



DOGS OF SCOTLAND



There are 13 breeds of dogs which have their origins in or along the borders of Scotland or among the islands near its shores. All the dogs were developed with a specific job to do. The work included 1) gathering and driving a flock or herd of farm animals, 2) hunting and retrieving game, or 3) protecting livestock or crops from predators. In addition to their original purposes, these dogs are wonderful companions and are very popular in the United States and Scotland as elsewhere in the world.

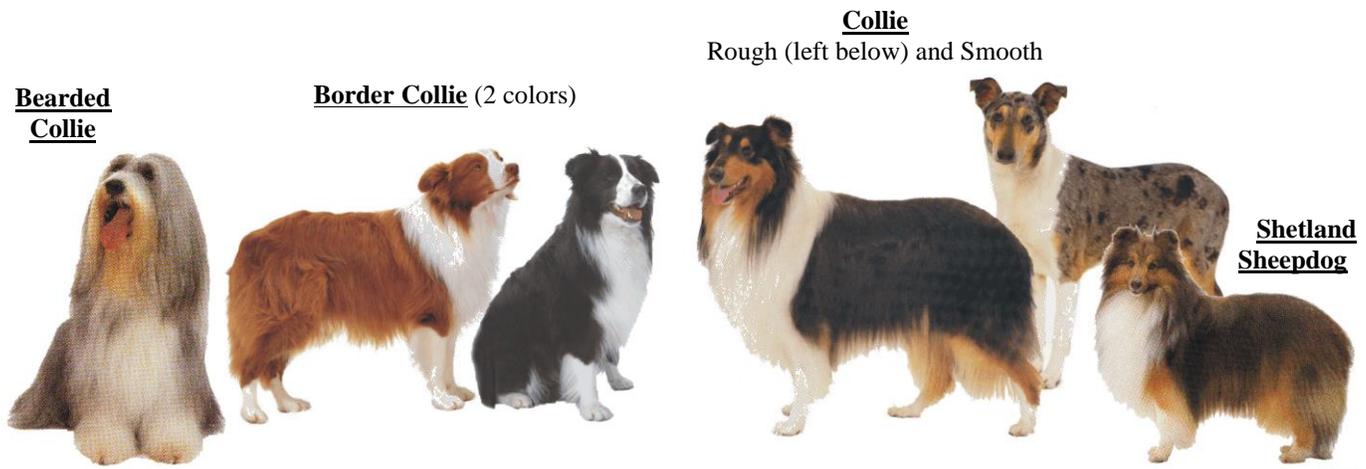
The breeds are the **Bearded Collie**, **Border Collie**, **Border Terrier**, **Cairn Terrier**, **Collie** (rough and smooth varieties), **Dandie Dinmont Terrier**, **Golden Retriever**, **Gordon Setter**, **Scottish Deerhound**, **Scottish Terrier**, **Shetland Sheepdog**, **Skye Terrier**, and **West Highland White Terrier**.



Herding Dogs



Herding Dogs, traditionally are used in Scotland to gather, drive, and protect domestic farm animals.



Bearded Collie

Border Collie (2 colors)

Collie
Rough (left below) and Smooth

Shetland Sheepdog

The **Bearded Collie** is possibly Scotland’s oldest breed of dog and is a gentle, happy dog devoted to its family. A Beardie will have a long, shaggy coat that may be black, gray, brown, or fawn with or without areas of white. With the fur on its head, one might think it would have trouble seeing. However, when the Beardie moves the fur blows backward allowing the dog to see very well.

The **Border Collie** originated in the border country between Scotland and England. You can see a demonstration today at the Virginia Scottish Games of how a BC works with its shepherd to contain and move sheep. A Border Collie comes in all colors and combinations of colors or markings. A BC is a versatile dog which can also show its ability and intelligence in flyball and agility trials.

The **Collie** is well known due to the popularity of a dog character named Lassie found in books, movies, and television shows. This breed comes in two varieties: “Rough” with a long coat (like Lassie with a very full mane and tail) and “Smooth” with a short, flat coat. Both the Rough and Smooth Collie are seen in four color variations, sable and white, black/white/tan, blue merle (marbled bluish gray/black/white), and white with sable, blue merle, or tri-color markings.

Although its appearance and color seem similar, the **Shetland Sheepdog** is not a tiny Collie. The Sheltie originated in the Shetland Islands. Because of its small size, the beautiful Sheltie can be happy in the city or the country. Shelties are famous for their learning ability.

Terriers

The **Border**, **Cairn**, **Dandie Dinmont**, **Scottish**, **Skye**, and **West Highland White** terriers were also originally hunting dogs. However, rather than being utilized only for formal hunts, these dogs were also engaged in daily protection of crops and small domestic farm animals through elimination of predators such as mice, fox, and badger. These small dogs can hunt in packs (like beagles) above ground but are best known for going individually into the prey's underground den. If the passage is too small, they will dig their way into the lair. Even today, most of these breeds retain a tenacious hunting instinct and act as if they are dogs of much larger stature.



The alert and plucky **Border Terrier** was developed along the boundary between Scotland and England to especially catch fox killing farmers' chickens and livestock. The Border has longer legs than other Scottish breed terriers and weighs 11-16 pounds. Border Terriers are active dogs with a high energy level and need plenty of play and exercise.

The **Cairn Terrier** is named from its hunting among the "cairns" (piles of stones designating property boundaries) in the Scottish Highlands. The dog who played "Toto" in the *Wizard of Oz* movie was a Cairn. The breed's coat can be any color except white and is usually seen in wheaten, brindle, or gray. Although the Cairn thinks and acts like a large dog, it weighs only 13-14 pounds.

The **Dandie Dinmont Terrier** is the only dog breed named for a literary character. Sir Walter Scott's 1814 novel, *Guy Mannering*, contained a farmer named Dandie Dinmont, who had a pack of terriers indigenous to the English-Scottish Border area. The Dandie has a domed head crowned with a pouf of fur, a coat which is pepper or mustard in color, and a tail curved like a scimitar. It weighs 16-24 pounds.

The **Scottish Terrier** has a longer, narrower head and a thicker, shorter body than other Scottish terrier breeds. Its sturdier structure is reflected in a weight of 19-23 pounds. Although black is the predominant color today, the breed can also be seen today in brindle or wheaten.

The **Skye Terrier** originated centuries ago on the Isle of Skye and has a long, low body with a coat in gray, black, or cream. The Skye Terrier was made famous by a dog named Greyfriars Bobby. Bobby was so devoted to his master John Gray that, for 14 years, he lay on Gray's grave and only left for food.

The **West Highland White Terrier** was developed specifically for its color. The history of the breed indicates that one of the first breeders had a favorite dog killed due to its being mistaken for the prey as the dog was reddish in color. Thereafter, this breeder selected the white puppies out of each litter to develop the Westie, which can only be white in color.

🦁 Sporting Dogs 🦁

Dogs which were bred to find game birds for a hunter are the **Golden Retriever** and **Gordon Setter**. The **Scottish Deerhound**, which was bred to hunt deer by sight rather than by scent, is called a sight hound (such as a Wolfhound) rather than a scent hound (such as a Bloodhound).



The ancient lineage of the **Gordon Setter** dates back to the black and tan setters of the 1600s. The breed was named after Duke of Gordon, who developed the breed into the dog we see today. A Gordon has a soft, wavy coat which is black with chestnut markings. They are good companions as well as wonderful personal hunting dogs. They thrive on plenty of vigorous exercise and mature at about four years of age.

The **Golden Retriever** is the most recent Scottish dog breed to be developed. It has a thick, water-resistant coat of a lustrous gold in various shades. The Golden's intelligence and desire to please people make it easy to train. However, the most outstanding trait is the breed's friendly, reliable, and trustworthy temperament. Golden Retrievers remain sound hunting dogs and are wonderful guide dogs for the sight impaired.

The **Scottish Deerhound**, one of the largest of all breeds in the world, stands 28-32 inches at the shoulder and weighs 75-110 pounds. Once known as the "Royal Dog of Scotland," the Deerhound could only be owned by someone with the rank of earl or above. The breed was highly regarded for its courage as a hunter of deer and loyalty to the clan chieftain and his kin. Its shaggy coat can be wheaten (light tan with dark tips), brindle (one color interspersed with another), or gray. People, who are able to accommodate its size and need for exercise, find the Scottish Deerhound to be a wonderfully gentle companion dog.

🦁 Scottish Dogs In Action 🦁

