

by Ria Hörter



Part four:

## The Tenterfield Terrier and Kangaroo Dog

### The Tenterfield Terrier

#### A SHORT HISTORY

This breed's roots lie – where else? – in England. Immigrants to Australia took their small terriers with them to control small vermin. These terriers resemble the old Jack Russell Terrier, but their ancestors included the Black and Tan Terrier (Manchester Terrier and English Toy Terrier) as well. It is believed that early breeders even used Chihuahuas, Whippets and Italian Greyhounds to bring the dog down in size.

They're used not only for ratting and rabbiting, but also for fox hunting, and can leap into the horses' saddlebags to follow the hounds. These useful little dogs were good companions for families on farms, and rapidly spread over the whole of Australia. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, there was hardly a farm in Australia that didn't have one or two of these terriers. However, their owners had no interest in registering them, let alone thinking about a breeding program.

The breed's name is said to derive from the village of Tenterfield, located on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales. In the 1900s George Woolnough, a saddler in Tenterfield, owned "an awful lot" of these terri-

ers but it wasn't until the 1980s that owners took action to ensure the breed's continued existence. Their first gathering led to the founding of the Miniature Fox Terrier Club of South Australia in 1986; other states followed their example. The name "Miniature Fox Terrier" was rather ill-chosen, however, when attempts were

made for recognition of the breed. This terrier is *not* a miniature variety of the Fox Terrier. But how to choose a new name? Don Burke, host of *Burke's Backyard*, an Australian gardening show, suggested the name Tenterfield Terrier on his program. When all clubs concerned were polled, 85 per cent of the votes embraced the name Tenterfield Terrier.

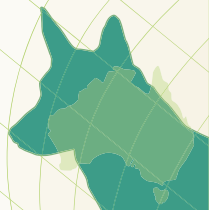
Compared to the Jack Russell Terrier, the Tenterfield is finer and has a slightly rounded skull. People still have trouble telling them apart.

#### BREED CLUB, REGISTRATION AND SHOWING

The Tenterfield Terrier Club of Australia was founded in January 1993; its only members are two delegates from each state club. In the same year, the ANKC gave judges permission to assess this breed nationwide. The breed club handles all breed registrations. Only regis-



PHOTO: MAUREEN SCHÜTT



## Dogs down under The Australian breeds



PHOTOS: MAUREN SCHUTT

Two Australian champion Tenterfield Terriers – the bitch on the left has a natural bob tail and the male at right has a typical head.

These small terriers resemble the old Jack Russell Terrier, but their ancestors included the Black and Tan Terrier (Manchester Terrier and English Toy Terrier) as well.

tered dogs can join breeding programs; over 1,000 dogs in the provisional stud book are typical for the breed, but their parents are unknown or not registered. Dogs cannot be registered until they're 12 months, and must have been examined by a vet. Only dogs with a scissor bite and free of patella luxation can be registered.

A Tenterfield Terrier show was held in Adelaide in 1999, judged by Luis Orland of Uruguay, who was impressed by the quality of this young breed. The Tenterfield Terrier was recognized by the ANKC in January 2002. In June 2002, the breed's first official show was organized in Queensland. The first Tenterfield to be awarded challenge points at a Championship Show was Tintenara Brightlight.

There are only a few breeders, but they're dedicated to the breed. The number of dogs is small but growing: 51 Tenterfield Terriers registered in 2002; 219 in 2004.

Because of its temperament and curiosity, Tenterfields are prone to snake bites, dog fights and being hit by cars.

### The Kangaroo Dog (Kangaroo Hound, Australian Greyhound EXTINCT?)

Although it's said that the Kangaroo Dog is now extinct, he belongs in a survey of Australian breeds if only because he was the result of crossings of existing breeds by early settlers. Although I use the word "extinct," some sources are convinced that the Kangaroo Dog can still be found on remote cattle farms. Unfortunately, there is no indication where and how many.

In 1844-45, Ludwig Leichhardt made an overland expedition from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, a distance of 3,000 miles, and mentioned Kangaroo Dogs in his journal: 'Game became more frequent, and last night everybody had a duck. As we were pursuing our course, Mr. Gilbert started a large kangaroo, known by the familiar name of "old man," which took refuge in a water-hole, where it was killed, but at the expense of our two kangaroo dogs, which were mortally wounded.'

### SURVIVAL

Most literature states that the history of the Kangaroo Dog starts in the 1880s, but Leichhardt's journal proves that they were around in the 1840s. Immigrants crossed Irish Wolfhounds with English Greyhounds, Irish Deerhounds and maybe English Foxhounds. This resulted

## The Tenterfield Terrier standard

"The Tenterfield is a strong, active and agile working terrier of great versatility.... The length of the head and neck should always be in balance to the whole of the dog." He has a "keen, intelligent and alert expression, which is denoted by the carriage of his ears and erect tail... although fearless and bold at work, he is an ideal companion dog in the home." The head is "only slightly rounded from ear to ear. Domed or apple heads are highly undesirable." The stop is moderate and there should be strength in the muzzle. The oval eyes are as dark as possible; "light eyes and wall eyes are to be discouraged." The V-shaped ears are set on high, erect or semi-erect. A full dentition and a complete scissor bite are required.

The body is short and compact with a level topline. The shoulders are not too heavily muscled, the back ribs are deep and reach well back with only a slight tuck-up. The chest reaches to the level of the elbow, but not below. "Forelegs are of strong round bone... the elbows are set under the body." Hindquarters are not too heavily muscled, with long and powerful thighs. When moving, the "fore and hind legs are carried straight forward and parallel" and there is good drive from the rear.

The Tenterfield Terrier comes in various colours. "Predominantly white with black, liver and/or tan markings in its



various tones. Tri colouring is common. Brindle markings are acceptable but not preferred. Full colour coats are not acceptable." The coat is short and of smooth texture. Unlike most other terriers the Tenterfield is a single-coated dog. The tail is either docked or natural.

The ideal size is 28 centimetres, but can be 25-1/2 to a maximum of 30-1/2 centimetres. The weight is in proportion to the size of the dog. Although there is no size given for females, lack of gender definition is a serious fault.

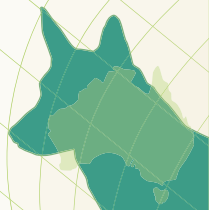
PHOTO: SALLY STASYTIS

in a heavy (about 40 kilograms), rough-coated dog resembling a Greyhound. To control the kangaroo population, farmers needed a big, speedy dog that wasn't afraid of water, since a kangaroo on the run may jump into water, thinking that its attacker won't. In addition, a dog that hunts kangaroo must be intelligent, vicious, merciless, and not afraid to attack. In short, this mix of breeds does not make a good pet. One of the descriptions even states: "Temperament: nasty disposition." A fight to the death was not exceptional – a kangaroo in trouble is a mighty fighter. We must remember that farmers' survival depended on their crops and hunting was a way of life.

Leichhardt wasn't the only one to write about Kan-

The Kangaroo Dog was used for hunting small game as well as kangaroo. They were not very good with other dogs and behaviour toward people varied from dog to dog.

garoo Dogs. James Inglis, an planter in Indigo, wrote *Sport and Work on the Nepal Frontier* (1878, reprinted in 2004 and 2005). In Chapter V, he wrote: "I had one very noble-looking Kangaroo Hound, that I had brought from Australia with me, and my 'bobbery pack' of terriers contained canine specimens of all sorts, sizes, and colours." He describes a fight between his dogs and



# Dogs down under The Australian breeds



**(Top)** A Kangaroo Dog with typical “rose” ears, imported to the Netherlands in 1972. **(Above)** This dog’s ears are not typical.

a pariah dog: “A dozen of his village mates dance madly outside the ring, but are too wise or too cowardly to come to closer quarters. The Kangaroo Hound has now fairly torn the rope from the keeper’s hand, and with one mighty bound is in the middle of the fight.” Obviously the Kangaroo Dog was a valued companion for

19th-century travellers and explorers.

British-born artist Edward Roper (1833-1909), who lived in Canada during his youth and frequently throughout his lifetime, also travelled and worked in Australia. One of his paintings in the National Library of Australia depicts a hunt with horsemen chasing after fleeing kangaroos, while Kangaroo Dogs run in front of the horses.

## NO ROOM ANYMORE

The Kangaroo Dog was used for hunting small game as well as kangaroo. They were not very good with other dogs and behaviour toward people varied from dog to dog. This crossing never had a chance, like other Australian dogs, to develop into a recognized breed, and was never granted the status of a provisional stud book. When the kangaroo became nationally protected in Australia, there was no room anymore for the Kangaroo Dog.

## DESCRIPTION

The robust Kangaroo Dog resembles a Greyhound. The head is long and narrow with small ears. The eyes are rather big and dark, and the nose is black or a colour that fits the coat colour. It has a long, muscular neck and deep, broad chest. The body is strong, the legs long and strong with compact feet. The coat is soft and fine, sometimes a little coarse on the body.

All colours, brindle and bicour are permitted, but black is undesirable. Movement is versatile, agile and speedy. The height at the withers varies from 68-1/2 to 76 centimetres for males and 63-1/2 to 68-1/2 centimetres for females.

*A retired bookseller and publisher, Ria Hörter is a contributing editor of Onze Hond, the national dog magazine of Holland.*

PHOTOS: (ABOVE) COURTESY MRS. H. SCHOOR • (FAR LEFT AND LEFT) COURTESY RIA HÖRTER