

= Beagle =

The Beagle is a breed of small @-@ sized hound , similar in appearance to the much larger foxhound . The Beagle is a scent hound , developed primarily for hunting hare . With a great sense of smell and their tracking instinct , the Beagle is employed as detection dog for prohibited agricultural imports and foodstuffs in quarantine around the world . The Beagle is intelligent but single @-@ minded . It is a popular pet due to its size , good temper , and lack of inherited health problems .

Although beagle @-@ type dogs have existed for 2 @,@ 500 years , the modern breed was developed in Great Britain around the 1830s from several breeds , including the Talbot Hound , the North Country Beagle , the Southern Hound , and possibly the Harrier .

Beagles have been depicted in popular culture since Elizabethan times in literature and paintings , and more recently in film , television , and comic books . Snoopy of the comic strip Peanuts has been promoted as " the world 's most famous beagle " .

= = History = =

Dogs of similar size and purpose to the modern Beagle can be traced in Ancient Greece back to around the 5th century BC . Xenophon , born around 430 BC , in his Treatise on Hunting or Cynegeticus refers to a hound that hunted hares by scent and was followed on foot . Small hounds are mentioned in the Forest Laws of Canute which exempted them from the ordinance which commanded that all dogs capable of running down a stag should have one foot mutilated . If genuine , these laws would confirm that beagle @-@ type dogs were present in England before 1016 , but it is likely the laws were written in the Middle Ages to give a sense of antiquity and tradition to Forest Law .

In the 11th century , William the Conqueror brought the Talbot hound to Britain . The Talbot was a predominantly white , slow , deep @-@ throated , scent hound derived from the St. Hubert Hound which had been developed in the 8th century . At some point the English Talbots were crossed with Greyhounds to give them an extra turn of speed . Long extinct , the Talbot strain probably gave rise to the Southern Hound which , in turn , is thought to be an ancestor of the modern @-@ day Beagle .

From medieval times , beagle was used as a generic description for the smaller hounds , though these dogs differed considerably from the modern breed . Miniature breeds of beagle @-@ type dogs were known from the times of Edward II and Henry VII , who both had packs of Glove Beagles , so named since they were small enough to fit on a glove , and Queen Elizabeth I kept a breed known as a Pocket Beagle , which stood 8 to 9 inches ( 20 to 23 cm ) at the shoulder . Small enough to fit in a " pocket " or saddlebag , they rode along on the hunt . The larger hounds would run the prey to ground , then the hunters would release the small dogs to continue the chase through underbrush . Elizabeth I referred to the dogs as her singing beagles and often entertained guests at her royal table by letting her Pocket Beagles cavort amid their plates and cups . 19th @-@ century sources refer to these breeds interchangeably and it is possible that the two names refer to the same small variety . In George Jesse 's Researches into the History of the British Dog from 1866 , the early 17th @-@ century poet and writer Gervase Markham is quoted referring to the Beagle as small enough to sit on a man 's hand and to the :

little small mitten @-@ beagle , which may be companion for a ladies kirtle , and in the field will run as cunningly as any hound whatere , only their musick is very small like reeds .

Standards for the Pocket Beagle were drawn up as late as 1901 ; these genetic lines are now extinct , although modern breeders have attempted to recreate the variety .

By the 18th century two breeds had been developed for hunting hare and rabbit : the Southern Hound and the North Country Beagle ( or Northern Hound ) . The Southern Hound , a tall , heavy dog with a square head , and long , soft ears , was common from south of the River Trent and probably closely related to the Talbot Hound . Though slow , it had stamina and an excellent scenting ability . The North Country Beagle , possibly a cross between an offshoot of the Talbot

stock and a Greyhound , was bred chiefly in Yorkshire and was common in the northern counties . It was smaller than the Southern Hound , less heavy @-@ set and with a more pointed muzzle . It was faster than its southern counterpart but its scenting abilities were less well developed . As fox hunting became increasingly popular , numbers of both types of hound diminished . The beagle @-@ type dogs were crossed with larger breeds such as Stag Hounds to produce the modern Foxhound . The beagle @-@ size varieties came close to extinction but some farmers in the South ensured the survival of the prototype breeds by maintaining small rabbit @-@ hunting packs .

= = = Development of the modern breed = = =

Reverend Phillip Honeywood established a Beagle pack in Essex in the 1830s and it is believed that this pack formed the basis for the modern Beagle breed . Although details of the pack 's lineage are not recorded it is thought that North Country Beagles and Southern Hounds were strongly represented ; William Youatt suspected that Harriers formed a good majority of the Beagle 's bloodline , but the origin of the Harrier is itself obscure . Honeywood 's Beagles were small , standing at about 10 inches ( 25 cm ) at the shoulder , and pure white according to John Mills ( writing in The Sportsman 's Library in 1845 ) . Prince Albert and Lord Winterton also had Beagle packs around this time , and royal favour no doubt led to some revival of interest in the breed , but Honeywood 's pack was regarded as the finest of the three .

Although credited with the development of the modern breed , Honeywood concentrated on producing dogs for hunting and it was left to Thomas Johnson to refine the breeding to produce dogs that were both attractive and capable hunters . Two strains were developed : the rough- and smooth @-@ coated varieties . The rough @-@ coated Beagle survived until the beginning of the 20th century , and there were even records of one making an appearance at a dog show as late as 1969 , but this variety is now extinct , having probably been absorbed into the standard Beagle bloodline .

In the 1840s , a standard Beagle type was beginning to develop ; the distinction between the North Country Beagle and Southern Hound had been lost , but there was still a large variation in size , character , and reliability among the emerging packs . In 1856 , " Stonehenge " ( the pseudonym of John Henry Walsh ) , writing in the Manual of British Rural Sports , was still dividing Beagles into four varieties : the medium Beagle ; the dwarf or lapdog Beagle ; the fox Beagle ( a smaller , slower version of the Foxhound ) ; and the rough @-@ coated or terrier Beagle , which he classified as a cross between any of the other varieties and one of the Scottish terrier breeds . Stonehenge also gives the start of a standard description :

In size the beagle measures from 10 inches , or even less , to 15 . In shape they resemble the old southern hound in miniature , but with more neatness and beauty ; and they also resemble that hound in style of hunting .

By 1887 the threat of extinction was on the wane : there were 18 Beagle packs in England . The Beagle Club was formed in 1890 and the first standard drawn up at the same time . The following year the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles was formed . Both organisations aimed to further the best interests of the breed , and both were keen to produce a standard type of Beagle . By 1902 , the number of packs had risen to 44 .

= = = Export = = =

Beagles were in the United States by the 1840s at the latest , but the first dogs were imported strictly for hunting and were of variable quality . Since Honeywood had only started breeding in the 1830s , it is unlikely these dogs were representative of the modern breed and the description of them as looking like straight @-@ legged Dachshunds with weak heads has little resemblance to the standard . Serious attempts at establishing a quality bloodline began in the early 1870s when General Richard Rowett from Illinois imported some dogs from England and began breeding . Rowett 's Beagles are believed to have formed the models for the first American standard , drawn up by Rowett , L. H. Twadell , and Norman Ellmore in 1887 . The Beagle was accepted as a breed

by the American Kennel Club ( AKC ) in 1885 . In the 20th century the breed has spread worldwide .

= = Popularity = =

On its formation , the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles took over the running of a regular show at Peterborough that had started in 1889 , and the Beagle Club in the UK held its first show in 1896 . The regular showing of the breed led to the development of a uniform type , and the Beagle continued to prove a success up until the outbreak of World War I when all shows were suspended . After the war , the breed was again struggling for survival in the UK : the last of the Pocket Beagles was probably lost during this time , and registrations fell to an all @-@ time low . A few breeders ( notably Reynalton Kennels ) managed to revive interest in the dog and by World War II , the breed was once again doing well . Registrations dropped again after the end of the war but almost immediately recovered .

As purebred dogs , Beagles have always been more popular in the United States and Canada than in their native country England . The National Beagle Club of America was formed in 1888 and by 1901 a Beagle had won a Best in Show title . As in the UK , activity during World War I was minimal , but the breed showed a much stronger revival in the U.S. when hostilities ceased . In 1928 it won a number of prizes at the Westminster Kennel Club 's show and by 1939 a Beagle ? Champion Meadowlark Draughtsman ? had captured the title of top @-@ winning American @-@ bred dog for the year . On 12 February 2008 , a Beagle , K @-@ Run 's Park Me In First ( Uno ) , won the Best In Show category at the Westminster Kennel Club show for the first time in the competition 's history . In North America they have been consistently in the top @-@ ten most @-@ popular breeds for over 30 years . From 1953 to 1959 the Beagle was ranked No. 1 on the list of the American Kennel Club 's registered breeds ; in 2005 and 2006 it ranked 5th out of the 155 breeds registered . In the UK they are not quite so popular , placing 28th and 30th in the rankings of registrations with the Kennel Club in 2005 and 2006 respectively . In the United States the Beagle ranked 4th most popular breed in 2012 and 2013 , behind the Labrador Retriever ( # 1 ) , German Shepherd ( # 2 ) and Golden Retriever ( # 3 ) breeds .

= = Name = =

According to the Oxford English Dictionary , the first mention of the beagle by name in English literature dates from c . 1475 in " The Squire of Low Degree . The origin of the word " beagle " is uncertain , although it has been suggested that the word derives from the French begueule ( meaning " open throat " from bayer " open wide " and gueule " mouth " ) or from an Old English , French , or the Gaelic word beag , meaning " little . " Other possibilities include the French beugler ( meaning " to bellow " ) and the German begele ( meaning " to scold " ) .

It is not known why the black and tan Kerry Beagle , present in Ireland since Celtic times , has the beagle description , since at 22 to 24 inches ( 56 to 61 cm ) it is significantly taller than the modern day Beagle , and in earlier times was even larger . Some writers suggest that the Beagle 's scenting ability may have come from cross @-@ breeding earlier strains with the Kerry Beagle . Originally used for hunting stags , it is today used for hare and drag hunting .

= = Appearance = =

The general appearance of the Beagle is very nice and resembles a miniature Foxhound , but the head is broader and the muzzle shorter , the expression completely different and the legs shorter in proportion to the body . They are generally between 13 and 16 inches ( 33 and 41 cm ) high at the withers and weigh between 18 and 35 lb ( 8 @-@ 2 and 15 @-@ 9 kg ) , with females being slightly smaller than males on average .

They have a smooth , somewhat domed skull with a medium @-@ length , square @-@ cut muzzle and a black ( or occasionally liver ) gundrop nose . The jaw is strong and the teeth scissor together

with the upper teeth fitting perfectly over the lower teeth and both sets aligned square to the jaw . The eyes are large , hazel or brown , with a mild hound @-@ like pleading look . The large ears are long , soft and low @-@ set , turning towards the cheeks slightly and rounded at the tips . Beagles have a strong , medium @-@ length neck ( which is long enough for them to easily bend to the ground to pick up a scent ) , with little folding in the skin but some evidence of a dewlap ; a broad chest narrowing to a tapered abdomen and waist and a long , slightly curved tail ( known as the " stern " ) tipped with white . The white tip , known as the flag has been selectively bred for , as it allows the dog to be easily seen when its head is down following a scent . The tail does not curl over the back , but is held upright when the dog is active . The Beagle has a muscular body and a medium @-@ length , smooth , hard coat . The front legs are straight and carried under the body while the rear legs are muscular and well bent at the stifles .

The tricolored Beagle ? white with large black areas and light brown shading ? is the most common . Tricolored Beagles occur in a number of shades , from the " Classic Tri " with a jet black saddle ( also known as " Blackback " ) , to the " Dark Tri " ( where faint brown markings are intermingled with more prominent black markings ) , to the " Faded Tri " ( where faint black markings are intermingled with more prominent brown markings ) . Some tricolored dogs have a broken pattern , sometimes referred to as pied . These dogs have mostly white coats with patches of black and brown hair . Tricolor Beagles are almost always born black and white . The white areas are typically set by eight weeks , but the black areas may fade to brown as the puppy matures . ( The brown may take between one and two years to fully develop . ) Some Beagles gradually change color during their lives , and may lose their black markings entirely .

Two @-@ color varieties always have a white base color with areas of the second color . Tan and white is the most common two @-@ color variety , but there is a wide range of other colors including lemon , a very light tan ; red , a reddish , almost orange , brown ; and liver , a darker brown , and black . Liver is not common and is not permitted in some standards ; it tends to occur with yellow eyes . Ticked or mottled varieties may be either white or black with different colored flecks ( ticking ) , such as the blue @-@ mottled or bluetick Beagle , which has spots that appear to be a midnight @-@ blue color , similar to the coloring of the Bluetick Coonhound . Some tricolour Beagles also have ticking of various colors in their white areas .

= = Sense of smell = =

Alongside the Bloodhound and Basset Hound , the Beagle has one of the best developed senses of smell of any dog . In the 1950s , John Paul Scott and John Fuller began a 13 @-@ year study of canine behavior . As part of this research , they tested the scenting abilities of various breeds by putting a mouse in a one @-@ acre field and timing how long it took the dogs to find it . The Beagles found it in less than a minute , while Fox Terriers took 15 minutes and Scottish Terriers failed to find it at all . Beagles are better at ground @-@ scenting ( following a trail on the ground ) than they are at air @-@ scenting , and for this reason they have been excluded from most mountain rescue teams in favor of collies , which use sight in addition to air @-@ scenting and are more biddable . The long ears and large lips of the Beagle probably assist in trapping the scents close to the nose .

= = Variations = =

= = = Breed varieties = = =

The American Kennel Club recognizes two separate varieties of Beagle : the 13 @-@ inch for hounds less than 13 inches ( 33 cm ) , and the 15 @-@ inch for those between 13 and 15 inches ( 33 and 38 cm ) . The Canadian Kennel Club recognizes a single type , with a height not exceeding 15 inches ( 38 cm ) . The Kennel Club ( UK ) and FCI affiliated clubs recognize a single type , with a height of between 13 and 16 inches ( 33 and 41 cm ) .

English and American varieties are sometimes mentioned . However , there is no official recognition

from any Kennel Club for this distinction . Beagles fitting the American Kennel Club standard ? which disallows animals over 15 inches ( 38 cm ) ? are smaller on average than those fitting the Kennel Club standard which allows heights up to 16 inches ( 41 cm ) .

Pocket Beagles are sometimes advertised for sale but while the UK Kennel Club originally specified a standard for the Pocket Beagle in 1901 , the variety is not now recognized by any Kennel Club . A strain known as Patch Hounds was developed by Willet Randall and his family from 1896 specifically for their rabbit hunting ability . They trace their bloodline back to Field Champion Patch , but do not necessarily have a patchwork marking .

= = = Crossbreeds = = =

In the 1850s , Stonehenge recommended a cross between a Beagle and a Scottish Terrier as a retriever . He found the crossbreed to be a good worker , silent and obedient , but it had the drawback that it was small and could barely carry a hare .

More recently the trend has been for " designer dogs " and one of the most popular has been the Beagle / Pug cross known as a Puggle . Some puppies of this cross are less excitable than a Beagle and with a lower exercise requirement , similar to the Pug parent ; but many are highly excitable and require vigorous exercise .

= = Temperament = =

The Beagle has an even temper and gentle disposition . Described in several breed standards as " merry " , they are amiable and typically neither aggressive nor timid , although this depends on the individual . They enjoy company , and although they may initially be standoffish with strangers , they are easily won over . They make poor guard dogs for this reason , although their tendency to bark or howl when confronted with the unfamiliar makes them good watch dogs . In a 1985 study conducted by Ben and Lynette Hart , the Beagle was given the highest excitability rating , along with the Yorkshire Terrier , Cairn Terrier , Miniature Schnauzer , West Highland White Terrier , and Fox Terrier .

Beagles are intelligent but , as a result of being bred for the long chase , are single @-@ minded and determined , which can make them hard to train . They can be difficult to recall once they have picked up a scent , and are easily distracted by smells around them . They do not generally feature in obedience trials ; while they are alert , respond well to food @-@ reward training , and are eager to please , they are easily bored or distracted . They are ranked 72nd in Stanley Coren 's The Intelligence of Dogs , as Coren places them among the group with the lowest degree of working / obedience intelligence . Coren 's scale , however , does not assess understanding , independence , or creativity .

Beagles are excellent with children and this is one of the reasons they have become popular family pets , but they are pack animals , and are prone to separation anxiety , a condition which causes them to destroy things when left unattended . Not all Beagles will howl , but most will bark when confronted with strange situations , and some will bay ( also referred to as " speaking " , " giving tongue " , or " opening " ) when they catch the scent of potential quarry . They also generally get along well with other dogs . They are not too demanding with regard to exercise ; their inbred stamina means they do not easily tire when exercised , but they also do not need to be worked to exhaustion before they will rest . Regular exercise helps ward off the weight gain to which the breed is prone .

= = Health = =

The typical longevity of Beagles is 12 ? 15 years , which is a common lifespan for dogs of their size .

Beagles may be prone to epilepsy , but this can often be controlled with medication . Hypothyroidism and a number of types of dwarfism occur in Beagles . Two conditions in particular

are unique to the breed : " Funny Puppy " , in which the puppy is slow to develop and eventually develops weak legs , a crooked back and although normally healthy , is prone to a range of illnesses ; Hip dysplasia , common in Harriers and in some larger breeds , is rarely considered a problem in Beagles . Beagles are considered a chondrodystrophic breed , meaning that they are prone to types of disk diseases .

In rare cases , Beagles may develop immune mediated polygenic arthritis ( where the immune system attacks the joints ) even at a young age . The symptoms can sometimes be relieved by steroid treatments . Another rare disease in the breed is neonatal cerebellar cortical degeneration . Affected puppies are slow , have lower coordination , fall more often and don't have a normal gait . It has an estimated carrier rate of 5 % and affected rate of 0 . 1 % . A genetic test is available .

Their long floppy ears can mean that the inner ear does not receive a substantial air flow or that moist air becomes trapped , and this can lead to ear infections . Beagles may also be affected by a range of eye problems ; two common ophthalmic conditions in Beagles are glaucoma and corneal dystrophy . " Cherry eye " , a prolapse of the gland of the third eyelid , and distichiasis , a condition in which eyelashes grow into the eye causing irritation , sometimes exist ; both these conditions can be corrected with surgery . They can suffer from several types of retinal atrophy . Failure of the nasolacrimal drainage system can cause dry eye or leakage of tears onto the face .

As field dogs they are prone to minor injuries such as cuts and sprains , and , if inactive , obesity is a common problem as they will eat whenever food is available and rely on their owners to regulate their weight . When working or running free they are also likely to pick up parasites such as fleas , ticks , harvest mites , and tapeworms , and irritants such as grass seeds can become trapped in their eyes , soft ears , or paws .

Beagles may exhibit a behaviour known as reverse sneezing , in which they sound as if they are choking or gasping for breath , but are actually drawing air in through the mouth and nose . The exact cause of this behaviour is not known , but it is not harmful to the dog .

= = Hunting = =

Beagles were developed primarily for hunting hare , an activity known as beagling . They were seen as ideal hunting companions for the elderly who could follow on horseback without exerting themselves , for young hunters who could keep up with them on ponies , and for the poorer hunters who could not afford to maintain a stable of good hunting horses . Before the advent of the fashion for foxhunting in the 19th century , hunting was an all day event where the enjoyment was derived from the chase rather than the kill . In this setting the tiny Beagle was well matched to the hare , as unlike Harriers they would not quickly finish the hunt , but because of their excellent scent tracking skills and stamina they were almost guaranteed to eventually catch the hare . The Beagle packs would run closely together ( " so close that they might be covered with a sheet " ) which was useful in a long hunt , as it prevented stray dogs from obscuring the trail . In thick undergrowth they were also preferred to spaniels when hunting pheasant .

With the fashion for faster hunts , the Beagle fell out of favour for chasing hare , but was still employed for rabbit hunting . In *Anecdotes of Dogs* ( 1846 ) , Edward Jesse says :

In rabbit shooting , in gorse and thick cover , nothing can be more cheerful than the beagle . They also are easily heard over long distances and in thick cover . They have been called rabbit beagles from this employment , for which they are peculiarly qualified , especially those dogs which are somewhat wire haired .

In the United States they appear to have been employed chiefly for hunting rabbits from the earliest imports . Hunting hare with Beagles became popular again in Britain in the mid 19th century and continued until it was made illegal in Scotland by the Protection of Wild Mammals ( Scotland ) Act 2002 and in England and Wales by the Hunting Act 2004 . Under this legislation Beagles may still pursue rabbits with the landowner 's permission . Drag hunting is popular where hunting is no longer permitted or for those owners who do not wish to participate in hunting a live animal , but still wish to exercise their dog 's innate skills .

The traditional foot pack consists of up to 40 Beagles , marshaled by a Huntsman who directs the pack and who is assisted by a variable number of whippers @-@ in whose job is to return straying hounds to the pack . The Master of the Hunt is in overall day @-@ to @-@ day charge of the pack , and may or may not take on the role of Huntsman on the day of the hunt .

As hunting with Beagles was seen as ideal for young people , many of the British public schools traditionally maintained Beagle packs . Protests were lodged against Eton 's use of Beagles for hunting as early as 1902 but the pack is still in existence today , and a pack used by Imperial College in Wye , Kent was stolen by the Animal Liberation Front in 2001 . School and university packs are still maintained by Eton , Marlborough , Wye , Radley , the Royal Agricultural University and Christ Church , Oxford .

In addition to organized beagling , beagles have been used for hunting or flushing to guns ( often in pairs ) a wide range of game including snowshoe hare , cottontail rabbits , game birds , roe deer , red deer , bobcat , coyote , wild boar and foxes , and have even been recorded as being used to hunt stoat . In most of these cases , the Beagle is employed as a gun dog , flushing game for hunter 's guns .

= = Detection = =

Beagles are used as detection dogs in the Beagle Brigade of the United States Department of Agriculture . These dogs are used to detect food items in luggage being taken into the United States . After trialling several breeds , Beagles were chosen because they are relatively small and unthreatening for people who are uncomfortable around dogs , easy to care for , intelligent and work well for rewards . They are also used for this purpose in a number of other countries including by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in New Zealand , the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service , and in Canada , Japan and the People 's Republic of China . Larger breeds are generally used for detection of explosives as this often involves climbing over luggage and on large conveyor belts , work for which the smaller Beagle is not suited .

= = Testing = =

Beagles are the dog breed most often used in animal testing , due to their size and passive nature . Beagles are used in a range of research procedures : fundamental biological research , applied human medicine , applied veterinary medicine , and protection of man , animals or the environment . Of the 8 @, @ 018 dogs used in testing in the UK in 2004 , 7 @, @ 799 were Beagles ( 97 @. @ 3 % ) . In the UK , the Animals ( Scientific Procedures ) Act 1986 gave special status to primates , equids , cats and dogs and in 2005 the Animal Procedures Committee ( set up by the act ) ruled that testing on mice was preferable , even though a greater number of individual animals were involved . In 2005 Beagles were involved in less than 0 @. @ 3 % of the total experiments on animals in the UK , but of the 7670 experiments performed on dogs 7406 involved Beagles ( 96 @. @ 6 % ) . Most dogs are bred specifically for this purpose , by companies such as Harlan . In the UK companies breeding animals for research must be licensed under the Animals ( Scientific Procedures ) Act .

Testing of cosmetic products on animals is banned in the member states of European Community , although France protested the ban and has made efforts to have it lifted . It is permitted in the United States but is not mandatory if safety can be ascertained by other methods , and the test species is not specified by the Food and Drug Administration ( FDA ) . When testing toxicity of food additives , food contaminants , and some drugs and chemicals the FDA uses Beagles and miniature pigs as surrogates for direct human testing . Minnesota was the first state to enact a Beagle freedom adoption law in 2014 , mandating that dogs and cats are allowed to be adopted once they have completed with research testing .

Anti @-@ vivisection groups have reported on abuse of animals inside testing facilities . In 1997 footage secretly filmed by a freelance journalist inside Huntingdon Life Sciences in the UK showed staff punching and screaming at Beagles . Consort Kennels , a UK @-@ based breeder of Beagles for testing , closed down in 1997 after pressure from animal rights groups .

= = Other roles = =

Although bred for hunting , Beagles are versatile and are nowadays employed for various other roles in detection , therapy , and as family pets . Beagles are used as sniffer dogs for termite detection in Australia , and have been mentioned as possible candidates for drug and explosive detection . Because of their gentle nature and unimposing build , they are also frequently used in pet therapy , visiting the sick and elderly in hospital . In June 2006 , a trained Beagle assistance dog was credited with saving the life of its owner after using her owner 's mobile phone to dial an emergency number . In the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake , a Beagle search and rescue dog with a Colombian rescue squad was credited with locating the owner of the Hôtel Montana , who was subsequently rescued after spending 100 hours buried in the rubble . Beagles were hired by New York City to help with bedbug detection , while the role of such dogs in this type of detection may have doubts .

= = In popular culture = =

Beagles have been featured across a wide range of media . References to the dog appear before the 19th century in works by such writers as William Shakespeare , John Webster , John Dryden , Thomas Tickell , Henry Fielding , and William Cowper , as well as in Alexander Pope 's translation of Homer 's Iliad . Beagles appeared in funny animal comic strips and animated cartoons from the 1950s with the Peanuts character Snoopy billed as " the world 's most famous Beagle " ; Walt Disney 's Beagle Boys ; Garfield 's friend and " chew dog " Odie ; and Beagle Beagle , the constant companion of Hanna @-@ Barbera 's Grape Ape and Cartoon Network 's Courage the Cowardly Dog . They have appeared in numerous films , taking a central role in Underdog , Cats & Dogs and its sequel , and the title role in the adaptation of Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 's book Shiloh . They have played supporting roles in films including Audition , The Monster Squad , I Am Number Four , and The Royal Tenenbaums , and on television in Star Trek : Enterprise , EastEnders , The Wonder Years , and To the Manor Born , among others . Former US President Lyndon Baines Johnson had several Beagles , and caused an outcry when he picked up one of them by its ears during an official greeting on the White House lawn . The ship on which Charles Darwin made the voyage which provided much of the inspiration for On the Origin of Species was named HMS Beagle after the breed , and , in turn , lent its name to the ill @-@ fated British Martian lander Beagle 2 . A Canadian bred 15 inch female Beagle with the registered name of Gr Ch Tashtins Lookin For Trouble and the pet name of " Miss P " won the 2015 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show .