

SCOTTISH DOGS



Introduction

One of the most interesting sights at a Scottish Highland Games is the flash of a collie running around a small flock of bewildered sheep, driving them through various 'gates' in a demonstration of the ages-old art of Scottish sheepherding. Some games even have areas set aside to exhibit the various Scottish Dog breeds (The Ligonier Highland Games near Ligonier, PA does a fine job of this).

A Brief History of Dogs

The dog is referenced over forty times in the Bible's Old Testament, confirming the species' long-standing affiliation with man. Paleolithic Age rock paintings show dogs hunting with men.

This association has benefited both humans and dogs. Food and shelter is exchanged for loyalty and work as guard, warrior, herder, or simply a companion.

All dogs are thought to have evolved from ancient wolf breeds. Large northern wolves (sub-arctic) led to both large and small dog breeds, terriers being part of the smaller offshoot. From the smaller wolves of India and Arabia come the hounds and the collies.

Celts dominated northern Europe and the British Isles since the 5th century BC. They were responsible for introducing dogs into the British Isles

and what would one day be Scotland. Originally from the shores of the Caspian Sea, they brought the Indian and Arabian-wolf-descent dogs with them.

Dogs were with the Romans who marched into ancient Gaul. Gallo-Roman development from that point appeared to encourage separate breeding of working dogs and companion dogs.

With the fall of Rome and the disintegration of the existing agricultural civilization, dogs were often abandoned and became wild animals again, even spawning legends of monsters and

tracked down rodents, while various other dogs trailed game birds.

In Britain, the categories became traditionalized as: "Greyhounds, Terriers, Slowhounds [a now-extinct specialist in hunting over marshlands], Large Hounds [mastiffs], and Bulldogs [used in the 'sport' of bull-baiting]."

In the 16th century, the British breeds became more delineated: sheepdogs and watchdogs (called Bandogges, Tynkers, and Mooners). The hunting dogs were "Bloodhounds, Gazehounds, Lymeers, Tenneblers, Harriers, and a number of terriers." There were also various spaniels, setters and pet breeds.

By the end of the Renaissance the love and ownership of dogs had permeated all classes of society. Hunting



A border collie, Fran, working the sheep.
Photo Courtesy Of Richard Whorton

were wolves. By the year 1000 A.D., nobility had revived the domesticated dog for use in hunting. Shepherds also returned to their ways of using sheepdogs, although some would say they never stopped.

Near this time, classification of groups of breeds became established: pointers flushed game, hounds drove stags into the open for other dogs to chase, greyhounds were employed for hunting hare and deer, and mastiffs were used to bring down large quarry. Forerunners of the terrier family

in England was very popular and many small hunting-dog breeds appeared to fill the needs of hunting small game: terriers, spaniels, and scent-hounds. Mastiffs and other large-dogs, once used for war, were disappearing due to the lack of large game on the island.

Their place in society broadened with the 1800's and the Industrial Revolution. People had the time and resources to enjoy the pastime of "showing dogs." Mechanisation also reduced the need for dogs' working skills and they were selected more for

looks and other aesthetic tastes. These two forces produced a great shift from animals prized for their talents and strengths to ones who conformed closest to an established ideal.

The first dog show was held in Britain in 1859. That led to the publication of a book of "standards," or definitions of what the recognized breeds were supposed to look like. This allowed judging to be done more uniformly. The book detailed 35 breeds, showing the steady growth of specialization of type.

The British Kennel Club was founded in 1873 to preserve the British breeds and improve them with selective breeding with foreign breeds. By August of 1897, the number of recognized breed was 274, a clear indicator of the show dog trend.

But dogs still had their work to do. Dogs were put to work in World War I as patrolling guards, medicine and message carriers, and trench rat hunters. By World War II, more creative and cruel methods were devised. The Russian Army would keep dogs half-starved and train them to enter armored vehicles to find food, attacking any enemies they found inside. In the Vietnam war, dogs were used to flush enemy troops out of cover and to locate mines and explosives.

In the last 50 years, dogs have been used in more and more useful ways. They are used in rescue operations, like those performed after the 1985 Mexico City earthquake. Many have been put into the service of blind people as Seeing Eye or Leader dogs. Some are even trained as Hearing

Dogs, trained to detect certain sounds and alert their owner to them. Therapy dogs are used with great affect to alleviate stress, reduce loneliness, and counteract nervousness and depression. Some even explore outer space. (Laika, a small Russian dog, was the first dog into space in 1957).

Great Britain remains the largest exporter of dogs in the world. Spread along with their empire-building, many breeds around the world are derived from their stock. Some nations staunchly promoted their own indigenous breeds. Nonetheless, the French continued to replenish their packs from Great Britain, particularly from breeders in Scotland. Dogs were surely part of the complex network of ties between Scotland and France known as the Auld Alliance.

The Scottish Breeds

The American Kennel Club (AKC) recognises fourteen breeds of dog as being of Scottish origin: Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Golden Retrievers, Gordon Setters, Rough Collies, Scottish Deerhounds, Scottish Terriers, Shetland Sheep Dogs, Skye Terriers, Smooth Collies, and West Highland White Terriers. We will examine each of these proud breeds, their history in Scotland and America, and the ways that they impact our lives today.

Although exact classifications vary between the dog societies of different nations, the following is a summary of modern, American Kennel

Club recognized Scottish breeds.

Herding / Working Group : This group includes sheepdogs, guidedogs, and watchdogs. Bearded Collie, Border Collie, Collie (Rough), Collie (Smooth), and the Shetland Sheepdog all belong in this group and have, in many ways, set the standard of ability for other breeds to attain.

Gun Dog / Sporting Group: The gundogs accompany hunters after feathered game. They track it, point to it, flush it, and retrieve the dead prey. Both the Golden Retriever and the Gordon Setter belong in this group. Be aware, the action-name of the breeds doesn't mean they don't range into other talents.

Hound Group : These are hunting dogs that trail by sight or scent, i.e. sighthounds or scenthounds. The Scottish Deerhound, a sighthound bred to hunt stag, is a fine example of the group.

Terrier Group : A terrier is a dog that "goes to ground". The name is derived from Latin, terra, meaning earth. Good terriers must have good feet, good teeth, and a punishing jaw. They hunt burrowing animals such as fox, badger, otter, weasel, hedgehog, stoat, rats, and more, either killing them in their burrows, dragging them out, or barking to alert the hunters of the location of the prey.

Truly a breed of long lineage, statues of early terriers were dug up along Hadrian's wall and Covetina's Well. The Border Terrier, Cairn Terrier, Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Scottish Terrier, Skye Terrier, and the West Highland White Terrier are all Scottish Terriers.

Herding / Working Group

Bearded Collies or Beardies

One of the oldest of the Scottish herding breeds, the bearded collie has been in much the same form since the 1500's. The Beardie has been known by many other names including Highland Collie, Mountain Collie and Hairy Mou'ed (mouthed) Collie. A popular story suggests that the root of the breed was started by two Polish Lowland Sheepdogs and another dog from a ship

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out of Gdansk in 1514. Originally Beardies were common near the border areas of Scotland and England.

The Highland Clearances which followed the Battle of Culloden in 1745 had a great impact on the breeds of dogs in Scotland. They marked a massive shift to raising sheep in the rocky Highlands rather than subsistence farming. In addition to the huge flocks of sheep driven north from England, it also brought an influx of long-coated herding dogs which appear to have gotten "in the mix".

The Bearded Collie is not an "eye" breed, i.e. they don't use a stare to force sheep into submission as the Border Collie does. The Beardie will use his barking as a tool. His instincts are also not attuned to herding sheep. More commonly, the Beardie is seen with cattle as a drover's dog.

Like most dogs, the Beardie was owned by the common shepherd or cattle drover. By 18th century, they had also become popular with the aristocracy. But with industrialization and political upheaval in the late 19th century and early 20th, the hard-working Beardie faced possible extinction. World War I almost killed off the line as they lost almost all the kennels that had been actively breeding them. The breed was kept alive by the shepherds and drovers of Peebleshire for their own work.

Breeders came back into the scene by accident. In 1944, one Mrs G.O. Willison of England asked a Scottish farmer to find her a Shetland Sheepdog. The farmer, who may have had a low opinion of English dog sense, sent her an extremely fuzzy, droop-eared, brown puppy. Only after falling in love with the dog did she identify its true breed and start the breeding line that gave us almost every breeding line continuing today.

This is not to say that all Bearded Collies would have disappeared without the intervention of the breeders, but they would not have maintained the general conformity of appearance and size as they do today.

Today, it is rare to see a Bearded Collie working as a herder. They are most often family pets with some ex-

celling in obedience and agility competition. They are also used as Search and Rescue dogs.

The Bearded Collie usually stands 21 inches at shoulder and weighs 50 lbs. They are particularly reknown for working rough terrain, climbing fences,

"Border Collies. Are they truly smarter than chimpanzees? Cuddlier than a koala? More dedicated than Batman's valet? Can they change course in mid-air? Drag Nell from the tracks and locate the missing microfiche? Yes. I believe they can."

excerpted from *Border Collies* by Baxter Black: cowboy poet, former large-animal veterinarian.

and even jumping several feet in the air.

Border Collies

Border Collies are an amazing breed. Their skills and instincts make them a popular sheepdog across Scotland and around the world. They are still a quite necessary part of today's modern sheepfarming. A Border Collie can separate a ewe from a flock and drive it to the lambing pens better than any other method. It is much more difficult to do the work without them.

They appeared by the shepherd's side in the border areas between Scotland and England. It is probable that they most closely resemble ancient working sheepdogs of Scotland.

Although they are best known by their white and black coats, border collies can have many different coat colors. In general, though, the black and white is preferred and shepherds often select black and whites for breeding over merle or tan dogs.

The border collie is said to have a "magical eye", i.e. the power to control sheep simply by staring at them. It may be that this ability is a remnant of the Border's wolf ancestry. If this is true, the Border Collie is an amazing balance between killer and protector. The wolf in him awakens ancient instincts in his sheep, who freeze or flee; the dog in him uses these responses to direct the flock according to the wishes of his owner.

The Border Collie is born with the

instinct to "gather" the sheep to the shepherd and this trait makes him most useful on the hills and moors of Scotland. They have the tendency to "clap" or go down and face the sheep with their belly close to the ground. When the dog drops down and fixes its stare

on the sheep, he is producing a very predatory profile. The Border Collie's crouch is almost its signature. Due to the long distances the dogs are required to drive, they are often separated from their handlers. Independence and intelligence are required for a dog to be effective in this situation.

It was no accident that the Border Collie found its way to America. As expansion pushed open vast grasslands, sheep herds soon followed. American ranchers would import sheep from Scotland and hire shepherds to



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work the flocks. Naturally, the dogs came with the men. They became important parts of the western ranch industry. It was said that it took seven mounted

men to move 1,000 head of cattle; the same number of sheep could be driven by a single herdsman with one good dog. The dogs used were Border Collies.

There is a serious debate, to be polite, between those who raise border collies (or any other breed for that matter) for "show" and those who breed them for work. The working shepherds decry the shape of the show-

standard specimens who have retained little if any instinct for the work. The dog show enthusiasts contend that their breeding efforts have saved many breeds from extinction and promoted strong, disease-free dogs.

Border Collies have recently appeared in the popular media with the delightful movie, Babe (1993), the tale of a pig who learns to herd sheep with the border collies.



A young McNab

McNabs

This is an unusual addition to the list, but one that is uniquely Scottish-American. The McNab was developed in Northern California by Alexander McNab and his family, Scottish immigrants who reached California in 1868. The McNabs had emigrated from the Grampian Hills. Back in Scotland they had been neighbors of the McKinsey family who raised 'Fox Shepherds' or 'Fox Collies'. It was this breed of dog that Alexander brought to America. He bred two of these Fox Shepherds to Basque sheepdogs producing a cross known as the McNab. He bred for a short-haired dog to better tolerate the heat of Mendocino County.

The McNab's strengths are somewhat different than the Border Collie's, a close cousin. Rather than using the 'eye' and 'clapping' like the border collie, McNabs would either 'head' or 'heel' the sheep. This makes him a more forceful dog compared to the more subtle border collie.

The McNab is a registered, working stockdog with the National

Stockdog Registry. They have earned their place as a popular cattle and sheep dog up and down the California coast.

Rough and Smooth Collies

The Collie was born of the herd lands of Scotland, an animal courageous and intelligent. The Collie most likely originated as a cross between Roman-origin sheepdogs and indigenous British Isles breeds. Soon after 1800, planned breeding began in earnest. A cross with the Borzoi around 1830 produced an efficient herder who was streamlined, with a longer head and a richer coat. Prior to 1800, the Rough Collie was smaller and more colored like today's Border Collie, doing the day to day work of gathering and guarding sheep. The Smooth Collie was primarily a drover's dog and much larger. It would be used to drive the stock to market.

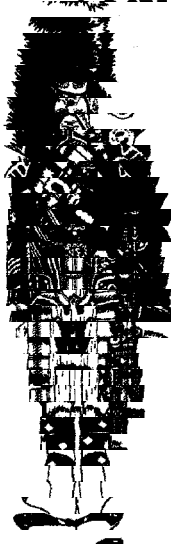
The name "collie" may have derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for black - "col." Scotland's black-faced sheep were once called "colleys." The dog that herded those sheep was called

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A smooth Collie, copyright 1996, the Dog Homepage

a “colley dog.” William Shakespeare used the word in its meaning of black in reference to the “collied night”, i.e. black night, in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Others say that the word collie is derived from the Gaelic tongue, since the word for a whelp or puppy is cuilean in that ancient language.

The smooth Collie is exactly like the rough in all ways but its coat. They still are double-coated, the soft, thick undercoat to protect against temperature extremes, and the outer coat to protect the under. The Smooth Collie is sometimes called the “wash and wear” collie.

Two Collies can easily herd 3000 head of sheep. The more aggressive dogs are put on herding cattle or horses, so as not to damage the wool with their rough skills. Working field Collies are brave enough to scare off most range predators and strong enough to kill them when necessary.

Collies will not run and crouch like the Border Collie, but wait and circle to correct any problems with the herd. They are large enough to be easily seen by the sheep and use their presence to their advantage at all times.

The popularity of collies rose with the patronage of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). During visits to Balmoral, her Scottish castle, she fell in love with the rough Collie. Immediately it became proper to own and breed Collies, the same dogs that had been simple working dogs not good enough for the show ring the year before.

By the year 1900, the Collie had made its way into hearts and kennels in America in large numbers. The most famous American collie fancier was J. Pierpont Morgan, a financier and industrialist.

They have been popularized by many books, television programs, and movies such as *Lad: A Dog* by Albert Payson Terhune and *Lassie Come Home* by Eric Knight.

Collies are regularly winners of medals and awards for their heroic deeds in defense and protection of their wards and masters. Some served in World War II with the British and American armies. Some serve as search and rescue dogs in mountainous areas including Switzerland. Others are used for drug detection in customs zones.

Collies retain their original herding instincts. Dogs who have never seen a sheep their whole lives will gladly herd what is available to them: the other dogs of the home, random animals, or the neighborhood children.

Reknown for openness and affection which make him a superb Therapy dog, the Collie is a friend to patients in nursing homes and hospitals. Collies don’t do well as guard dogs as they make friends far too easily.

Shetland Sheepdog or Sheltie

The Shetland Islands are a land of brooding, barren beauty. Their misty reputation gives them prominence in many European mythologies. At times, Shetland Sheepdogs were called “peerie”s, or faerie dog. They were originally known as Shetland Collies or “Toonies”, another word for croft or farm.

The noisy bark was the weapon of the “Sheltie” against larger marauders and their alarm across the moors. Exceptional agility enabled them to move fast across rocky outcroppings that would frustrate most other animals. They lived at the croft, showing their core nature as a companion animal, eager to be in our presence.

There is a different opinion of the origins of the dog. Some say the root stock was probably Scandinavian herding dogs from the same stock as the Norwegian Buhund or the Icelandic dog. The Nordic herding dogs are rarely mentioned in the history of the breed, but there is every reason to as-

sume that the original Norse settlers brought along their dogs as well as their small sheep, cows and horses. There is archaeological evidence of such dogs dating from before the transfer of the Shetland Islands to Scotland.

When Scottish breeds of larger sheep began to appear in the Shetlands, there was also the infusion of bloodlines from the Rough Collie and Border Collie ancestors. Crossbreeding with dogs from the visiting fishing fleets is also often mentioned as a factor in the Sheltie’s makeup.

The Sheltie was started from working collies from the mainland bred with small, heavy coated dogs. There is also Yakki blood, the Icelandic dog who came with whalers from Greenland who’d stop at Shetland ports. The Yakki was black with white or tan markings and standing at about 14 inches. Other breeds may have jumped in the gene pool off a visiting yacht or fishing vessel. The British Navy also would call at Shetland ports and the sailors were eager to take pups of the small dog home with them.

Bred to keep up with the wild and agile Shetland sheep, the Sheltie also had to work on a minimum amount of food. These factors were selected over appearance, size, or the ability to intimidate lazy stock (the Border Collie’s “eye”). They may have been used as much to keep wild sheep out of the crofter’s gardens and hayricks as they were to herd flocks.

As visitors came more frequently to the Shetlands, a small export trade in the small dogs developed. Fluffy dogs were prized and breeding began to edge towards a uniform long-coated appearance.

Near the end of the 19th century, the original stock breed was disappearing due to indiscriminate breeding. Rough collies were imported to bolster the original Sheltie stock. Other breeding efforts occurred but the “Collie crosses” won out over time, especially in the show ring. They were first recognized by the Kennel Club in 1909.

During the years around the World Wars, breeding was a difficult pursuit due to lack of time, energy, and funds.

By way of the American servicemen who were stationed in Britain, American breeders gave practical and emotional support to the Scottish breeders.

Today, the sheltie is uncommon as a herding dog and has become primarily a family pet. They are popular in many of the Scottish immigrant countries (America, Canada, Australia) as well as having a strong following in Japan. Old working instincts benefit them in obedience trials, and their warm, friendly nature make them excellent Therapy Dogs as well.

Their sheer popularity threatens them as demand outpaces the ability of responsible breeders to supply healthy and genetically strong puppies. Under those conditions, there are those who, seeing the profit potential enter the business without sufficient knowledge or care. They are labeled "Puppy Mills" in the dog community.

The similarity to the full-grown rough collie is unmistakable and was the basis for some of the original kennel club standards "Must look like a collie, only shorter". The breed name was changed from Shetland Collie to Shetland Sheepdog due to protests from the Collie breeders. To its admirers it is known as "Sheltie".

Coloring of Shelties is always a mix of black, white, and tan. The sable sheltie has tan as the predominant color. Like many dogs who face the natural elements, it is two coated: a soft, wooly undercoat and a harsher haired coat on top. The wooly coat insulates them from hot and cold weather and the topcoat sheds the rain like a roof. The face of a Sheltie is quite expressive and impish. The ears and tail are a truer testament to their mood.

Hound Group

Scottish Deerhound

Brother to the Irish Wolfhound, some say the Scottish Deerhound is descended from Pictish dogs. The actual origin of the breed is under doubt. Some say the Phoenician traders brought a very greyhound-like animal

around 1000 B.C. and other believe that the Celts used the dog and brought it with them when they invaded the British Isles. There is also some question as to whether the Scottish Deerhound is a predecessor to the Irish Wolfhound or vice versa.

Known only as the Deerhound in its native land, it is recognized as the Royal Dog of Scotland. In the Middle Ages it was the exclusive possession of the noble class. There were even laws against commoners owning them. Stolen deerhounds were often the justification for vicious feuds. Many believe that the dog of the Scottish King Crathlent, stolen by the Picts in 288 AD was a forebearer of this noble breed. A war ensued over the theft.

Deerhounds were the prize hunting dog of Clan Chieftains, hunting the Highland Stag. Deerhounds were provided by the Earl of Athol for Mary, Queen of Scots, on a hunt that he arranged for her enjoyment in 1563. After the dismantling of the clan hierarchy after 1745, the breed almost died out. The introduction of guns into hunting made the situation even worse.

It was saved in the 19th century by Lord Colonsay and a revival in the sport of deerstalking. These factors fed a popular revival of the breed. The statue of Sir Walter Scott on Princes Street in Edinburgh depicts the Scottish poet and novelist with Torm, a Scottish Deerhound. His oft-repeated eulogy to his dog, Maida, was that Scottish Deerhounds "are the most perfect creature of Heaven".

Fast, powerful and fearless, the Deerhound clearly shows that it was bred to hunt stag in the Highlands. It is a sighthound which means it uses its vision to track a stag and not its nose. An adult Deerhound can easily weigh one hundred pounds and stand nearly three feet at the shoulder. Their coats once had lots of colors but narrow-minded breeding has left us with the dark gray coat as the dominant color. They resemble greyhounds in body with a long, ragged and harsh coat.

Deerhounds have had their admirers in many places. Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer owned and hunted with three Scottish deerhounds.

Gun Dog / Sporting Group

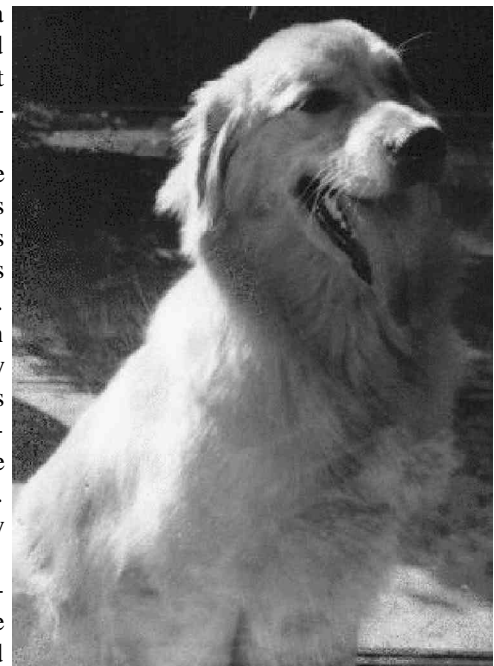
Golden Retrievers

There are many stories about the origin of the Golden Retriever. One says that in the 19th century, Sir Dudley Marjoribanks, first Lord Tweedmouth, had purchased Russian circus dogs to breed as trackers and gundogs on his Scottish estate, Guisachan, in Inverness-shire. A bit of Bloodhound crossbreeding was the only dilution of the line. The dogs mentioned looked like pale Pyrenean Mountain dogs.

A contradictory explanation is that the Goldens were begun from yellow pups of Flat or Wavy-coated Retriever litters.

The stories were resolved by a descendant of Lord Tweedmouth who produced detailed breeding records. It appears that the breed was begun with a yellow Brighton Retriever and a Tweed Water-Spaniel. That pairing produced the foundation of the breed, pups of medium gold color with wavy coats. The bit about the Bloodhound may have occurred after the breed had been established, but that still isn't certain.

Goldens are primarily gundogs; that is, track, point, flush game and retrieve dead prey. They are strong to push through the heavy brush common



Golden Retriever, copyright 1996, the Dog Homepage

in Inverness-shire and their coat allows them to work well in cold water. When trained properly, they excel at field work, tracking, retrieving, and swimming.

Goldens have a unique habit of responding to speech with the lifting of a paw. They'll also use it to get your attention. The retrieving instinct is strong and true in the breed and they need no instruction to begin to bring you "presents" when they return to you. The Golden is almost "ludicrously friendly," making him a rotten guard dog.

One of the most popular breeds in America, they are one of the best breeds to compete in obedience due to their willingness to please and their intelligence. They also make one of the best Seeing Eye Dogs.

Gordon Setters

The Gordon Setter's first appearance dates back to 1620 when it was described as a "black and fallow setting dog." This elegant hunting dog was valued by Scotland's sporting nobles throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. They were also once known as the Black and Tan Setter or Scottish Setter. He was the pride of the Duke of Gordon's kennels in the late 1700s and soon became known as the "Gordon Castle Setter".

Daniel Webster imported the first collection of these dogs to America in 1842.

They are the largest and most powerful of the setter breeds. They are strong and enduring, rather than swift. Working equally well on land or in water, their solid pads on the dog's paws make it ideal for rough, stubble-filled fields. They are highly intelligent and do not need to be retrained at the start of a new hunting season. Working with the hunter for centuries prepared the Gordon for its

more common modern role as companion and family dog.

At times, the Gordon Setter can be seen to circle rather than to point the game. This can be blamed on a bit of Collie in its blood, introduced by the Duke of Gordon to take advantage of an excellent nose and skill in hunting game found in a collie on his estate.

Terrier Group

Border Terrier

There is quite a bit of controversy about these terriers and from whence they originate. One popularly held opinion is that they come from the Cheviot Hills, which points to an English origin. An astute observer brought up that the boundaries have changed in the last two centuries making that flat statement dubious. Many believe that they are drawn from the "gutsy dogs of Scotland." Be that as it may, today the dogs are primarily bred

and raised in the northern English counties of Westmorland, Cumberland, and Northumberland.

Some evidence of the Scottish association of the breed can be found in the earliest known picture of a Border Terrier. A painting done in 1820 shows a Border Terrier at the feet of a Mr. William Jardine of Dumfriesshire, Scotland. It was identified as a separate breed in the mid-19th century.

The Border Terrier defends scattered farms against a serious menace, hill foxes. It also hunts other vermin including badger, marten, and otter. Their coats can be red, grizzle and tan, blue and tan, or wheaten. Double-coated to withstand weather and attack, their owners take pride in the working skills of the dog and resist breeding for aesthetic goals. They are fast enough to follow a horse and strong enough to take prey to ground and underground.

Border Terriers have found their place in the hearts of Brits and others around the world. They appear on many jacket covers of James Herriot's

"All Creatures Great and Small" books and they have an unusually strong following in Sweden.

Cairn Terrier

The Cairn Terrier developed on the Isle of Skye and the northwest coast of Scotland about five centuries ago. They are related to Scottish, Skye, Dandie Dinmont, and West Highland White Terriers. Early on, there was a lot of interbreeding between the Cairn and West Highland White Terriers.

They are named after a cairn, or a pile of rocks common to many Scottish farms. This so aptly describes the western coast and western islands of Scotland that there can be no doubt its origins are there. Scottish chieftains would use them to root out vermin that would hide in the ancient piles of stones, or

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cairns. Cairn terriers were sent as gifts from James VI, son of Mary Queen of Scots, to the King of France around 1600.

First known breeder was Captain Martin McLeod of Drynock, Isle of Skye, who set up kennels in Dunvegan Castle. Captain MacLeod was a great Highland sportsman and an enthusiastic otter hunter. He maintained a pack of silver grey Short-haired Skye Terriers for forty years before emigrating to Canada in 1854.

The Drynock strain was kept alive by Mr. John Macdonald, Bridge of Ose Kennels, Isle of Skye. Mr. Macdonald was a gamekeeper to the Clan Chief MacLeod of McLeod, Dunvegan Castle, for more than forty years. In 1917 he wrote that he and his brother had had this Drynock strain for the last seventy years. The Mackinnons of Kilbride was another kennel of good Short-haired Skye Terriers. These terriers were descendants of an old breed owned by Farquhar Kelly of Drumfearn, Isle of Skye in the seventeenth century. All of these strains played a part in the early lines of the breed's pioneers.

Mrs. Henry F. Price imported the first Cairn Terriers to the United States in 1913 and owned the first Cairn registered by the American Kennel Club. Cairn Terriers are a joyful and energetic breed. Their instinct to dig into burrows is alive and well as any Cairn owning gardener will attest. Like most of the original working breeds, today far more are companion animals. They are long-lived dogs, with few health problems, and many live well into their late teens. They are also quite sturdy, and are much tougher than their small size suggests. A famous example of a Cairn Terrier is Toto from the Wizard of Oz.

The coat of a Cairn is shaggy, rather long, and waterproof. They stand short with large heads. Coat color can vary from brindle (black hairs interspersed with the other fur color) to almost any other color, except white.

They are very loyal and human-oriented. They are also "talkers," growling and grumbling to get their point across.

Dandie Dinmont Terrier

The Dandie Dinmont was the first breed of Terrier to have a specific name. The name's origins come from a popular book of the early 19th century. Sir Walter Scott's novel *Guy Mannering* was published in 1815 and described a group of terriers owned by the character, Dandie Dinmont, and the name stuck.



Dandie Dinmont Terrier.

Photo courtesy of John Paterson

The breed is probably descended from the Skye Terrier with other terriers mixed in. A bit of Otterhound in its blood gives it distinctive low, large ears and a curved back. They were known to have been in the border country in the 17th century. They were bred to destroy farm vermin and are reknown for their ability to hunt badger, a particularly fierce opponent. They make good guard dogs as they distrust strangers and have a loud bark.

Unlike many other Scottish breeds, the Dandie Dinmont is rarely seen outside the British Isles. They have a long and low body with oversized head and topknot of hair. Their recognized colors are mustard and pepper, a tribute to the names of the dogs in Scott's novel.

Scottish Terrier

Formerly the Aberdeen Terrier, the Scottish Terrier is descended from the old Scotch Terrier. Breeding for show has drastically changed it from its origins producing a short-backed, low to the ground animal. The Scottie's distinctive look is one of the finest and most recognizable of all the terriers.

Scotties are scrappy little dogs, attributed with all sorts of stereotypical Scottish attitudes: devoted but not very openly affectionate, full of dignity and willing to fight over it.



A Scottish Terrier, copyright 1996, The Dog Homepage

The Scottie is an excellent digger and vermin exterminator. His body is muscular and powerful. His thick double coat insulates him and protects him from the bites of his prey. The coat's colors are actually quite varied, including steel/iron gray, brindled or grizzled, black, sandy, and wheaten.

One of the best known Scottish Terriers was Fala, the dog owned by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They are also favorites in advertising, especially for single malt scotch labels.

Skye Terrier

The Skye Terrier has had many names before "Skye" became the standard. They were at times called the Isle of Skye Terrier or the Highland Terrier, Glasgow Terrier, Clydesdale Terrier, Fancy Skye Terrier, Silky Skye Terrier, or Paisley Terrier.

Skye Terriers are native to the Isle of Skye west of the Scottish mainland. It was bred with a long coat to protect it from the teeth and claws of its prey. It was nimble and strong to be able to clamber over rocks and dig out prey. Their wooly undercoat protected them from the harsh Hebridean weather.

Their appearance is not as refined as some of the other terriers, but the Skye is a true working dog. Their coat can be black, blue, dark or light gray, silver, platinum, fawn, or cream. Breeders have been reluctant to tamper with the look or temperament of the breed as evidenced by the motto of the Skye Club of Scotland which is "Wha daur meddle wi' me."

The Skye became popular under Elizabeth I when it was known as a "barbarous breed". One of the most

famous Skyes was Greyfriar's Bobby, the dog of a poor Edinburgh shepherd. When the shepherd died, the dog followed the body to its grave and it stayed there for 10 years, never losing its devotion for the man. A monument to the faithful dog now stands at the gravesite in Edinburgh.

West Highland White Terrier or Westie

The West Highland White Terrier's origins are in Paltaloch in Argyleshire where they were bred by Colonel Edward Donald Malcolm in the mid-nineteenth century. It is legend that Colonel Malcolm accidentally shot one of his terriers while hunting and decided to breed for the white coat, to avoid the same mistake. The Duke of Argyll also bred them at about the same time.

In 1774, Oliver Goldsmith described the terrier as a small rough-haired hound, bred not only to fight the fox and badger, but to "give notice" of

where it resided. The terrier was expected to bark constantly to tell the hunter where it was going, so that the earth could be dug and the prey captured. Sportsmen had little regard for a dog without a "good voice". The terrier's lusty bark is quite evident today.

Also known as a "Westie" or "Highlander", the West Highland White Terrier is closely related to the Scottish, Dandie Dinmont, Cairn, and Skye Terriers. Their white coat easily distinguishes them from the game, be it foxes, rabbit, or other vermin. As is typical of the Highland Terriers, the Westie was bred as a small hunter with great courage and determination. They went into the lairs and holes of the fox or the otter. His double coat protects him from the teeth of his foe and the harsh elements of nature. Their anatomy gives them an energetic bounce in their walk.

An attractive pet, the Westie is also quite popular in the show ring.

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