

## About the Kishu Ken

The Kishu Ken is a great dog for an active person and has the ability to be an easy-going house dog when they are not out and about. They are medium-sized, well balanced, and their muscles are well developed. They have pricked ears and a curled or sickle tail. Kishus are very loving and affectionate with their families and need to be included in activities. They are great with kids if raised with them, but they are often aloof with strangers. Kishu Ken have high prey drives and might like to give chase to small animals. If he is raised with a small animal such as a cat, he could do well with them, but most Kishus can't help but give in to their instincts.



## History

The Japanese dog breeds are ancient and developed from a common source. In Japan, spitz-type hunting dogs (*canis familiaris palustris*) lived over 3000 years ago. The Kishu Ken (ken meaning "dog" in Japanese) developed from tough, medium-sized dogs that roamed the mountains of Japan many centuries ago. They were the matagi's dogs, used to hunt boar and deer. The region in Japan called Wakayama is best known for the breeding and development of the Kishu. The hunters preferred the white color because of easy visibility. Working dogs were bred for efficiency and usefulness. Prior to 1934, there were Kishus in white, red, brindle and some that were spotted. But the solid colors became the only accepted colors and the spotted-coat Kishus had disappeared by 1945. In 1934, the Kishu was designated a "Memorial of Nature" in its native country. The Japanese people are proud of their dogs and bestow honors and praise on them. This pride and commitment to their national treasures, and the Kishu is one of them, is the reason the Kishus are rarely exported.



