

= Tweed Water Spaniel =

The Tweed Water Spaniel , or Tweed Spaniel , is a breed of dog extinct since the 19th century . It is best known for being involved in the early development of the modern Curly Coated Retriever and Golden Retriever breeds of dogs . They were described as a generally brown athletic dogs from the area around Berwick @-@ upon @-@ Tweed near the River Tweed and close to the Scottish Borders . A type of water dog , the breed was not well known outside the local area . This breed may have been created by crossing local water dogs with imported St. John 's water dog , another breed which is also now extinct .

= = History = =

The village of Norham , Northumberland , just south of the River Tweed was noted as being " long famous " for a breed of water spaniel of which were " invariably brown " .

In 1816 , Richard Lawrence wrote of the origins of the Tweed Water Spaniel , " Along rocky shores and dreadful declivities beyond the junction of the Tweed with the sea of Berwick , water dogs have derived an addition of strength , from the introduction of a cross with the Newfoundland dog , which has rendered them completely adequate to the arduous difficulties and diurnal perils in which they are systematically engaged . " Although the quote refers specifically to the Newfoundland breed , it is actually more likely to mean the now extinct breed of the St. John 's water dog which was sometimes referred to by its homeland 's location of Newfoundland and Labrador .

Stanley O 'Neil , an expert in Flat @-@ coated Retrievers , wrote of the Tweed Water Spaniel in a letter during the late 19th century , " Further up the coast , probably Alnmouth , I saw men netting for salmon . With them was a dog with a wavy or curly coat . It was a tawny colour but , wet and spumy , it was difficult to see the exact colour , or how much was due to bleach and salt . Whilst my elders discussed the fishing I asked these Northumberland salmon net men whether their dog was a Water @-@ Dog or a Curly , airing my knowledge . They told me he was a Tweed Water Spaniel . This was a new one on me . I had a nasty suspicion my leg was being pulled . This dog looked like a brown Water Dog to me , certainly retrieverish , and not at all spanielly . I asked if he came from a trawler , and was told it came from Berwick . "

Linda P. Case , of the University of Illinois , speculated the Tweed Water Spaniel was so named because it was developed on the estate of Lord Tweedmouth , and in fact was simply the original name for a breed of dog that later became the Golden Retriever . However , this theory is against the documented evidence , as the early development of the Golden Retriever was fully documented and listed the three Tweed Water Spaniels involved specifically by breed .

= = Appearance and temperament = =

The Tweed Water Spaniel had a long tail and a curly , liver @-@ colored coat , and looked similar to the Irish Water Spaniel except it had a heavier muzzle and a pointed skull . The dog also had thick , slightly feathered , hound @-@ like ears , droopy lips , and fore legs that were feathered , but hind legs that were not . Their size was that of a small retriever , with a liver @-@ coloured curly coat . Instances of offspring which were liver @-@ coloured but tan below the knees were noted in Hugh Dalziel 's 1897 work British Dogs : Their Varieties , History , Characteristics , Breeding , Management , And Exhibition , although the author speculated this may have been due to Bloodhound ancestry in one of the parents of the litters .

The breed was known for its intelligence , courage , and sporting ability .

= = Legacy = =

= = = Golden Retriever = = =

Towards the end of the 19th century , Sir Dudley Coutts Majoribanks , Lord Tweedmouth , was developing a breed which was known at the time as a " yellow Retriever " . This was unusual , as typically during this period all Retrievers were black . The main pairing from which the modern Golden Retrievers are said to have descended were from a dog named Nous that was a rare yellow Wavy @-@ coated Retriever , and a female Tweed Spaniel named Belle that was given to Majoribanks by his cousin David Robertson . Four yellow puppies were produced from this pairing , named Ada , Crocus , Primrose and Cowslip .

Belle was not the only Tweed Spaniel in Majoribank 's kennel . A further dog simply named Tweed was kept , although records show he was never bred , as he died at an early age . A second dog named Tweed was bred , to Cowslip from the previous Tweed / Retriever pairing which produced a further yellow puppy named Topsy . The two breeds were only crossbred two or three times , but began the development of the modern Golden Retriever .

= = = Curly Coated Retriever = = =

During the formation of the modern breed known as the Curly @-@ coated Retriever , several breeds were used to bring their characteristics into this new breed . These included Poodles , Wetterhouns , Barbets , Irish Water Spaniels , and breeds that are now extinct , including the Large Rough Water Dog and the Tweed Water Spaniel . The Curly @-@ coated Retriever has been considered purebred since the early 20th century .