



The Cairn Terrier

Presented by
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Kian Perm. Reg'd.

History & Origin

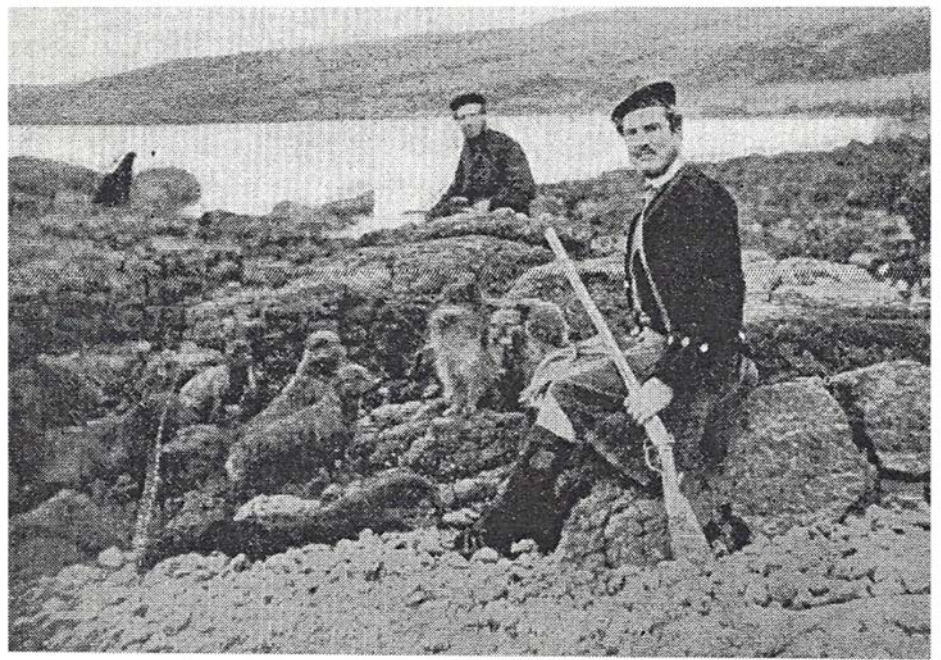
The origin of the Cairn terrier is uncertain, but it is known there were 'earth' dogs in Argyllshire in the sixteenth century and even earlier. Dr John Caius in his book *De canibus Britannicis* written in the time of Elizabeth I, wrote of the 'Terriers of the North' and John Leslie a century earlier mentioned a small breed of terriers used for hunting foxes and badgers in Scotland.

Some claim the small terrier first appeared on the Isle of Skye, while others believe it was the western coastal areas of Northern Scotland.

Whatever the origin it is believed by many that the Cairn Terrier is the oldest of the short-legged terriers and the foundation for other breeds such as the Scottish Terrier and the West Highland White Terrier.



History & Origin



CAPT. ALLAN MACDONALD AND HIS PACK OF SKYE TERRIERS AND DEAD OTTER.

The short-legged terriers were hard working dogs who earned their board and keep by hunting everything from small vermin to rats and badgers. They were bred for gameness and for going to ground. They were not expected to kill their quarry underground but were expected to face their foe and drive them out for the hunters to kill. They were tenacious and often followed prey into rocks and caverns and it was not unusual for them to perish together.

History, con't

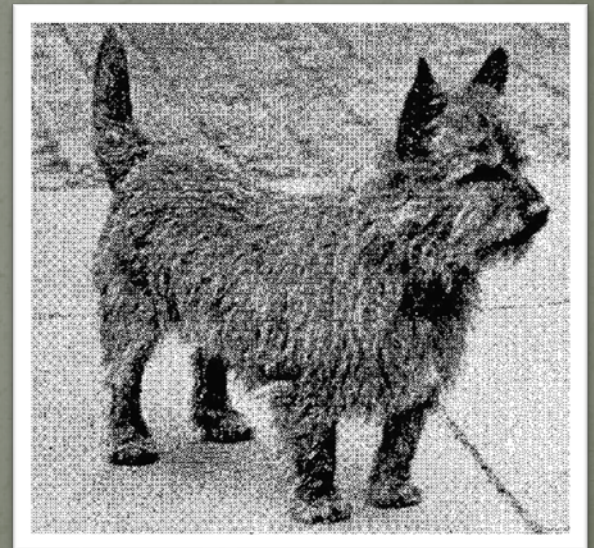
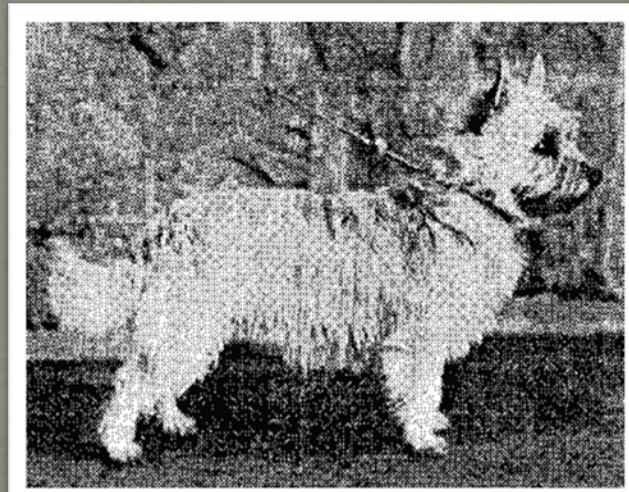


They were described as a small kind of hound with rough hair, waterproof coat, and small prick ears. They came in all sorts of shapes and sizes depending on the terrain and their quarry.

These dogs began to evolve into different breeds around the mid nineteenth century.

History, con't

During the early development of terriers in the Scottish isles, all those on the island of Skye were known as Skye terriers. They could be any type; prick eared, drop eared, long or short coat. The oldest strains of Cairn terriers were known as short haired Skye terriers and founded by Captain Martin MacLeod of Drynock, Isle of Skye. He kept a pack of silver-grey short-haired Skyes for 40 years before immigrating to Canada in 1945.



History, con't



As owners began to favour certain traits and characteristics, certain strains became apparent. Some owners preferred brindles and reds while others preferred the lighter coloured dogs because they were more visible in the hilly terrain. The early cream and white cairns eventually became West Highland White Terriers.

The Skye, Scottish, and West Highland White terriers became well established, but their progenitor the Cairn remained unknown except on remote sporting estates in Argyllshire and the Isle of Skye.

Even after the Cairn Terrier was recognized as a separate breed it was still common to interbreed Cairn and West Highland White Terriers. It was not until 1925 that the practise of interbreeding was stopped.

Cairn Artwork



Cairn Terrier in a Red Armchair, *Edwin Douglas, Scottish, 1848–1914, oil on canvas.*
Photograph courtesy William Secord Gallery, Inc., New York.



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Recognition

The Cairn terrier of today was pioneered by two resolute ladies, Mrs Alastair Campbell and the Honourable Lady Mary Hawke.

The Kennel Club only recognised the long haired Skye terrier, but did agree to additional classes listed as “short – haired Skyes”, and it was under this name that Cairn terriers were first exhibited at Crufts in 1909. Their persistence in seeking Kennel Club recognition for the Cairn terrier was realized in 1910.



*Mrs Campbell,
circa 1910 & 1950*



Mrs Betty Marcum in her book, "The New Cairn Terrier" narrates the interesting history of gaining Kennel Club recognition.

"Mrs Campbell exhibited the first Cairn terriers in the brace class and was awarded 1st prize. It was listed there was only 1 brace entered. It was recorded the ring stewards and several exhibitors objected that "mongrels" were allowed to enter the show but the judge did examine and critique them. As can be expected many protests were made.

Mrs Campbell next showed her Cairn terriers at two Championship show and won a 'reserve' prize and 3rd prize and VHC. All the classes were for Skye Terriers. Mrs Campbell wrote to the Kennel Club and requested additional classes for 'sporting' Skye terriers, but this was refused. These actions created quite a stir in the Skye Terrier Club of England. A letter written by Mr James Porritt, Hon Secretary of the club suggested the wins noted by Mrs Campbell must have been guaranteed be herself as these short haired Skyes were poor representatives of the breed. This all became written in the Illustrated Kennel News and the Kennel Gazette.

Imagine the gossip! Mrs Campbell then forced the issue further and entered her dogs at Crufts in 1910. She did not enter her dogs as Cairn or Short haired Terriers but as Skye Terriers. The judge Miss Clifton refused to judge her dogs. She wrote in her book "Wrong Class". The Skye Terrier Club were apoplectic and sent a protest to the Kennel Club demanding these short haired Skyes be banned from registration as Skye terriers and to find another name.

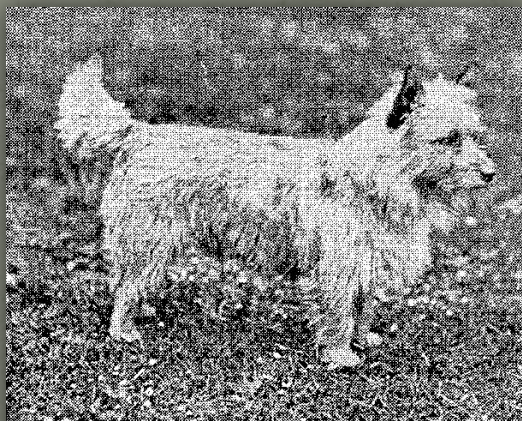
Several names were suggested. Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen suggested the Cairn Terrier of Skye. Other names considered were: Otter Terriers, Waternish, Island, Hebridean, and West Highland terriers other than white. Eventually it was decided they would be recognized as Cairn Terriers. The first Specialty breed Club was formed October 1910."



Some early Cairn champions



CH. GILLIE OF HYVER.



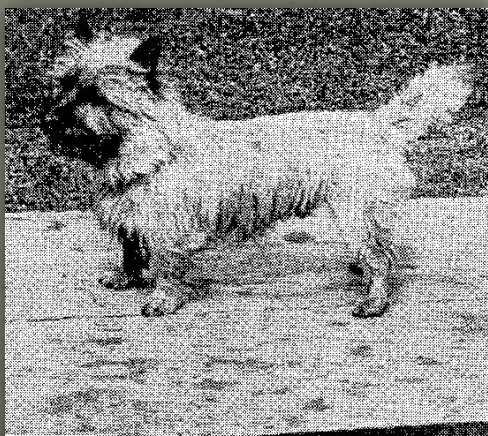
Thos. Fall.

CH. MEARACH.



s, Lytham.

BROCHTER.



SNELSTON BRIAN.



Ralph Robinson.

CRUSADER OF OTFORD.



The Breed in Canada

The Cairn Terrier Club of Canada was formed in 1952, with the first Specialty held in 1953 with judge John Marvin, USA. Best of breed was Betty Hyslop's Kilties Foxglove of Cairndania.

Betty Hyslop of Ontario was one of the first importers of the Cairn into Canada. She imported many dogs from some of the top lines and made them available to others. In 1953 Mrs Hyslop imported Eng/Am/Can. Ch Redletter McRuffie (pictured at right). This dog gained impressive wins including BOB at Westminster and BOB at the Cairn Terrier Club of America specialties in 1955 and 1956. This dog became one of the most powerful influences of the breed in North America.

Mrs Hyslop also imported another important sire , Eng/Am/Can. Ch Oudenarde Sea Hawk, who sired her famous Am/Can. Ch Rogerlyn Sea Hawk's Salty Sam. Sam won 11 Best in Show awards which for a Cairn terrier is a record.





Ch. Brigrey Berry Red, 1977



Ch. Foxgrove Mutt, import, shown
winning Veterans class 1989

The Club was active for 6 years, then lay dormant for 16 years. In 1973, Mr. Jim McFarlane, a native of Invernesshire Scotland and the nephew of Col Hector Whitehead an early pioneer of the breed, became President. The first Specialty of the resurrected Club was held in 1976. The judge was the Hon Secretary of the Cairn Terrier Club U.K. Again the best of breed was owned by Mrs Betty Hyslop of Cairndania Kennels, Am/Can Ch Foxgrove Susanella.

Cairn terriers in Canada fell under the country of origin standard (developed in Edinburgh in 1911), until:

- 1921 Canadian standard developed
- 1922 Standard revised; weight DQ added
- 1925/26 "Ideal weight" added; dq for weight removed
- 1933 Specific height, weight and proportions added (creating a standard substantially different from UK)
- 2006 Canadian standard returned to current UK standard



Canada, con't

Multi BISAm/Can Ch Foxairn
Tinman, owned by Betty Hyslop.
Winner of over 200 Best of
Breeds, including Westminster
1993 & 1994

General Appearance



Agile, alert, of workmanlike, natural appearance. Standing well forward on forepaws. Strong quarters. Deep in rib, very free in movement. Weather-resistant coat. Should impress as being active, game and hardy.

Proportions & Size



Approximately 28-31 cm (11-12 ins) at withers, but in proportion to weight – ideally 6-7.5 kgs (14-16 lbs).

Proportions, con't



Proportions, con't





Head

- Head small, but in proportion to body
- Skull broad; a decided indentation between the eyes with a definite stop
- Muzzle powerful, jaw strong but not long or heavy
- Nose black
- Head well furnished



Eyes

- Wide apart, medium in size, dark hazel.
- Slightly sunk with shaggy eyebrows.



Mouth



- Large teeth.
- Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.



Ears

- small, pointed, well carried and erect
- not too closely set nor heavily coated.



Head – con't



Neck

- Well set on, not short.

Front

- Sloping shoulders, medium length of leg, good but not too heavy bone.
- Forelegs never out at elbow.
- Legs covered with harsh hair.



Necks and Fronts





Body

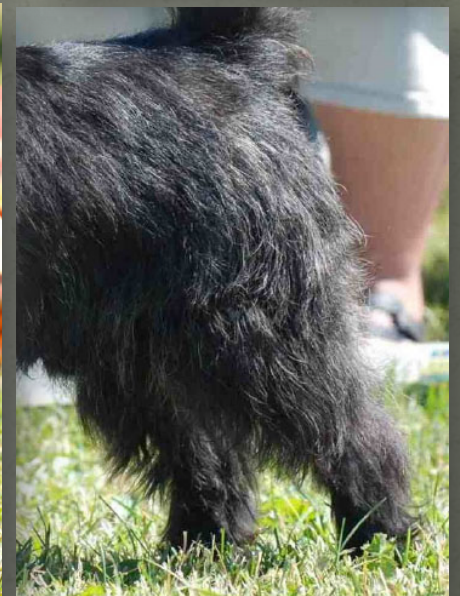
Back level, medium length. Well sprung deep ribs; strong supple loin.

Body con't



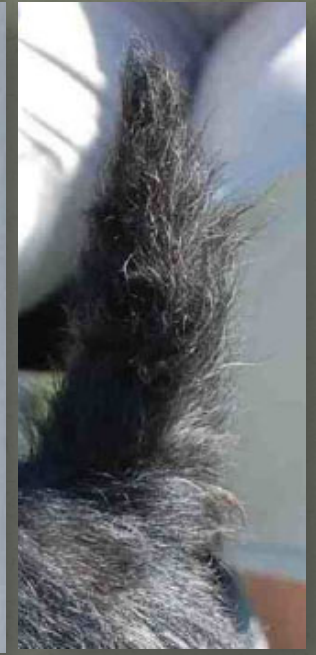
Hindquarters

- Very strong muscular thighs.
- Good, but not excessive, bend of stifle.
- Hocks well let down inclining neither in nor out when viewed from the rear.
- Feet forefeet larger than hind, may be slightly turned out.
- Pads thick and strong.
- Thin, narrow or spreading feet and long nails objectionable.



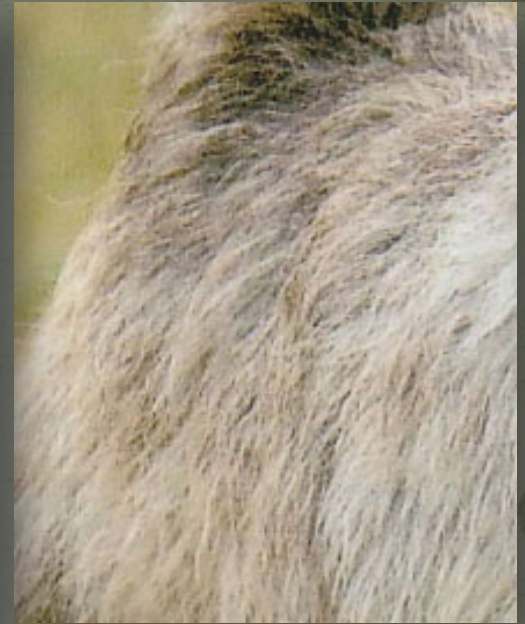
Tail

- Short, balanced, well furnished with hair but not feathery.
- Neither high nor low set, carried gaily but not turned down towards back.



Coat

- Very important: weather-resistant
- Must be double-coated, with profuse, harsh, but not coarse, outer coat
- Undercoat short, soft and close
- Open coats objectionable
- Slight wave permissible



Coat texture : too soft





Colour

Cream, wheaten, red, grey or nearly black. Brindling in all these colours acceptable. Not solid black, or white, or black and tan. Dark points, such as ears and muzzle, very typical.

Grooming

- Cairns should be shown in a full coat and tidied up on head, tail, legs and general outline, by hand stripping.
- Coats should be evenly groomed in length and not carry long skirts or long leg furnishings.
- Coats that have been altered by scissoring or other artificial means should be penalized.

Ungroomed



At right: 1977 - less groomed than today

Tidy but not overgroomed





Same dog – within a 1 year
time span - different
grooming techniques

Gait

Moves easily and freely on a loose lead. From the side, movement is steady and effortless with good reach in front and strong drive behind. The top line remains level with little or no bounce.

From the front or rear, legs are parallel, dropping straight from shoulders and hips. A slight convergence is allowable for faster speeds, but there is still a straight column of support from hips/shoulders to feet. The rear pads are visible from behind, but feet both front and rear move with very little rise from the ground showing an economy of motion. Elbows do not turn out.

Temperament

Fearless and gay disposition; assertive but not aggressive.



5 Essential Traits

1. Breed Character:

Spunkiness and assuredness but not quarrelsome.

2. Silhouette:

One of the most natural and unaltered of the show terriers, with nothing exaggerated. Well proportioned and balanced with a medium length of back and legs – not square.

3. Head :

From the front the head has a roundish appearance due to head furnishings. The skull is broad in proportion to length, with the foreface almost as long as the skull, with a decided indentation between the eyes and a definite stop. Eyes are dark, sparkling, and medium in size, rather deep set under shaggy eyebrows. Ears are small, pointed, pricked, free of long hair and set high on the outside of the skull. The jaw must be strong with large teeth meeting in a scissor bite. Hair on the head is thick and profuse but should not hide the expression.

4. Movement:

Free and light. Well muscled upper and lower thighs allow the Cairn to lift and turn his body quickly. Strong propulsion from behind.

5. Coat / Colour:

Harsh and weather resistant, approximately 2 inches long. May be tidied but not be overly stylized or enhanced. Excessive trimming is taboo, should never show signs of scissoring. May be of any colour except white. Dark ears muzzle and tail tip are desirable.

Credits...

Thank you to the following Cairn breeders and fanciers for the use of photographs in preparing this presentation:

- Joan Blackstaff – Checkers
- Jeanette Hargreaves – Grastar
- Chikki Mair – Skerryvore
- Merril Schmitt – Quarrydene
- Rena David - Cairwick





Take me home, Toto!



The End!