EDUCATION

Littlest Pet Shop Collection Guide

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Introduction to the World of Littlest Pet Shop Collecting

For decades, the **Littlest Pet Shop Collection Guide**has been an essential resource for collectors and enthusiasts of these charming miniature animals. Since their debut in the 1990s, Littlest Pet Shop (LPS) toys have captivated children and adults alike with their oversized heads, glossy eyes, and distinct personalities. Whether you are rediscovering your childhood collection or starting fresh, understanding the nuances of rarity, condition, and series variations is the key to building a meaningful and valuable assembly of these beloved figures.

The appeal of LPS figures extends beyond simple playthings. Collectors are drawn to the intricate details, the vast array of species, and the thrill of hunting down elusive pieces. This comprehensive guide will walk you through everything you need to know—from identifying genuine pieces and understanding packaging to assessing mint condition and knowing which sets hold the most value. By the end, you will feel confident navigating online marketplaces, flea markets, and collector forums with a keen eye for treasures.

Understanding the Eras of Littlest Pet Shop

The Original Kenner Era (1992–1997)

The journey began when Kenner, later acquired by Hasbro, introduced the first Littlest Pet Shop toys. These early figures were slightly smaller than later releases and often featured rubbery, flexible bodies. The pets came in playsets like the Pet Shop, Pet Parade, and Pet Park. Original Kenner pets are highly sought after today, especially those with unique coloration or accessories. The hallmark of this era is the simple, rounded design and the iconic blue and pink packaging.

The Hasbro Revival (2005–2013)

Hasbro relaunched Littlest Pet Shop in 2005, and this era is the most familiar to modern collectors. The figures grew larger with more exaggerated heads and big, glittery eyes. This period introduced hundreds of molds, including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, and exotic animals. The pets often came with rubber bands or small capsules. Rarity from this era depends heavily on the mold, specific paint variations, and whether the pet was part of a limited edition set or a store exclusive.

The Modern Generation (2019–Present)

In 2019, Hasbro released a new generation of LPS toys to coincide with the animated Netflix series. While these newer figures have a slightly different aesthetic—sometimes softer, with simplified features—they have quickly gained their own dedicated following. Collectors should note that modern pets rarely achieve the same secondary market value as vintage pieces, though they are excellent for starting a collection on a budget.

How to Authenticate Your Littlest Pet Shop Figures

Counterfeit LPS figures are unfortunately common, particularly for highly sought-after molds like the Great Dane, the Cocker Spaniel, or the French Bulldog. An authentic **Littlest Pet Shop Collection Guide**relies on knowing the markers of genuine toys. Look for a small Hasbro or Kenner imprint, often found on the underside of the pet. Genuine figures have smooth, consistent paint applications, hallmark glossy eyes, and a satisfying weight. Fake

figures often feel lighter, have sloppy paint lines, and dull, lifeless eyes.

Another reliable indicator is the neck peg. Authentic LPS figures from the Hasbro era have a sturdy, well-fitting peg that allows the head to turn smoothly. Counterfeit versions may have loose or overly tight necks. Additionally, the plastic should not have a strong chemical odor. When buying online, always ask sellers for clear photos of the bottom stamp and the neck joint.

Organizing Your Collection by Series and Sets

Blind Bags and Mystery Capsules

Hasbro released many pets through blind bag series, especially between 2005 and 2013. These small, sealed packages contained a random pet, making complete sets notoriously difficult to assemble. A serious collector will want to catalogue each series by its number (e.g., Series 1, Series 2) and note the exclusive pets that came only in specific waves. Some of the most valuable LPS figures originated from these blind bags, such as the very rare #117 Great Dane or the #526 Siamese Cat.

Playsets and Exclusive Bundles

Beyond individual pets, playsets like the LPS Treehouse, the Pet Hospital, and the Sweet Shop are highly collectible, especially when they include exclusive accessory pets. Many collectors pursue "complete in box" (CIB) sets, which include all original accessories, stickers, and furniture. The presence of a rare pet as part of a bundle can exponentially increase the set's overall value.

Store and Event Exclusives

Certain LPS figures were released exclusively through specific retailers or events. For example, toys sold only at Toys "R" Us, Target, or Walmart during holiday seasons often feature unique paint jobs or glitter finishes. San Diego Comic-Con and other conventions have also produced limited edition pets. Tracking these exclusives is a rewarding challenge for advanced collectors and often represents the crown jewels of any collection.

Evaluating Condition and Grading

Condition is paramount in the collecting world. A **Littlest Pet Shop Collection Guide**must address grading practices to help you assess value accurately. The standard scale ranges from Mint to Poor.

- Mint in Box (MIB): The pet is in flawless condition, never played with, and includes original packaging and all inserts. This is the most desirable state.
- Mint Condition (Loose): The figure has no scratches, no paint wear, and the neck peg functions perfectly. Slight dust is acceptable if wiped away easily.
- Excellent: Minor, near-invisible wear such as a tiny rub on an ear or a very faint scuff. The figure remains glossy and clean.
- Good: Clearly played with but intact. Some paint loss on the nose or eyes, minor scratches, but no broken parts.
- Fair: Noticeable wear, chipped paint, possible chew marks or loose neck pegs. Acceptable for budget collectors or customization.
- Poor: Significant damage, missing parts, heavy discoloration. Typically only useful for parts.

Identifying Valuable and Rare Figures

Rarity in Littlest Pet Shop collecting is not always intuitive. Some figures that were common in one region are scarce in another. However, certain pets consistently command high prices. The most valuable LPS figures typically

include:

1. The Great Dane #117: A sleek, elegant mold with long legs and a narrow head. Its rarity stems from limited production in early blind bag series. Mint versions can sell for hundreds of dollars.
2. The Cocker Spaniel #58 (Winter Edition): Distinguished by its fur texture and pale gray coloring. This is a grail piece for many collectors because of its limited release.
3. The Panda #653: A bold black-and-white bear that was exclusive to a specific Target set. Incomplete sets decrease value, so finding one with all accessories is key.
4. The Fox #226: An early Kenner-era pet with a distinctive arched tail and orange coloring. Rarity increases with the presence of original tags.
5. Fuzzy Molds: Certain pets featured flocking or soft textures. These are especially prone to wear, making mint examples extremely valuable.

Caring for and Displaying Your Collection

Proper care ensures your collection retains its beauty and value. Heat and direct sunlight are the enemies of LPS plastic; they cause fading and can warp soft heads. Store your pets in a cool, dry place away from windows. For display, consider acrylic risers or tiered shelves that allow every figure to be seen. Avoid stacking pets on top of each other, as this can cause pressure marks and paint transfer.

Cleaning should be gentle. Use a soft, slightly damp microfiber cloth to wipe away dust. For stuck-on grime, a tiny amount of mild dish soap on a cotton swab works well. Never use alcohol, bleach, or abrasive cleaners—they will strip paint and dull the glossy finish. If you acquire a collection with sticky residue from old price tags, use a dab of cooking oil or a specialized sticker remover, then wash with soapy water.

Where to Buy and Sell Littlest Pet Shop

The secondary market for LPS is vibrant. Online platforms like eBay and Mercari are the most popular destinations, offering a vast selection of individual pets and lots. To succeed as a buyer, use specific search terms such as "Littlest Pet Shop rare," "LPS blind bag #117," or "Kenner LPS 1995." Filter by condition and ask sellers for detailed photos of any flaws.

Facebook groups and subreddits like r/LittlestPetShop are excellent for community engagement, price checks, and direct trades. Many collectors prefer these spaces because they foster trust and often feature lower prices than retail platforms. Additionally, local flea markets and garage sales can yield incredible finds for those willing to dig through bins—though patience and knowledge are required.

When selling, accurate description is critical. Clearly state the condition, any missing accessories, and whether the pet is authentic. High-quality photos under natural lighting will attract serious buyers. Pricing should reflect current market trends; check sold listings rather than asking prices to gauge true value.

Building Themed Sub-Collections

Many collectors find joy in creating focused groupings. You might choose to collect only cats, only dogs, or only exotic animals like giraffes and pandas. Theme-based collecting can be more affordable and deeply satisfying. Some popular sub-collections include:

- Color Variations: Collecting the same mold in every color release.
- Glitter Pets: Focusing exclusively on figures with sparkly accents or metallic finishes.
- Sealed Boxes: Acquiring unopened blind bags or boxed playsets for the thrill of mystery.

- International Exclusives: Pursuing pets released only in Europe, Asia, or Australia.

Conclusion

Assembling a Littlest Pet Shop collection is a journey filled with nostalgia, creativity, and the excitement of discovery. Whether you are drawn to the vintage charm of Kenner originals, the glossy eyes of Hasbro's 2005 revival, or the fresh designs of modern releases, there is a world of tiny treasures waiting for you. By following this **Littlest Pet Shop Collection Guide**, you now have the foundational knowledge to identify authentic pieces, assess condition, and recognize valuable finds. Remember, the best collections are built with patience and passion. Each pet tells a story, and yours is still being written. Happy hunting

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