

= Sealyham Terrier =

The Sealyham Terrier is a rare Welsh breed of small to medium @-@ sized terrier that originated in Wales as a working dog . It is principally a white @-@ bodied , rough coated breed , developed in the mid to late 19th century by Captain John Edwardes at Sealyham House , Pembrokeshire .

Following the First World War , it surged in popularity and was associated with Hollywood stars and members of the British Royal Family . Its numbers have dropped significantly since then , with the breed listed as a Vulnerable Native Breed by the Kennel Club ; an all time low was recorded in 2008 when only 43 puppies were registered in the United Kingdom . This decline has been blamed on an influx of foreign and designer breeds , and the Sealyham 's reduced usefulness as a working dog .

This breed is equally suitable as a family dog or a working terrier , given the right training . It is affected by few breed specific breed disorders , with the only two prevalent conditions being lens luxation and canine degenerative myelopathy .

= = History = =

The breed was developed between 1850 and 1891 by Captain John Edwardes , at Sealyham House , near Wolfscastle in the Welsh county of Pembrokeshire . Originally the breed was used for pest control , to hunt small game and to eliminate vermin particularly badgers which he usually relocated . The Welsh Corgi , Fox Terrier ( Wire ) , and the now extinct English White Terrier all played a part in the make up of the Sealyham , although Edwardes did not keep records . He wanted a small white dog with a strong jaw , and a wiry coat . The white coat was particularly prized , as it meant that the hunter in the field could distinguish the dogs from the quarry . Edwardes culled weak dogs , and bred the stronger ones . After Edwardes ' death in 1891 , other breeders began to work with Sealyhams , including Fred Lewis who promoted the breed .

The breed was shown for the first time in 1903 , and the Sealyham Terrier club was created in 1908 ; the breed was officially recognised by the Kennel Club in 1911 . The Sealyham Terrier now is recognised by all of the major kennel clubs in the English @-@ speaking world . During the early stages of its recognition , the breed was alternatively known as the Welsh Border Terrier , or the Cowley Terrier . The American Sealyham Terrier Club was founded in 1913 .

During the 1920s and 1930s , Sir Jocelyn Lucas used the dogs to hunt badgers which he usually relocated . At this time he also used Sealyham Terriers for hunting otters , stoats and squirrels . Deciding that he wanted a better hunting dog than the Sealyhams , bred for conformation showing , he cross @-@ bred the dogs with the Norfolk Terrier . This resulted in an unrecognised breed of dog he called the Lucas Terrier , which he described as " death to rats and rabbits " .

The Sealyham surged in popularity after the First World War in the UK and the United States . Within the Hollywood film industry , the Sealyham became a fashionable dog to own by the Hollywood elite . The terrier was owned by actors Humphrey Bogart , Bette Davies , Elizabeth Taylor , and by writer Agatha Christie . Cary Grant owned one which he named Archie Leach ? Grant 's real name . Alfred Hitchcock had one of his Sealyham terriers seen in his 1941 film Suspicion . Alfred Hitchcock can also be seen at the start of his 1963 film , The Birds , walking two of his Sealyham Terriers in a cameo appearance , although he also owned a third Sealyham not featured in the movie . The British Royal Family also favoured these dogs ; King George V owned a dog named Jack . In 1959 one Sunday newspaper reported in the UK : " A notice has been posted in Clarence House and Windsor Castle giving explicit instructions that when Princess Margaret has breakfast in bed , her two Sealyhams must be brought to the room along with her breakfast tray . " These two dogs were called Pippin and Johnny , and were looked after by the Queen Mother when Princess Margaret fell ill . In the 1960s , children 's author Maurice Sendak owned a Sealyham named Jennie , which he featured in his 1967 work Higglety Pigglety Pop ! .

The Sealyham was once one of the more popular terriers , with over 2 @,@ 000 puppies registered in the UK during the 1920s , and one of the best known Welsh breeds . Today , however , the Kennel Club ( UK ) lists the Sealyham as amongst the most endangered native breeds . In 2008 , registrations of new puppies with the Kennel Club dropped to an all time low of 43 , placing it among

the bottom three on the list of Vulnerable Native Breeds . In October 2011 , British magazine Country Life highlighted the breed on its front cover , with the heading " SOS : Save our Sealyhams " , and launched a campaign to save the breed . End of year figures for 2011 showed that 49 puppies were registered with the Kennel Club in the UK , keeping them within the bottom three on the list of most endangered breeds .

Another notable Sealyham Terrier , Ch . Efbe 's Hidalgo At Goodspice , also known as Charmin , won Best In Show at Crufts in 2009 , but his victory was not televised as the BBC had dropped the coverage of the competition earlier that year , following the controversy after the channel showed the documentary Pedigree Dogs Exposed . He had previous won the AKC / Eukanuba National Championship in the United States in 2007 , and the World Dog Show in 2008 .

Harry Parsons , founder of the Working Sealyham Terrier Club , has stated that , " To sustain a breed ... you need between 300 to 500 puppies a year " . The Kennel Club has blamed the decline of the breed on the availability of designer dogs and newer breeds such as the Shih Tzu , and the banning of tail docking which has reduced their ability as working dogs . Paul Keevil , formerly of the Kennel Club 's vulnerable breeds committee explains : " Traditionally , soon after Sealyhams were born , their tails were docked by half their length , because they were small working dogs and they quite often got stuck down holes , meaning that they required short , strong tails for the owner to be able to pull them out . " As of 2010 , the breed is ranked 152nd out of 168 breeds according to registrations by the American Kennel Club .

= = Appearance = =

Sealyhams measurements vary by breed standard according to particular countries . The Kennel Club breed standard states that the height of a Sealyham Terrier should not exceed 12 inches ( 30 cm ) , measured at the withers or at the top of the shoulder blade . The ideal weight for a Sealyham is 8 kilograms ( 18 lb ) for females , or 9 kilograms ( 20 lb ) for males .

They have a white double coat which requires regular brushing with a wire comb in order to prevent matting . It has a dense undercoat , while the outer coat is wiry and weather resistant . Markings on the face can be in a variety of colours including lemon , black , brown , blue , and badger , which is a mix of brown and black . Heavy body markings or patches or excessive ticking on the coat are discouraged . Sealyhams are low to the ground , and in muddy weather their long coats can become quite dirty . Sealyham coats are groomed by hand stripping , in order to keep the coat from becoming too soft .

= = Temperament = =

Although happy in the company of others , they are fine if left alone . Sealyham Terriers are suited for both the town and country . They can be stubborn , vocal , and boisterous but also full of personality . Whilst they make for loyal family companions , they can be trained to be working dogs , making them excellent mousers or ratters . They can also be taught as a puppy to get along with other animals , including cats and birds .

Harry Parsons , described his Sealyhams thus : " They make great companions , and the way they bond with their owners is almost magical . I keep six indoors , and if someone rings about an infestation and asks us to go ratting , they will know and are out of the door in a millisecond . If you train them , they 'll retrieve . They 'll do anything to please you . "

= = Health = =

This is a hardy breed with few breed specific health problems . The main hereditary problem highlighted by the American Sealyham Terrier Club is an eye condition called lens luxation , for which there are DNA tests . Lens luxation is a condition in which the lens slips out of position in the eyeball due to the weakening of the fibers that holds it in place .

This in turn blocks the flow of fluids in the eye , leading to a painful increase in intra @-@ ocular

pressure glaucoma and often irreparable optic nerve damage , leading to visual field loss and eventual blindness .

As of November 2011 , the Kennel Club has not highlighted any specific concerns regarding the breed 's health to conformation show judges . Due to the low numbers of the breed , two of the most prevalent problems facing the breed today is the popular sire effect and the general problem of genetic diversity within the breed .