



STANDING DOG

Egypt
Middle Kingdom, 2040-1782 BC
Light green faience with black spots
Height 3.2 cm Length 5.6 cm

The dog is standing on a rectangular base bending backwards, ready to jump forward, the tail curled around his back and the ears erect in attention. The dog's body is covered with large black spots.

Egyptians loved their dogs as much as we do and they are often represented in two- or three-dimensional Egyptian art. Three-dimensional Middle Kingdom examples in faience depict individual dogs and sometimes owners set on a base. Though it may have had a symbolic meaning (for example: a watchdog in the afterlife) the dog was most likely a treasured reminder of a person's pet during their life, and thus included in the tomb as a keepsake.

PROVENANCE

Former private collection Mr. Joseph Pierre, Cluis, France, acquired prior to 1936; private collection **STANDING DOG** France, acquired at the sale of the above's property

LITERATURE

F.D. Friedman: *Gifts of the Nile, Ancient Egyptian Faience*, Thames & Hudson, London 1998
W.C. Hayes: *Sceptre of Egypt I*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 1959
J. Bourriau & S. Quirke: *Pharaohs and Mortals: Egyptian art in the Middle Kingdom*, University Press Cambridge 1988