

# Vanished Dog Breeds (Part 3)

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- **The (Old) White English Terrier and**
- **Talbot Hound**

## The (Old) White English Terrier

### A distinctive breed

It is supposed that the White English Terrier was a common type of dog in the middle of the 19th Century, especially in the County of Lancashire (England). Around 1890, it was generally accepted as a distinct breed. This type of Terrier had a long, narrow head with a flat skull and long, powerful muzzle. The oval eyes were small and dark with a keen expression, the ears V-shaped, hanging close to the cheeks. The neck was long and slightly arched, the shoulder blades were sloping and the chest deep. The slightly curved body had good ribs. The front was straight and the hind quarters powerful, with low hocks. The coat was fine and shining, the colour always pure white. Some had brown spots on the back, but this could cause disqualification. This is the picture of the Old White English Terrier.

### Terra-Terrar-Terrier

Terriers were mentioned in Dr. Caius' book *De Canibus Britannicus* (*Of English Dogs*), published in 1570. Caius wrote: "Another sorte there is which hunteth the Foxe and the Badger Or Greye onely, whom we call Terrars, because they creepe into the grounde..." A simple explanation of their name: they are called Terriers, because they creep in the ground. The name Terrar derives from Terra, the Latin word for earth. Terriers share many characteristics - they are sturdily built, well muscled, small to medium sized and in many cases, their ears are folded and triangular. Generally speaking, the coat is rough with a dense undercoat and the eyes are protected by the coat.

Around 1800, Sydenham Edwards published his famous book *Cynographia Britannica*. In it, he stated that there were two types of Terriers and he not only separated the short-legged and long-legged, but those with a straight front and those with a crooked front. Terriers with a straight front generally had a short coat, those with a crooked front, a long coat. White was the preferred colour, especially with hunters. "And", Edwards added, "their ears and tails are customarily docked."



Painting by Richard Ansdell (1815-1885), "Old English White Terrier and Manchester Terriers". In his book (1904) Earl Henri van Bylandt already states that there is no difference between them, except for the colour. (Encore Editions.)



White English Terrier, drawn by John Emms (1843-1912). (Encore Editions.)



The title of this painting is "White Terrier", but we are not sure if this is really a portrait of the breed. The resemblance with the paintings of George and Maud Earl is evident. This portrait is painted by E. Mondy in 1875. (Collection: Mr and Mrs John H. Remer. Encore Editions.)



Around 1870 George Earl (1856-1883) painted the White English Terrier 'Ch Prince'. Since 1895 it is forbidden to crop ears; because of that breeders were discouraged and the initial popularity decreased. (Collection: Mr and Mrs



White English Terrier, by Alfred Wheeler (1852-1932). (Encore Editions.)

### A recognizable inheritance

Reading about the history of the Bull Terrier, you can't miss the Old White English Terrier. Unlike many extinct breeds, the White English Terrier left a recognizable inheritance - the present-day Bull Terrier. The creator of this breed, James Hinks, first crossed a Bulldog and a Black and Tan Terrier (also extinct). In the next generation he needed the White English Terrier for its colour. When the Bull Terrier was recognized, the preferred colour was white.

The White English Terrier is also one of the ancestors of the Fox Terrier, the American Rat Terrier, the Boston Terrier and the American Staffordshire Terrier. The crucial question of why the White English Terrier no longer exists is difficult to answer. In my opinion, this Terrier could not survive because he had been used by many breeders to create new Terrier breeds. In a way, he made himself redundant.

### Fierce and fast-working Terriers

In 19th-Century England "sport" meant more or less the same as hunting. Every self-respecting huntsman possessed in his group of hunting dogs - apart from the Otter Hound or the Fox Hound - at least two or three Terriers. These fierce and fast-working Terriers chased the game into their holes, all the while barking loudly to point to the place where the hunter could find the prey. They were considered all-round sporting dogs, because apart from hunting foxes, badgers, weasels, polecats, hares and rabbits, they were excellent destroyers of vermin, such as mice and rats. This is the reason for their great popularity in those days.

By the end of the 18th Century, Terriers were also popular companion dogs. William Taplin (circa 1750-circa 1830) wrote that he had Terriers as companion dogs since 1780. Moreover, other dog writers spoke well of the white Terrier. For example, around 1860, 'Stonehenge' (J.H. Walsh) wrote: "Such is the pure English Terrier, a totally different animal from the short, thick-muzzled, spaniel-eyed, long-backed, cat-footed abomination so prevalent in the present day." A very clear statement, and David Hancock added in



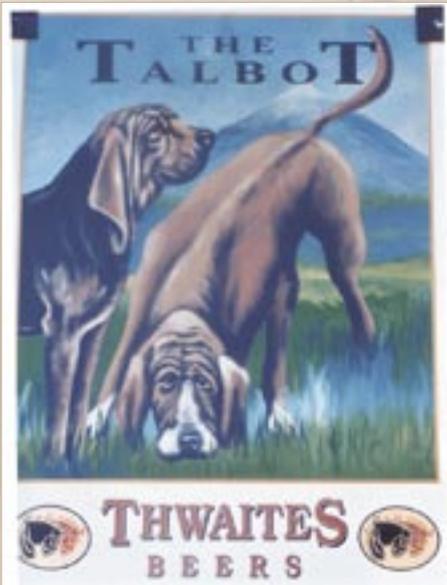
A relatively recent (1910) portrait of an English White Terrier, by American painter Gustave Muss-Arnolt (1858-1927).



Old English White Terrier, by John Paul in 1863. He was primarily a painter of horses and hunting scenes. (Encore Editions.)



White English Terrier, painted by Edwin Frederick Holt (1854-1897). (Encore Editions.)



Inn sign of hotel "The Talbot" in Ambleside (Lake District, England). It shows two Talbots of the right type, a brown one and a black-and-tan. (Foto: Marinus Nijhoff.)



"The Talbot" is a pub in the centre of Richmond (Yorkshire, England). This sign shows the original white colour, but the dog has not the typical long and pendulous ears. (Foto: Marinus Nijhoff.)

1968: "Although difficult to breed to show criteria, the English White was a distinctive breed and one easy to recreate." I believe the recreation of this breed has never happened because at the end of the 19th Century, the Bull Terrier and Fox Terrier developed rather quickly into popular breeds for the show ring.

### They just faded away

A description dating from 1920 speaks about "a relatively new breed, nobody knows where it comes from or for what purpose he is bred." The writer of this description was not well informed, because Frederick White from Clapham seems to have been one of the owners of this "new" old breed. The well-known breeder S.E. Shirley was also involved in the breed. James Roocroft was another well-known breeder. Some of his home-bred dogs were apparently deaf; a phenomenon named leucism, related to the white coat.

The English Kennel Club published its first Stud Book in 1874; it indicates that the White English Terrier had existed for at least thirty years. This statement means that all sources assume this Terrier was known around 1840.

The Dutch dog writer Earl Henri van Bylandt mentioned the White English Terrier in his famous book Hondenrassen (Dog Breeds), published in four languages in 1904. His opinion was that the breed standard of the White English Terrier was similar to that of the Black and Tan Terrier with the exception of colour. (The Black and Tan Terrier is an ancestor of the present-day Manchester Terrier.) Around 1890, dog writer and Terrier expert Rawdon B. Lee (1845-1908) wrote: "This breed is not older than forty years." Unfortunately, when the English White Terrier disappeared cannot be determined. The only thing we know is that they were not seen at dog shows after 1906. They had just faded away.

### The Talbot

Talbot is the name of not only an extinct breed, but also some pubs and inns in England, an antique automobile and a family name originating from the Middle Ages. And they all have something to do with each other.

### The dark Middle Ages

Breeding different types of dogs for different types of jobs - hunting, guarding, herding, tracking, etc. - began before the Middle Ages. The Talbot's speciality was tracking, not for a hunting party, but on the battlefield. Soldiers trying to run away had to bear in mind the excellent nose of the Talbot following their tracks. In the Middle Ages, wars and battles are widespread over England and for these, the Talbot was brought into action.

Robert the Bruce (1274-1329) was the leader of the Scottish opposition against the English. During one of his many battles he was chased by the enemy and his Talbot was captured by the English. The English Commander then set the Talbot free and the dog was followed by five of the Commander's best soldiers, hoping to be led to its master. And so it happened. The Talbot was reunited with Robert and the battle ended in favour of the Scots.

### Different names and different types

Over the years, the Talbot has been known under different names - Sleuth Hound, Lime Hound, Limer and Liam - but "Bloodhound" is also used. Some authors point out small differences in appearance and state that the different names belong to different types.



"White English Terrier", painted by Alfred F. de Prades (1862-1879), a painter who became famous for his portraits of horses and jockeys. (Encore Editions.)



The huntingdogs in this engraving appear to be Talbots.

The Talbot was also used to track cattle thieves and escaped prisoners and therefore contributed to law enforcement. The breed's excellent nose and tracking ability also made him a valued hunting dog, tracking the game and finding the wounded or dead game after it had been shot. In various European countries, the Talbot was owned exclusively by the aristocracy and those wealthy enough to buy, own and feed this valuable dog.

We know that the Talbot was much appreciated in its time. In 1615, Gervaise Markmam wrote in *Country Contentments*: "The bigger and heavier Talbot dogs, whatever colour they have, are the best tracking dogs."

### William the Conqueror

One can immediately see the close relationship of the St. Hubert Hound, the Talbot and the Bloodhound. Benedictine monks developed the St Hubert Hound in 6th-Century Belgium. This was a heavily built, medium-sized, black or black-and-tan dog, its body a little longer than the height at the withers. The heavy head and hanging flews were characteristic and the dogs were known for their deep sonorous bark, excellent nose and somewhat sluggish movement. The St Hubert Hound was the ancestor of the present Bloodhound and the now-extinct Talbot.

The Talbot is considered to have been a spotted white or liver-coloured variety of the St Hubert Hound, originating from crossbreeding with other Hounds, possibly French Hounds. Nearly every dog writer assumes that the Talbot was developed in the 8th Century and originated in France, then was taken to England in 1066 by William the Conqueror, the man who wanted to teach King Harold a lesson in the Battle of Hastings. William used the Talbot - mostly white coloured - for deer hunting. Later, the English used him for fox hunting; they admit that the Talbot's nose was excellent, but that he lacked speed.

The Talbot had a rather big head with long and pendulous ears and these characteristics we still can see today in the Basset, Beagle, Harrier, (American) Coonhound and Bloodhound. The Talbot is considered to have become extinct "somewhere in the 16th Century".

### "Talbot, oure good dogge"

The ancestors of the Earls of Shrewsbury, whose family name is Talbot, can be traced to the Middle Ages. Originally the Talbot family came from Normandy (France), a link with William the Conqueror. Around 1449, a certain John Talbot was called "oure good dogge" by King Henry VI of England. Maybe the King really thought the Earl of Shrewsbury a dear soul, but it could have been a royal joke about the family name as well. The relation between the family name and the dog absolutely existed - for ages the Earls of Shrewsbury had a dog in their coat of arms. Without any doubt, this dog resembles the Talbot. But, the question is: which came first? Is the Talbot named after the family or has the family name and the coat of arms derived from the dog?

### White, spotted or liver-coloured Talbots

The three varieties in colour - white, spotted or liver - are found in the literature. Recent images also show Talbots with a coat pattern like the Dalmatian - white with spots. The illustrations show two inn signs with one or more Talbots. The website [www.midlandspubs.co.uk/pubsigns](http://www.midlandspubs.co.uk/pubsigns) has more inn signs of Talbots with a spotted coat. "The Talbot" is a popular name for a pub or inn in England; one of the reasons may be that Talbots used to run - like the Dalmatians - behind or next to the carriages, travelling from one inn to the other.

But what about the old English automobile, also named Talbot? The first Talbot motor car left the factory in 1904. On the bonnet was a small model of a dog with long ears. It derived from the family name and coat of arms of the owner of the car factory: the Earl of Shrewsbury!



Two Bloodhounds depicted in "Cynographia Britannica" by Sydenham T. Edward (around 1800).



Old engraving of a Talbot, unfortunately without a date or signature.



The standard of Georg Talbot, the sixth Earl of Shrewsbury (1522-1590). This standard is exactly the same as the logo of the Talbot motorcar in the 20th Century

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