Owning a Shih Tzu Maltese Mix

While the initial purchase price can vary, owning a Shih Tzu Maltese mix involves several ongoing expenses. Budgeting ahead ensures you're prepared for a lifetime of care.

Initial Purchase Price

In Perth, prices for a Shih Tzu Maltese mix typically range between $1,200 and $2,500 AUD, depending on the breeder, lineage, and whether the puppy comes with a health guarantee. Some premium breeders may charge more if the parents are show quality or have a strong pedigree.

Ongoing Expenses

Annual or monthly costs include:

- Food: $400–$600 per year.
- Veterinary check ups and vaccinations: $250–$350 per year.
- Microchip registration and renewals: $30–$50.
- Grooming: $40–$70 per session.
- Pet insurance: $200–$400 per year, depending on coverage.
- Training classes or toys: $50–$150.

Unexpected medical costs can arise,

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