

HISTORY

They are frozen in time and sometimes deceptively real. Perpetuated in stone or bronze, looking over water, streets, parks or squares, dog statues can be found all over the world.

Dog Statues

Patsy Ann – Bull Terrier (1929-42) – Anna Burke Harris

Text and illustrations by RIA HÖRTER

The statue of a stone-deaf Bull Terrier is one of the most-photographed dog statues in the world. The terrier, Patsy Ann, is immortalized on the quay of Juneau, Alaska, on the spot where she greeted thousands of cruise ship passengers during the 1930s and early '40s.

Official Greeter of Juneau, Alaska

Patsy Ann was born in Portland, Oregon on October 12, 1929. She arrived in Juneau, the capital of Alaska, as a pup with her owner Dr. Kaser (or Kayser).

Although Patsy Ann was well cared for, first by her owner and later by the Rice family, she was not content to be a house pet. She scavenged all over the streets and was particularly attracted to the harbors, where the cruise ships moored and tourists disembarked.

Although Patsy Ann was deaf, she always waited on the right quay to greet an incoming ship. Nobody knew how she knew. In 1934, mayor Goldstein gave her the title 'The official greeter of Juneau, Alaska.' If there were no ships, Patsy Ann would make her rounds in the city, visiting the shopkeepers who gave her something to eat. Some hotels, restaurants and bars would provide shelter for the night.



The statue of Patsy Ann, clearly a Bull Terrier, looking toward the harbor. The abandoned collar lying across her left foot has her name engraved on it.

Her First Priority

Ship arrival times were not fixed, but when Patsy Ann went to the quay, inhabitants and waiting passengers could be sure that a ship was coming in. Patsy Ann spent many hours in the Longshoremen's Union Hall at the waterside, but wherever she was, greeting the ships was her first priority.

It wasn't long before Patsy Ann became the most famous dog in Juneau and its surroundings. She was photographed thousands of times; picture postcards were produced and sold. Several books featuring Patsy Ann have been published – *Patsy Ann of Alaska: The true Story of a Dog* by Tricia Brown (Little Bigfoot, 2011); *Dog Star* by Beverly and Chris Wood (Raincoast Books, 1997).

When wearing a collar became obligatory, somebody bought her one but, when the collar disappeared without a trace after a few days, the municipality

exempted Patsy Ann from wearing one.

During musical performances in the Coliseum Theatre, Patsy Ann would walk up and down the aisles looking for handouts. Because of rheumatism from jumping into the ice-cold

...Hinks developed his "gentleman's companion," probably by crossing his Bulldog with the old bull-and-terrier type, the now-extinct White English Terrier and other breeds.

HISTORY



One of the few remaining photos of Patsy Ann

Gastineau Channel, walking became difficult, but she still made it to the harbor whenever she sensed the ships' steam whistles.

Burial at Sea

During the 1930s, many Patsy Ann postcards were sold in the Juneau tourist shops. She put her paw print in a freshly laid sidewalk on South Seward Street.

Patsy Ann died in her sleep in the Longshoremen's Union Hall on March 30, 1942. She was 13 years old. The following day, mourners gathered for a short ceremony before she was buried at sea in the Gastineau Channel between the mainland of Alaska and Douglas Island.

In 1992, 50 years after her death, a statue commissioned by the *Friends of Patsy Ann* was erected on the wharf where she had welcomed thousands of cruise ship passengers.

Anna Burke Harris from New Mexico sculpted Patsy Ann's statue, which has clippings of dog hair from all over the world in the bronze, to symbolize the spirit of dogs everywhere.

Nineteenth-century Bull Terriers were known as "gladiators" for their prowess in the dog-fighting ring. They still feature a strongly built, muscular outline.

How It Began

(From *Masterminds, Dogs in Canada*, April 2008; and *Masterminds, The Canine Chronicle*, February 2013. By Ria Hörter)

Most dog breeds were developed after hundreds of years of evolution and lengthy selection by breeders. However, some breeds owe their existence to just one person.

James Hinks (1829-78) was born in the city of Mullingar, the county town of Westmeath, one of the poorest places in Ireland.

By around 1851, the Hinks family had

moved to Birmingham, an industrial town described as "an immense workshop, a huge forge, a vast shop. One hears nothing but the sound of hammers and the whistle of steam escaping from boilers."



Patsy Ann photographed at the arrival of a ship. Some sources incorrectly claim that she was a pit terrier.

Hinks began his career as a brass founder – by 1840, more than 3,500 people were working in Birmingham's foundries and living in small, dark workers' houses with poor sanitation and shared by several large families. Still, Hinks was in a privileged position: he had a job and an income.

Hinks became a "higgler" (trader) and poultry dealer. These professions were obviously a little higher up the social ladder, because Hinks became a registered trader in the Market Hall and was also breeding foreign and domestic birds and

rabbits. His Bulldog, Old Madman, was born in 1855, so apart from breeding birds, rabbits and poultry, he became a dog breeder and dealer.

*Other names for the Bull Terrier –
White Cavalier; Bully; Wedge Head;
Gentleman's Companion; Gladiator; Hinks' breed*

In the mid-19th century, Hinks developed his "gentleman's companion," probably by crossing his Bulldog with the old bull-and-terrier type, the now-extinct White English Terrier and other breeds.

In the years to come, Hinks dominated the show ring and a year after his death, Vero Shaw wrote: "To the late Mr. James Hinks of Worcester Street, Birmingham, is due the credit for bringing the breed before the notice of the public in its later and more desirable form, and with his well known Old Madman and Puss he farmed our leading shows for a long period."

Foundation

Between 1862 and 1870, Hinks attended 82 shows. Considering the way people traveled over a century ago, his trips must have been true undertakings. Around 1870, Hinks stepped back from breeding and exhibiting Bull Terriers, on the one hand because other breeders were successfully using his line, and on the other because he was paying more attention to his alehouse. It's possible that he earned more money drawing beer than breeding and showing dogs.

Hinks disappeared from the dog scene



*Spring, summer, autumn and winter.
In every season Patsy Ann's statue
is an eye-catcher.*

HISTORY

around 1870, but the mark he left on the breed is huge. His creation is familiar all over the world and his first dogs – Old Madman, Madman and Puss – are regarded as the start of the Bull Terrier. As for all the breeds Hinks used for his creation, the mystery is only partly resolved.

In 1877, Hinks contracted tuberculosis and died in May 1878, only 49 years old and leaving a widow and eight children, aged 13 to 26. In his lifetime, he had lifted his family from the slums and accumulated an estate worth £450.

We know little about his activities as a breeder when he laid the foundation for a ‘modern’ Bull Terrier. Hinks was certainly not the first to cross Bulldogs and terriers and it’s possible that in the beginning there was little difference between Hinks’ dogs and other Bulldogs or bull-and-terriers in the show ring.

Bull Terrier

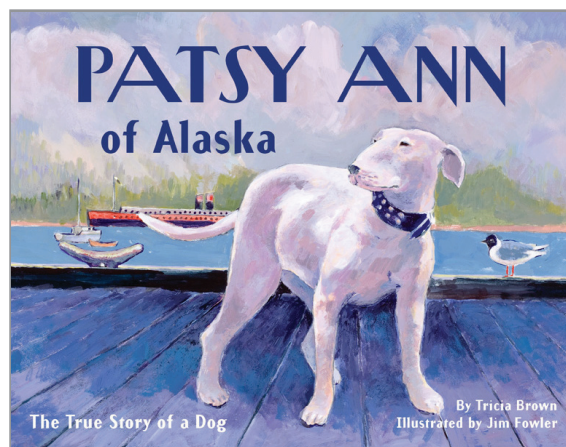
- **Country of origin:** England
- **Used as:** Family companion; obedience, agility and show dog
- **Average lifespan:** 11-14 years
- **First breed standard:** R.B. Lee included the Bull Terrier Club’s 1887 description of the breed in *Modern Dogs (Terriers)* (London, 1894). As the club had no scale of points, Lee made one so the Bull Terrier description would be consistent with the other breed descriptions in the book.
- **AKC breed standard:** akc.org/dog-breeds/bull-terrier/
- **Group:** Terrier Group (AKC, CKC, KC, FCI)
- **Breed club:** Bull Terrier Club of America
- **Website:** btca.com

Something About Bull Terriers in America

Bull Terriers arrived in the United States during the 19th century. Some were used to develop the American Pit Bull Terrier and American Staffordshire Terrier.

The white Bull Terrier was recognized by the AKC in 1885; the first Bull Terrier registered with the club was Nellie II, the same year. The Bull Terrier Club of America was founded in 1897. The colored Bull Terrier was made a separate variety in 1936; the Miniature Bull Terrier became a separate breed in 1992. Today, the Bull Terrier ranks 57th in popularity out of 189 AKC-registered breeds.

This is how the AKC describes the



“The True Story of a Dog”

Bull Terrier: “Playful and clownish, the Bull Terrier is best described as a three-year-old child in a dog suit. Given his muscular build, the Bull Terrier can appear unapproachable, but he is an exceedingly friendly dog, with a sweet and fun-loving disposition and popular in the obedience, agility and show rings. The Bull Terrier can be all white (markings on the head are permissible) or colored.”

Patsy Ann is not the only famous Bull Terrier. General George S. Patton (1885-1945) had a Bull Terrier named William the Conqueror – Willie for short – that he bought in 1944. Willie was devoted to Patton and followed

him everywhere.

A 12-foot bronze statue of General Patton and Willie stands today at the General Patton Memorial Museum near Indio, California.

Among the breed books available are *The Bull Terrier*, written by William Haynes and published in 1912 by the Outling Publishing Co., New York; *The Bull Terrier*, published in 1973 by English dog writer John F. Gordon (John Gifford Ltd., London); and *All About the Bull Terrier and Miniature Bull Terrier* by AKC Terrier Group judge Marilyn Drewes, published in 2005 by Alpine Publications Inc.

“Today, tourists are encouraged to greet and touch Patsy Ann’s statue, and to carry the blessing of friendship with them always.” (From: J.A. Wines, *Dogs’ Miscellany*, Michael O’Mara Books, Ltd., 2014)

We have tried to find the names of all photographers. Unfortunately, we do not always succeed. Please send a message to the author if you think you are the owner of a copyright.

A retired bookseller and publisher, Ria Hörter is a dog writer from The Netherlands. She is the contributing editor of the leading Dutch National Dog Magazine Onze Hond (Our Dogs) and works for the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of the Netherlands of which she was one of the founders. She was nominated twice and a finalist

in the 2009 Annual Writing Competition of the Dog Writers Association of America, for her articles in Dogs in Canada.

On April 12, 2014 she was awarded the Dutch Cynology Gold Emblem of Honour. The award was presented by the Dutch Kennel Club. Ria is a member of the World Press Dog Association.

For more information visit: riahorter.com

Curious about the whole article? Read further at riahorter.com under Dog articles – Mastermind.



A Bull Terrier Almost a Century After Patsy Ann