

= Bedlington Terrier =

The Bedlington Terrier is a breed of small dog named after the mining town of Bedlington , Northumberland in North East England . Originally bred to hunt vermin in mines , the Bedlington Terrier has since been used in dog racing , numerous dog sports , as well as in conformation shows and as a companion dog . It is closely related to the Dandie Dinmont Terrier , Whippet and Otterhound .

It is described as a very versatile yet contradictory dog , being both good with children and " fit to kill any other dog of his weight " . They have powerful swimming skills , comparable to those of water dogs such as the Newfoundland , and are noted for being very quick and having high endurance . Bedlingtons are noted for their similarity in appearance to lambs . The dogs have blue , liver or sandy colouration , all three of which may have tan points . Their fur forms a distinctive top knot on the dog 's head .

Originally known as the Rothbury or Rodbury Terrier , the name Bedlington Terrier was not applied to the breed until 1825 , but some dogs have pedigrees that can be traced back as far as 1782 . The first dog shows with a class for Bedlington Terriers was held in 1870 at Bedlington . Bedlington Terriers shown at early shows were frequently dyed to improve the look of their fur . In 1948 , a Bedlington Terrier known as Rock Ridge Night Rocket won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show . The breed has a high instance of copper toxicosis , but with the exception of eye problems , it is mostly free from health complaints .

= = Description = =

= = = Appearance = = =

The Bedlington Terrier has been described as resembling a lamb . It has also been compared to a miniature version of the Scottish Deerhound . George Shields stated that exceedingly well @-@ bred dogs possess the spirit of a thoroughbred racehorse .

The dogs have blue , liver or sandy colouration , all three of which may have tan points . Bedlingtons carry what is known as the greying gene , a dominant trait carried on the G locus . This gene causes puppies born with black or dark brown fur to lighten to grey or liver with age . The fur of the Bedlington creates a shape on the top of the dog 's head known as a topknot . Although most modern breed standards call for the dog 's topknot to be lighter than its body , when the breed was first being formed there was at least one prominent breeder , Mr. Pickett , who believed that the topknot should be darker , not lighter .

The dog 's coat has been described as shaggy , hard , and rugged in style and it has also been described as linty in texture , giving the breed the nickname of " linty @-@ haired terrier " . Its coat is made up of a combination of hard and soft hairs . It is extremely difficult to maintain a " show clip " , even for professionals , and grooming can be quite expensive . Dogs in what is referred to as show clip , or groomed for the show ring , cannot have fur that stands out more than 1 inch (2 @.@ 5 centimetres) from their body , and the coat must have a " crisp " texture . If grooming is not performed regularly , the coat 's condition rapidly deteriorates . For that reason , most Bedlingtons that are kept strictly as pets keep a lower maintenance " pet groom " style . Bedlington Terriers have been referred to as a nonshedding hypoallergenic breed .

The head of the dog must be rounded in shape with no stop . Their eyes are almond @-@ shaped and small , and the lips are close @-@ fitting and lack flews . The back must be arched , and the body should be slightly longer in length than in height . Although 16 @.@ 5 inches (42 cm) is the preferred height for male dogs , a range from 16 to 17 @.@ 5 inches (41 to 44 cm) is allowed ; for females , the preferred height is 15 @.@ 5 inches (39 cm) and the acceptable range is from 15 to 16 @.@ 5 inches (38 to 42 cm) . Both genders must weigh between 17 and 23 pounds (7 @.@ 7 and 10 @.@ 4 kg) . They possess a light , springy gait .

== Temperament ==

Bedlingtons are sharp and plucky . Their bark has been called hound @-@ like and has been compared to the firing of a machine gun . Fast dogs with high endurance , the Bedlington Terrier is just as quick in water as it is on land , and their swimming speed rivals that of the Newfoundland . Bedlington Terriers " have pace enough to keep up with the ordinary speed of a horse . " Because of the Whippet in their lineage , they have a tendency to bolt . Their versatility has been praised , with some dogs willing to " [be] a house @-@ dog , a gun @-@ dog , a rat @-@ dog , a badger @-@ dog , or , if needed , [to] bolt a fox ... "

They are also known for their intelligence and tenacity when it comes to taking on vermin . Bedlingtons are quite fond of fighting , and are prone to jealousy when around other dogs . One man stated that " this dog was about fit to kill any other dog of his weight " and compared him to the fighting dogs used in dog fighting . They have also been used in pit fighting .

However , both the AKC and the ASPCA call the breed " mild " and " gentle " and recommends it as being good with children . PetFinder says the breed is soft in temperament , companionable , demonstrative , loyal , and a quiet housedog . Although the breed may chase small animals outside , it is accepting of them inside . Playful and cheerful , the breed can be high @-@ strung and excitable , and is prone to being headstrong . The New Zealand Kennel Club warns against keeping them with dogs that have dominant personalities , " as once challenged they are terrifying fighters , despite their gentle appearance " , but otherwise the breed is good with other dogs .

Some breeders , notably George Newcombe , have argued that the working ability and courage of the Bedlington terrier has declined since it began being bred for show . Poodle may have been introduced into the breed to make the coat easier to groom and maintain . George Newcombe of the Working Bedlington Terrier Club said that " the pure [Bedlington Terrier] could no longer be considered a serious working breed " and proceeded to cross his dogs with Lakeland Terriers in an attempt to bring back the Bedlington 's working qualities .

== History ==

Bred in the village of Bedlington in Northumberland , the Bedlington Terrier has been described as " the favourite companion of the northern miners " . They were originally known as Rodbury Terriers , Rothbury Terriers , or " Rothbury 's Lambs " , because the Lord of Rothbury had taken a particular liking to the dogs . Before this , they were known as " gypsy dogs " , as gypsies and poachers used them to hunt . The first mention of the Bedlington terrier , or as it was then known , the Rothbury or Rodbury Terrier , was in 1825 , most likely in The Life of James Allen , but some dogs ' pedigrees have been traced as far back as 1782 . James ' father , William , was much in demand as an otter hunter , and he kept Bedlington Terriers in order to help him hunt . They were also valued by their owners as rabbit coursing dogs and racing dogs , until the Whippet became more popular as a racing dog and a courser .

The Bedlington Terrier name was first given to a dog named Young Piper , which was owned by a man named Joseph Ainsley . Ainsley 's Piper has been called " the best of his race " and " had a reputation for great pluck and courage " . Piper began working with badgers at eight months old , and carried on hunting other animals generally regarded as vermin until he was blind . Piper is also known for saving a child from a pig , keeping the animal at bay until help arrived . Piper died at fifteen .

The first shows that had a class for the Bedlington Terrier were held in 1870 at Bedlington . The following year , there was a Bedlington Terrier class at a show held at Crystal Palace , where a red dog named Miner took first prize . Miner also won a show held at Birmingham . The Bedlington Terrier Club was established in 1875 . Many dogs in early shows were clipped and dyed to bring them closer to the breed standard and improve their chances of winning .

It is unknown if the judges of the time were aware of this practice , or if they cared . The practice of trimming was eventually accepted by The Kennel Club , under the pretense that the trimming was being done to " smarten a dog to show his shape and general contour . "

Bedlington Terriers are closely related to the Dandie Dinmont Terrier . In fact , the Earl of Antrim once exhibited two terriers from the same litter , and one won shows as a Dandie Dinmont , while the other won shows as a Bedlington . Bedlington Terriers are also related to the Kerry Blue Terrier and the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier . The shape of its back suggests that it may related to the Whippet and it may also be related to the otterhound . Bedlington Terriers have been crossed with Whippets to produce a Lurcher with " extra guts , pep , [and] fire . "

In 1948 , Ch . Rock Ridge Night Rocket took best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and was subsequently featured in LIFE magazine . One of his descendants , Ch . Femars ' Cable Car , was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated in the February 8 , 1960 edition .

= = Health = =

= = = Longevity = = =

Median longevity of Bedlington Terriers , based on two recent UK surveys , is about 13 @. @ 5 years , which is longer than for purebred dogs in general and longer than most breeds similar in size . The longest @- @ lived of 48 deceased dogs in a 2004 UK Kennel Club survey was 18 @. @ 4 years . Leading causes of death among Bedlington Terriers in the UK were old age (23 %) , urologic (15 %) , and hepatic (12 @. @ 5 %) . The leading " hepatic " cause of death was copper toxicosis . Dogs that died of liver diseases usually died at a younger age than dogs dying of most other causes .

Bedlington Terrier owners in the UK reported that the most common health issues among living dogs were reproductive , heart murmur , and eye problems such as epiphora , retinal dysplasia , and cataracts . Bedlingtons seem to be more prone to these eye diseases than other breeds . They also have a high incidence of kidney problems . Copper toxicosis occurred among about 5 % of living dogs . Inbreeding is a concern , as some dogs " [having] been bred in and in to a damaging extent . " Reputable breeders will conduct DNA testing of all litters and will not allow pups who carry the copper toxicosis gene to be bred , a practice which has significantly reduced the incidence of this disease in the breed . Excepting these problems , Bedlingtons are generally a very healthy breed .

= = = Copper toxicosis = = =

Copper toxicosis , also known as copper storage disease and copper overload syndrome , is an autosomal recessive disease that is characterized by an accumulation of copper in the liver . It is closely related to Wilson 's disease in humans . Bedlington Terriers are more prone to copper toxicosis than most other dog breeds . West Highland White Terriers , Skye Terriers , and Doberman Pinschers are also prone to copper storage disease . Bedlington Terriers are the only breed of dog in which haemolysis has been reported , but there have been no reports of neurological involvement in any dog breed . Studies have shown that in Bedlingtons , the disease is caused by a defective metallothionein that causes cell lysosomes to become saturated with copper . This causes the cell to store copper in the nucleus . There are three varieties of the disease : the Asymptomatic Form occurs when copper accumulates but there are no clinical symptoms of the disorder ; the Fulminating Form which is seen mostly in young dogs , causes death in two to three days , and is thought to be caused by stress ; and the Chronic Form , which is characterized by an extended period of time in which liver disease slowly causes the death of the dog . Bedlingtons also have a tendency to accumulate iron in the liver , but not nearly to the extent that they accumulate copper .