

= Fox Terrier =

Fox Terriers are two different breeds of the terrier dog type : the Smooth Fox Terrier and the Wire Fox Terrier . Both of these breeds originated in the 19th century from a handful of dogs who are descended from earlier varieties of British terriers , and are related to other modern white terrier breeds . In addition , a number of breeds have diverged from these two main types of fox terrier and have been recognised separately , including the Jack Russell Terrier , Miniature Fox Terrier and Rat Terrier . The Wire and Smooth Fox Terriers share similar characteristics , the main differences being in the coat and markings . They have been successful in conformation shows , more prominently in America than their homeland .

= = History = =

Small dogs were observed by the Romans in England in 54 BC being used by hunters to chase quarry into burrows and dens , demonstrating the instinctive terrier behaviour of " going to earth " . English physician John Caius described the English terrier type in his 1577 work English Dogges . By the 18th century , it was recorded that all terriers were wire haired , and black and tan in colour .

The earliest record of any white terrier was a dog named Pitch , who was owned by Colonel Thomas Thornton in 1790 . The dog was the subject of a painting by Sawrey Gilpin , who created a portrait of it while it was still alive . An engraving of this painting , made prior to 1810 , was accompanied by the text , " It would be necessary to notice Colonel Thorton 's terriers if they were only on account of his justly celebrated Pitch , from whom are descended most of the white terriers in the kingdom . " Dog writers of the early 20th century suggested that Pitch was a terrier @-@ greyhound cross , which was how the colour was introduced into the breed .

Not much is known of early 19th century breeding practices that came to create the modern Fox Terrier . However it is thought that the Beagle , Old English Bulldog , English Toy Terrier , Pointer and even Dalmatian were all used in the creation and stabilisation of the breed .

From 1870 onwards , a complete pedigree for Fox Terriers exists . Three dogs , known as Old Jock , Trap and Tartar , are the ancestors of most modern strains of white terrier . Old Jock was bred from a black and tan terrier , while Trap was from the strain out of Reverend John Russell 's dogs . Although definitive history on Tartar is not known , he is also thought to have come from black and tan terrier stock . Of the female dogs from this period , Grove Nettle was the best known . In addition to those dogs , another named Old Tip is thought to be the forefather of the modern Wire Fox Terrier . One Fox Terrier breeder during this period was Parson John " Jack " Russell , who would later have the Jack Russell Terrier series of breeds named after him .

The terrier of this period was short of leg , built in a chunky fashion , and had a skull that was broad across the top . Used in hunting packs and kept in kennels along with English Foxhounds , they were bred for their ability to drive the fox out of its den . Gradually the pace of the hunt became faster , and the terriers were bred with longer legs for more speed towards the end of the 18th century . However the increased size meant that the Fox Terrier became too big to be used for its original purpose , and its use in fox hunting began to decline .

The Fox Terrier Club of England was founded in 1876 , with the American Fox Terrier Club following nine years later , becoming the first breed speciality club to become a member of the American Kennel Club . A female Smooth Fox Terrier bred by Winthrop Rutherford named Warren Remedy was the first winner of Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 1907 , 1908 , and 1909 . Following the popularity of conformation dog shows , the Fox Terrier was the result of selective breeding . For instance , by 1949 , 120 of 140 Wire Fox Terrier champions were descended from a single championship @-@ winning dog .

= = Modern breeds = =

There are two main breeds of Fox Terrier , Smooth and Wire , both of which originate in England . In addition , there are several descendant breeds which have been developed in a variety of

countries . For example , the American Toy Fox Terrier was developed from the Smooth Fox Terrier , Italian Greyhound , Manchester Terrier , Miniature Pinscher and Chihuahua breeds .

Both major types of Fox Terrier are mostly white with coloured markings and have similar facial characteristics . They are essentially the same except for differences in coats , and slight differences in colouration and markings . Markings on either type can appear black at birth on the head , but may lighten in adult life , the most common colours being tan and black . The markings are a type of piebald spotting . Although the two main breeds were originally commonly interbred , this no longer occurs in pure @-@ bred lines .

The Fox Terrier has been more successful than any other breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show , with four Best in Show titles going to the Smooth Fox Terrier and fourteen titles going to the Wire Fox Terrier . They were both shown as one breed with two coat variations ; this changed in 1985 when the American Kennel Club listed the two as separate breeds . In the UK , at Crufts , the Smooth Fox Terrier has not won any Best in Show titles , while the Wire Fox Terrier has won on three occasions .

= = = Smooth Fox Terrier = = =

The Smooth Fox Terrier has a short , hard coat which is predominantly white . It measures 14 ? 15 @. @ 5 inches (36 ? 39 cm) at the withers , and weighs between 15 ? 19 pounds (6 @. @ 8 ? 8 @. @ 6 kg) . The head of this breed is long and wedge shaped , with small , dark eyes and ears that are v @-@ shaped .

The breed has been identified as one of several Vulnerable Native Breeds in the UK . This is when there are fewer than 300 annual registrations with The Kennel Club . In 2010 , there were 155 Smooth Fox Terriers registered , compared to 693 for the Wire Fox Terrier and 8 @, @ 663 for the most popular breed in the Terrier Group , the Staffordshire Bull Terrier .

The most successful dog at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show was Ch . Warren Remedy , who won the Best in Show title three times between 1907 and 1909 . These victories were followed by a further Best in Show title for Ch . Sabine Rarebit in 1910 . Despite the Smooth Fox Terrier breed winning the first four Best in Show titles at Westminster , it has not won again since .

= = = Wire Fox Terrier = = =

The Wire Haired Fox Terrier has a hard and crisp double coat with a coarse texture underneath that provides protection from the cold . It should be so dense that the skin cannot be seen or felt . The individual hairs should twist , but are not curly . An average member of the breed should measure 14 ? 15 @. @ 5 inches (36 ? 39 cm) at the withers and weigh between 15 ? 19 pounds (6 @. @ 8 ? 8 @. @ 6 kg) . It has similar features to the Smooth Fox Terrier with small dark eyes and v @-@ shaped ears . Its body is shorter than it is tall .

King Edward VII owned a Wire Fox Terrier from the Notts kennel called Caesar of Notts , which did a great deal to popularise the breed at the turn of the 20th century . Another member of the Notts kennel was an early winner of Best Champion at Crufts in 1911 named Collarbone of Notts . Other individual dogs which greatly influenced the breed included Ch . Talavera Simon , born in 1924 , and Ch . Zelay Emperor , born in 1960 .

= = = Descendant breeds = = =

= = Common health issues = =

Myasthenia gravis , a neuromuscular disease , is inheritable in the Smooth Fox Terrier through an autosomal recessive gene . This can also be a symptom of megaesophagus , which is a health issue for the Wire Fox Terrier . Another inheritable condition in the Smooth Fox Terrier is cataracts , which is more prevalent than average in the breed . Both types of Fox Terrier can be susceptible to

allergies .

In a survey conducted by The Kennel Club , the primary cause of death for Fox Terriers was old age , causing 31 @. @ 8 % of reported deaths . The secondary cause was cancer of an unspecified type , which accounted for 22 @. @ 7 % of reports . The average lifespan of a Fox Terrier is around 15 years ; however , the Kennel Club survey reported a median age at death of 13 years and 2 months .