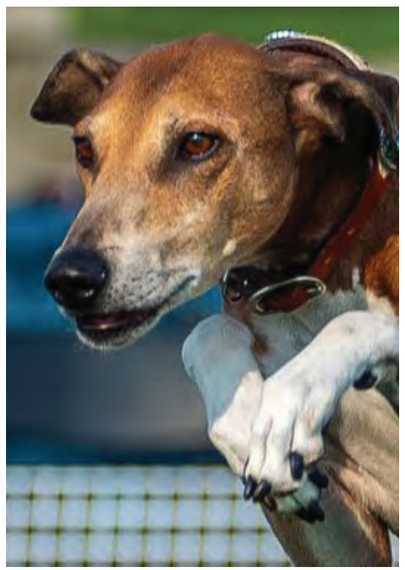
DOG POEMS

By Colleen Rutherford Archer



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AFFENPINSCHER

It's hard to find a dog that's merrier
Than the nicknamed Monkey Terrier.
His bearded look is sure to please,
He's found in art for centuries,
While expert ratting makes the case
That he's not just a comic face.

AFGHAN HOUND

The history of this breed began
In Egypt and Afghanistan;
For desert sheiks and on cold peaks
He hunted game for ancient man.
The Afghan's coat is now for show
Where once it was for heat or snow,
And judges rate this fashion plate
For topknots high and feathers low.

AIREDALE TERRIER

Bred in Yorkshire, he combines
The Otterhound, plus terrier lines.
A fearless hunter in the past,
As watchdog he is unsurpassed,
While as a pet he plays his part
And shows he's still a pup at heart.

AKITA

This largest Japanese Spitz-type breed
Is strong and capable of speed.
He once was used to hunt large game,
His pluck contributed to fame.
Declared a national monument,
With other dogs he's dominant.

ALASKAN MALAMUTE AND ESKIMO

The Malamute and Eskimo
Are built to live in ice and snow.
For pulling power it's hard to beat
These big-boned dogs with snowshoe feet.
Their coats are oiled and waterproof,
Their almond eyes appear aloof.

AMERICAN COCKER SPANIEL

The Cocker's large and lovely eyes
Would fit a canine twice his size.
A hunting dog of yesterday,
He likes best now to romp and play.

AMERICAN ESKIMO
(standard, miniature, toy)

Related to the Finnish Spitz;
This breed knows how to use its wits.
A circus dog for many years,
Some tightrope- walked or danced to cheers.
Standard, miniature or toy,
As pets today they're still a joy.

AMERICAN FOXHOUND

He runs for hours without tiring,
His dedication's most inspiring.
Though indoors he's a proper gent,
Outdoors he is most intent.
He's trained to work alongside horses,
With bravery, say many sources.

AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER

A bull-type dog with face expressive,
The “AmStaff” can be dog aggressive.
While once he fought with bulls and bears,
With family he’s a dog that cares.

AMERICAN WATER SPANIEL

He’s friendly and he’s versatile,
Quick to work and slow to rile.
A breed that loves to hunt and swim,
Cold water doesn’t bother him.

ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG

This giant ancient guardian breed
Protects one if he feels the need.
He loves the people in his home
But needs a lot of room to roam.

APPENZELLER SENNENHUND

A working dog, tricolour coated,
This Swiss Mountain Dog is oft’ devoted.
At watchdog duties he’ll excel,
But he’ll learn other tasks as well.

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG
(standard, miniature)

A rugged dog that’s hard to rattle,
His job was herding free-range cattle.
Ready to take on all dangers,
He’ll naturally alert to strangers.

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD
(standard, miniature)

This herding breed is super smart,
He also has a lot of heart.
He’ll want to do just what you ask
And loves to work at any task.

AUSTRALIAN STUMPY TAIL CATTLE DOG

He's not called "Stumpy" without reason,
This dog who works in any season.
He's naturally tailless or he's bobbed,
I wonder if his tail was robbed?

AUSTRALIAN KELPIE

At mustering stock he is the tops,
He'll work all day until he drops.
His environment should be intense
To challenge his intelligence.

AUSTRALIAN TERRIER

A low-set dog with tail docked short,
The Aussie terrier is a sport,
And though he's small in size he makes
A deadly foe to rats and snakes.
You might see in him Cairn or Scottie,
Yorkshire, Skye, or who-knows-whattie.
In his background you will find
Many different breeds combined.

AZAWAKH

This dog is an athletic hound
That's bred to run his prey to ground.
West Africa was his first home,
There with nomadic tribes he'd roam.

BARBET

This brave French dog that's very rare
Has hypoallergenic hair.
A water dog, he loves the mud
And often comes home sporting crud.
His name comes from the French for beard,
In ancient times he first appeared.

BASENJI

He lived five thousand years ago,
Egyptian carvings tell us so.
His deer-like grace is irrefutable,
His wrinkled brow makes him inscrutable.
He doesn't bark, imagine that!
And cleans himself just like a cat.

BASSET HOUND

The mournful looking Basset Hound
Must spend his life close to the ground.
His legs are bowed, his body's long
He's comic but don't get him wrong.
Despite his looks, his skills aren't lacking,
And he's excellent at tracking.

BEAGLE

The beagle is a merry breed
And chases rabbits at great speed.
This small hound with the short, strong back
Delights in hunting with a pack.

BEARDED COLLIE

The Bearded Collie's fun and bouncy,
With undercoat, plus hair that's flouncy.
His name suggests he has a beard,
So not to have one would be weird.
In Scotland, on both flat and steep
He specialized in tending sheep.

BEAUCERON

This large, imposing herding breed
For many jobs can fit the need.
In homes he is a dog of peace,
If trained to he can help the police.

BEDLINGTON TERRIER

This terrier's a lamb with a lion's stout heart,
He fought in the pits and he raced like a dart.
Today he's been gentled and makes a fine pet,
As devoted and loving as any you'll get.

BELGIAN SHEPHERD DOG

Bred to work, this Shepherd
Needs a job to do,
Athletic and hardworking,
He could be a guard for you.
The Groendael and Tervuren
Are always double-coated,
The Malinois has shorter hair –
A fact now duly noted.

BERGAMASCO SHEPHERD

An Italian breed that's loyal, bright,
He's really an amazing sight.
His coat, in fact, is quite distinct,
With dreadlocks that help it look kinked.

BERGER DES PYRENEES

Smallest of the French sheepdogs,
He's valiant and wise,
Independent and sure-footed,
With mischievous brown eyes.

BERGER PICARD

From herding sheep in northern France
Most had a change of circumstance.
Despite this new domestic guise
He still needs lots of exercise.

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

While his jobs as cart or cattle dog
Are mainly obsolete,
The Bernese makes a playful pet
With a temperament that's sweet.

BICHON FRISE

He'll be your pal, no need to coax,
He's bubbly and he loves his folks.
You'll find him great, I am assuming,
Although he needs a lot of grooming.

BIEWER TERRIER

A loving, loyal, lively friend,
The Biewer Terrier is a blend.
Recessive genes for piebald made
From Yorkies a new breed arrayed
In tri-colours of white, black, blue,
He's fun-loving, and clever too.

BLACK AND TAN COONHOUND

His ears are long, his nose is keen,
His temperament is never mean.
He'll drive his quarry up a tree
And hold it there for all to see.

BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER

When with the Russian military
Being tough was necessary,
Now he makes a pleasant pet,
As trainable as you can get.

BLOODHOUND

These hounds are wrinkled most profusely,
And their skin fits rather loosely.
They look like kind and solemn gents
And specialize in tracking scents.

BLUE PICARDY SPANIEL

Calm and loving, versatile,
This soft-mouthed breed can swim with style.
Developed in the north of France,
His black/grey coat looks blue first glance.

BORDER COLLIE

This collie's "eye" can give a stare
That makes your sheep go anywhere.
"Active" is his favourite word,
He loves to fetch or play or herd.

BORDER TERRIER

Tall enough to chase the fox,
Helping save the farmers' flocks.
Small enough to go to ground,
While as a pet he is renowned.

BORZOI

Favored by nobility
These sight hounds, it is plain to see,
Are exquisite, like haughty cats,
And perfect for aristocrats.
These independent shining stars
Once hunted wolves for Russian tsars.

BOSTON TERRIER

This all-American's history
Starts in the nineteenth century
When fighting dogs became refined
As Bull and Terrier were combined.
The Boston's charming and alert
And always wears a snow white short.

BOUVIER DES FLANDRES

This Belgian breed is versatile
Where dogs with jobs are still in style.
Companion dog is where to start,
He'll be your friend or pull your cart.
Guide dog, war dog, therapy too,
So many jobs that he can do.
He can protect with loud bow wows,
And he can drive and herd your cows.

BOXER

This gentlemanly sort
Has a nose that's rather short.
He's glossy-coated and devoted,
All his fans report
He helped in World War Two,
And there's still lots he can do.
He'll search and find, and lead the blind,
Or be a pal for you.

BRITTANY SPANIEL

A natural bobtail (without fail),
This smallish bird dog loves the trail.
The breed developed, not by chance,
In Brittany - a part of France.

BUHUND

A spitz-type dog of kind intent,
He has a steady temperament.
Protecting "bu" ("homestead", or "farm")
He'll be the first to sound alarm.

BRIARD

This smart, brave dog, first bred in France,
Is a herding dog par excellence.
A valued chum, that's plain to see,
He's official dog of the French army.

BRUSSELS GRIFFON

This personable inquisitive sort
Found favour with the Belgian court.
Before that he had earned his pats
Killing hansom stable rats.

BULLDOG

The Bulldog's face may look atrocious
And his countenance ferocious,
With a jaw that's undershot
From hanging on to bulls a lot.
But the days when bulls were baited
Luckily are antiquated.
Now he is a gentle chap
Who'd love to sit upon your lap.

BULL MASTIFF

This fearless dog of might
Once used to give a fright
To daytime poachers
And encroachers
In the dead of night.
The Mastiff gave him size,
But we can recognize
A Bull-doggy agility,
He's speedy and he's wise.

BULL TERRIER
(standard, miniature)

This terrier's a dog
Without malice or fear,
Who's been given the name of
"The White Cavalier."
Well-muscled and strong
With a head that's outsize,
He has powerful jaws
And triangular eyes.

CAIRN TERRIER

No matter whether guy or gal,
The Cairn's a feisty, friendly pal.
Alert, intelligent and wise,
This terrier hates to compromise.

CANAAN DOG

This product of natural selection
Worked at jobs like mine detection.
Feral dogs were tamed to cue
And helped the troops in World War Two.
Independent, quick to learn,
They're always ready for their turn.

CANADIAN INUIT (OR ESKIMO) DOG

The Canadian Inuit or (Eskimo)
Was built to work on ice and snow.
To hunt a seal or pull a sled
Is why this hardy dog was bred.

CANE CORSO

He belongs to the sector
That's known as protector:
His temperament's steady,
He's a pleasure to train,
But to mess with his people
Would be quite inane.

CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL

Toy spaniels were such darling things
Their relatives were loved by kings.
Companion dog extraordinaire
With feathered tail and silky hair,
The Cavalier's a happy chap
Who'd love to sit upon your lap.

CESKY

Hunting dog, family pet, show dog with style,
The mild-mannered Cesky is most versatile.
His head is narrow and so is his chest,
So at entering burrows he's one of the best.
Easy to train and a good pal indeed,
He's the Czech Republic's national breed,

CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER

Courageous and bold, the Chesapeake Bay
Can fetch a hundred ducks a day.
As a water dog he's hard to beat,
With his oily coat and his big, webbed feet.
He's a sporting breed (American brand)
Related to the Newfoundland.

CHIHUAHUA
(smooth-coated, long-coated)

Although Chihuahuas are so small
There's hardly any dog at all,
Their manner proves that they are real
With independence and appeal.
Their ancestors of long ago
Were put in tombs in Mexico
As sacred Aztec sacrifice,
Which really wasn't very nice.

CHINESE CRESTED

Little dogs that had no coats
Likely came on trading boats.
Using them for pest control
Would have been the captain's goal.
While coatless Cresteds have no ruffs
The hairy ones are "powder puffs."

CHINESE SHAR PEI

To attackers he might give the slip
If they try to get a grip.
Prickly skin wrinkled profusely,
Deep folds hanging rather loosely,
Make him a dog to be respected,
One who'll see you're well protected.

CHOW CHOW

The Chow Chow is Chinese
And in ancient dynasties,
When folks would wish a tasty dish,
They'd eat him, if you please.
His name means bric-a-brac,
His tail curls on his back.
He's almond-eyed, his ruff is wide,
His tongue is purple-black.

CLUMBER SPANIEL

Popular with nobility,
In the 18th century,
They get their name from Clumber Park
Where some of them once left their mark.
They like to do the things you ask
But take their time with any task.

COLLIE
(rough, smooth)

This slender-nosed aristocrat
Thinks herding sheep is where it's at,
But if there are no sheep around
He'll herd you children, we have found.
He's quick and clever, kind and classy,
And won't mind if you call him Lassie.

CORGI

The larger, long-tailed Cardigan
Worked mostly with the cattleman.
The Pembroke Corgi's not as tall
And hardly has a tail at all.
Although they both worked on the farms,
When royalty espied their charms,
The Corgis proved to all they met
They're first-rate as a family pet.

COTON DE TULEAR

These cute dogs have amazing fur,
A single coat of cotton texture.
They were Madagascar's royal breed
But a loving family's all they need.

CURLY-COATED RETRIEVER

The dog with the naturally curly hair
Has a coat that needs a lot of care.
It shields him from the wet and cold
But gathers mud and twigs, I'm told.
A steady worker, brave and smart,
The "Curly" has a tender heart.

DACHSHUN

(standard smooth, standard wire-haired, miniature long-haired, miniature smooth, miniature wire-haired)

When the Dachshund first was fashioned,
His legs, it seems, were rationed!
His strong nails have great merit
When there's badger holes to ferret,
And when hunting there's none keener
Than this animated wiener.

DALMATIAN

Dalmatian owners seem to dote
On dogs that have a spotted coat.
This breed of versatile resources
Used to run with coach and horses.

DANDIE DINMONT TERRIER

The writer Sir Walter Scott
Loved these dogs an awful lot.
This terrier likes to hunt and dig
And has a head that's rather big.

DEERHOUND

(Scottish)

A regal dog of open spaces,
A Deerhound would like speed and races.
With Highland Chieftains they found favour,
Their loyalty would never waver.

DOBERMAN PINSCHER

In Germany this breed began
With dogs bred my Herr Doberman
Those 1890s pioneers
Led to a watchdog without peers,
The Doberman is swift and lean,
He's agile and his nose is keen.
His smooth, hard coat is tan and black,
And on command he will attack.

DOGUE DE BORDEAUX

Where once he was a fighting fellow,
Now he's bred to be quite mellow.
A mastiff with a giant head,
As companion dog he now is bred.

DREVER

This short-legged hound is prized in Sweden,
The great outdoors is his own Eden.
He'll track a deer and then confront,
In fact in Swedish "drev" means "hunt".

ENGLISH COCKER SPANIEL

Playful, cheerful, biddable,
His virtues are formidable.
Compact and silky-coated,
Many colours have been noted.

ENGLISH FOXHOUND

Although he is congenial
And you might like one as a pal,
He's happiest when in a pack
And he can run and bark and track.
He loves to join a merry chase
Where one can set a blistering pace.

ENGLISH SETTER

This hunting dog of quiet beauty
Always likes to do his duty.
A one-man dog with loving eyes,
He needs a lot of exercise.

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

With fervor never flagging
And a back end always wagging,
The Springer loves to fetch and flush
And seems to spend life in a rush.

ENGLISH TOY SPANIEL

The English Toy Spaniel's the King Charles in UK,
While the Cavalier King Charles is bigger, they say.
Though the Toy dog may have a much shorter muzzle,
Which dog is which is still kind of a puzzle.

EURASIER

A cross of several Spitz-type breeds,
The Eurasier might just fit your needs.
He's mostly calm and self-assured,
"Companion" is his favourite word.

FIELD SPANIEL

He's weathered human interference
To become a dog of perseverance
Who's handsome now and a good pet,
As smart as any dog you'll get.

FINNISH LAPPHUND

This friendly, naturally happy breed
At many dog sports can succeed.
A reindeer herder in the past,
He's agile, smart, and very fast.

FINNISH SPITZ

This lively, happy Nordic breed
Is fox-like and keeps up to speed.
The "Barking Bird Dog" can hunt all day
And never fails to have his say!

FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER

A medium dog with dense, flat hair,
Despite his virtues he's rather rare.
He's active and gentle, liver or black,
Broad-chested with a short, square back.

FOX TERRIER
(smooth, wire-haired)

The Fox Terrier is fiery,
Be he smooth or be he wiry.
No matter if he's chewing,
Chasing foxes, balls, or wooing,
He's eager to get started
And he always seems light-hearted.

FRENCH BULLDOG

For playfulness he has few peers,
This small dog with the big bat ears.
Though he's as smart as all the rest
His breathing's sometimes not the best.

FRENCH SPANIEL

A well-rounded dog with an excellent brain,
The French Spaniel's willing and easy to train.
One of the oldest of pointing breeds,
He's loving and calm but has exercise needs.

GASCOGNE BRAQUE FRANCAIS

This hunting dog from southern France
Is sensitive and wise,
He's loving and devoted
With the most expressive eyes.
As family pet he fits with ease,
He's mellow and he wants to please.

GERMAN PINSCHER

His progenitors were terriers
But after World War Two,
This dog breed had to be rebuilt
Because there were so few.
Alert and always ready,
He wants a job to do,
As dog of many talents,
He'd like leadership from you.

GERMAN POINTER

(short-haired, long-haired, wire-haired)

Short-haired, long-haired, wired appealed
As hunting dogs of farm and field,
And so today we can surmise
All three need lots of exercise.

GERMAN SHEPHERD

A dog of poise and steady nerve,
The German Shepherd loves to serve.
An army dog, in times of peace
He guards our homes and helps the police.
He'll lead the blind with joy and yet
He's also happy as a pet.

GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIER

These varmint hunters from Ireland
Exemplify a farmer's friend.
They also make a super pet,
Courageous and affectionate.

GOLDEN RERIEVER

A dog for all seasons
For all kinds of reasons,
He's proved to be knowing
And most easy-going.
With children and pets
He's as good as it gets,
And he's eager to please
Which makes training a breeze.

GORDON SETTER

The Gordon Setter's slow and sure
When hunting game out on a moor.
His patience and endurance pay
And he can fetch and hunt all day.
He's black and tan and proudly Scottish
And loves his folks an awful lottish.

GRAND BASSET GRIFFEN VENDEEN

(grand, petit)

He seems a big dog on small legs,
But he runs fast on those short pegs!
A French sight hound, he wants a pack,
His own family might fill the lack.

GREAT DANE

Although the Great Dane's great and tall
He's really not a Dane at all.
In Germany he hunted boer
Whose mighty tusks could pierce and gore;
With supple grace he'd block their way
And hold those savage beasts at bay.
His short, dense coat is dark or light,
While Harlequins are black and white.

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG

Once a multi-purpose fellow,
As a family pet he's mellow.
The oldest of the Sennehund class,
This "dog of the Senn" knew Alpine grass.

GREAT PYRENEES

The Pyrenees has lots of hair
And looks just like a fuzzy bear.
Huge and fearless, stout of heart,
He'll guard your sheep or pull a cart.

GREENLAND DOG

One of the oldest breeds in the wide world,
His coat is dense, his tail is curled.
The Canadian Eskimo dog, we see,
Is just the same, genetically!

GREYHOUND

A dog synonymous with speed,
The Greyhound is a slender breed.
Who numbers first among his habits
Chasing artificial rabbits.
In Egypt he first made a name
By hunting any speedy game.
He's raced to mankind's claps and cheers
For nearly fifty hundred years.

GRIFFON
(BRUSSELS)

As appealing as a little tyke,
His comic face is human-like.
His ancestors were stable ratters,
Today his love for family matters.

HARRIER

This hound was bred for chasing hare,
At that he was beyond compare.
He looks much like a merry Beagle
But he's taller and more regal.

HAVANESE

Developed on the Cuban isle,
This Velcro breed can make you smile.
He loves to play, no need to coax,
And loves to stay close to his folks.

HOVAWART

This German dog is versatile,
He's even-tempered, hard to rile.
"Yard Watcher"-- his translated name,
As protector he's always game.

IBIZAN HOUND

A coursing dog, his speed's his power,
He can run 40 miles an hour
And from a standstill jump great heights,
Then catch small game when he alights.

ICELAND SHEEPDOG

Brought over by the Vikings
A long, long time ago,
He can scent a lost sheep
That's buried in the snow.
Hardy, smart and vocal,
He's as friendly as can be,
But he needs a lot of exercise
And lots to do and see.

IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER

When the red Irish setter first came into vogue,
The red and white one was by no means a rogue.
In fact he is now a separate breed
Whose lively good nature helped him to succeed.
He's happy-go-lucky and always is keen,
And bird hunters like that he's easily seen.

IRISH SETTER

This silky setter's still a pup
When other dogs are all grown up,
And even when mature, I'm told,
It takes him longer to grow old!
A dog of great vitality,
The oldest of his family,
He once was coloured red and white
But now mahogany is right

IRISH TERRIER

This “daredevil” who loves to play,
Whose job was keeping rats at bay,
Could also double as retriever
And proved himself a high achiever.

IRISH WATER SPANIEL

He has oily ringlets and webbed toes
That can act like paddles wherever he goes.
On a water retrieve it’s plain to see
This specialized job suits the dog to a tee!

IRISH WOLFHOUND

The Wolfhound’s tall and proud,
With virtues he’s endowed.
This strong, compliant
Gentle giant
Stands out in a crowd.
With front paws off the floor
He’ll reach six feet or more.
His former fans
Were Irish clans
Who took him into war.

ITALIAN GREYHOUND

A gentle and a curious breed,
A loving home is what he’ll need.
Although he likes to socialize
With dogs that are his breed and size,
He’s not well suited for rough play,
From bullies he should keep away.

JACK RUSSELL TERRIER
(smooth, rough, broken)

A dog with boundless energy,
The Jack’s as keen as he can be.
While on a chase, it has been found,
A Jack will often “go to ground.”
The joy of many terrier lovers,
He likes to sleep beneath your covers.

RUSSELL TERRIER AND PARSON RUSSELL TERRIER

(smooth, rough, broken)

A slight difference in size
Is the main difference, I surmise,
Between the Parson Russell Terrier
And the shorter Russell Terrier.
Still both these breeds can harken back
To days when they were known as “Jack.”

JAPANESE CHIN

In a Japanese or a Chinese court
This tiny dog would once cavort.
Affectionate and quite disarming,
His specialty is being charming.

JAPANESE SPITZ

A companion dog with all-white hair,
He’s friendly, funny, debonair.
He announces guests, events and such
But sometimes barks a bit too much.

KARELIAN BEAR DOG

A Spitz-type dog of medium size,
For courage he must take the prize.
His specialty was hunting bears,
He’d even track them to their lairs.
He often sent a bear to flight,
But didn’t hesitate to fight.

KEESHOND

Once mascot of the lower classes,
The Keeshond looks like he has glasses.
He guarded barges for the Dutch,
And loves his family very much.
His coat is dense, his tail is plumed
He always looks well-kept and groomed.

KERRY BLUE TERRIER

The Irish nation's Kerry Blue
Will herd, or hunt, or guard for you.
His colour's smoke or blue or navy,
And his coat is soft and wavy.

KOMONDOR

He'll guard your sheep without direction,
His corded coat gives him protection
From predators and from the weather,
He's large and smart and tough as leather.
For show rings he's made very neat,
With cords well-groomed from head to feet.

KUVASZ

The national breed of Hungary,
A guard dog for his family,
His ancestors came from Tibet
And now he's often someone's pet.
His gait's majestic, his colour's white,
He exudes dignity and might.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER

This strong and clever fellow
Comes in black and comes in yellow.
As eager as a beaver,
He's the Labrador Retriever,
With a tail shaped like an otter's
And a penchant for cold waters.
Newfoundland was his early range
And so his name seems rather strange.

LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO

This clever breed from Italy,
A water dog historically,
Instead of fetching ducks today
Might sniff out truffles for his pay.
He's lively but he's not frenetic,
And he's hypoallergenic.

LAKELAND TERRIER

From the English Lakes District came this handsome lad,
He's smart and he's fearless, and he never seems sad.
He's agile amongst the tunnels and rocks,
And he's super-friendly – unless you're a fox!

LEONBURGER

Newfoundland, St. Bernard, Pyrenees, more,
This "leonine" mix doesn't need a big roar.
Instead he is sweet, like a huge teddy bear,
With a love of the water despite his long hair.

LHASA APSO

A small dog that is gay and charming,
He'll bark if something seems alarming.
Both monks and nobles in Tibet
Once liked him as a favored pet.

LOWCHEN

His characteristic "lion" trim
Is a look that well suits him.
He's small but when he's in the house
He's like a lion, not a mouse.

MALTESE

He has hair, not fur, and that's a fact,
Beneath his hair he is compact.
His long and straight and silky hair
Is white and needs a lot of care.
Playful, lively, easygoing,
This little dog is very knowing.

MANCHESTER TERRIER
(standard, toy)

Bred in England as a ratter,
For that tough job two things would matter.
Whippet blood meant athlete's gain,
While Bulldog meant he'd work through pain.
Today he's playful but his joys
Might still include to kill his toys.

MASTIFF

A few can reach two hundred pounds,
Which is just as big as it sounds,
But this gentle giant
Will be compliant
If pleasantly taught his bounds.
A fighting dog of yore,
He fought wolves and lions and more,
But now you'll get
A peaceful pet
Instead of a dog of war.

MINIATURE AMERICAN SHEPHERD

He may be miniature in size
But to count him out would be unwise.
He's a heavyweight when it comes to heart,
He's enthusiastic, loyal and smart.

MUDI

According to his history,
Perhaps the 18th century,
He had a start in Hungary,
A dog of great agility.
This dog of courage, like a rock,
Herds even large and scary stock.

NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF

With a size that oft astounds,
He can weigh two hundred pounds.
Though “family friendly” it’s not hard
To see why he’s a powerful guard!

NEWFOUNDLAND

The Newfoundland dog is black
With a big and brawny back
For taking dives
And saving lives,
Or carrying a pack.
Like a duck he has webbed toes
And he grows and grows and GROWS!
He takes a stand
In Newfoundland.
How he got there no one knows.

NORFOLK AND NORWICH TERRIERS

One has fold ears, one has prick,
But both are fun so take your pick.
They love their families and it’s true,
They’re happiest with jobs to do.

NORRBOTTENSPETS

His coat is short, but very dense,
His barking can be quite intense.
When he has caught up to his prey
This Nordic hunter has his say.
At home he’s lively and he’s pert
And always seems to be alert.

NORWEGIAN BUHUND

With northerners he once would roam,
He’d herd their flocks or guard a home.
His ears are pricked, his tail is curled,
Cold weather working was his world.

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND

Norway's national dog, we note,
Has a lush grey double coat.
He'll hunt large game, his pluck astounds,
In fact his courage knows no bounds.

NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND

This dog's very active and he's lots of fun,
If you're wanting a challenge he surely is one.
"Lunde" means "puffin", and risking hard knocks,
He once hunted puffins among creviced rocks.
He can show you contortions, both large ones and fine,
Like stretching his neck back to reach his own spine.
His forelegs can stretch out to ninety degrees,
While extra toes help him to grip rocks with ease.

NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING RETRIEVER

Most hunting dogs will fetch for you,
But here's a tale not tall but true.
This smart red dog does something more,
He "tolls" or lures the ducks to shore.

OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG

This friendly sheepdog, large of size,
Has hair that hangs down in his eyes.
When his work is done he'll flop
And look just like a giant mop.

OTTERHOUND

When hunting European otter
He followed scent "drag" underwater.
He's mostly now a family gent
Who's friendly and exuberant.

PAPILLON

In days of yore one might well see
These dogs as pets of royalty.
Full of life and fun to train,
They're small of body, big of brain.
Their name is French for butterfly,
Observe their ears and you'll know why!

PEKINGESE

In China's ancient royal court
This little fellow would cavort.
Fed on breast of quail and tea,
Worshipped as a deity.
Even though today he feeds
On dog food just like other breeds,
The "Lion Dog" can act quite proud,
With a roar that's fierce and loud.

PHARAOH HOUND

Speedy as a whizzing dart,
This sight hound's elegant and smart.
His lure coursing is highly rated,
His background's unadulterated.

MINIATURE PINSCHER

This small dog won't stay on the shelf,
He's fearless, fun, sure of himself.
With his cocky, high-step hackney gait
He's great to watch, a pal first rate.

POINTER

English sportsmen in the past
Made the Spanish Pointer fast
By breeding him with hound and setter,
And now at birding there's none better.
He holds his body straight and taut
Until he hears his master's shot.
He's large of limb and ranges wide,
And has brown freckles on his hide.

POMERANIAN

In Germany in Pomerania
Breeders with a small-scale mania
Bred the Spitz to toy dog size,
With fox-like face and bright, keen eyes.
Bushy tailed and slow to tire,
The Pom's a playful ball of fire.

POODLE
(standard, toy, miniature)

Standard, Miniature, or Toy,
The pampered Poodle's full of joy.
He's good at tricks like playing dead
But that's not why he first was bred.
He'd be out hunting if he could,
He clearly is misunderstood.

PORTUGUESE SHEEPDOG

This able dog of medium size
Has hair that tries to hide his eyes.
If well-trained he'll quite easily
Do herding or agility.

PORTUGUESE WATER DOG

He once drove fish into the net,
But now he's likely someone's pet.
He loves his family and does his best
As service dog if put to the test.

PUDELPOINTER

He's self-controlled and versatile,
A gun dog who works with great style.
His virtues have been clearly shown,
You'd think that he'd be better known.

PUG

Pugs are curly-tailed and squarish
With a coat that's black or fairish.
Beneath their ears (like velvet roses)
It looks like someone punched their noses.
They're cobby dogs of smallish size,
And nobles once thought them a prize.

PULI

This guardian breed has different fur,
His coat has cords when he's mature.
His herding sheep is quite unique,
He jumps on backs as one technique!

RAT TERRIER

Call on this exterminator
If you need him now, not later.
He's deadly when it comes to rats,
Just supervise the household cats!
They like to hunt and play and run,
As family dogs they're lots of fun.

RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK

Rhodesian Ridgebacks have the knack
Of growing ridges on a back.
In Africa they learned the way
To make hair grow a different way.

ROTTWEILER

As a working dog he shines, it's noted,
As a family dog he is devoted.
As a police dog he is highly biddable,
As a guard dog he has proved formidable.

RUSSIAN TSVETNAYA BOLONKA

This lap dog is a charmer,
A smart and cute disarmer.
A comic to the very end,
He thinks that everyone's his friend.

RUSSKIY TOY

For a breed that's rare you can't go wrong
With a Russkiy Toy, coat smooth or long.
This Russian breed has large round eyes,
And though he's small he's bold and wise.

SALUKI

Perhaps the first domesticated,
This breed for speed is highly rated.
His hunting was a source of pride,
He's independent, dignified.

SAMOYED

This sled dog's white or cream
And he works well on a team,
While reindeer know in ice or snow
His herding is supreme.
He'll run mile after mile
And still put on a smile,
While all the fluff beneath his ruff
Makes yarn Siberian style.

SCHAPENDOES

The Dutch Sheepdog is brave and smart,
He clearly has a lot of heart.
He makes a perfect family pet,
As loving as a dog can get.

SCHIPPERKE

Little Captain, not too large,
Could clear the vermin off your barge.
In Belgium he's a favourite pet
Where mostly he is black as jet.

SCHNAUZER
(standard, miniature, giant)

This fearless German breed comprises
Miniature plus larger sizes.
In grey and black or pepper/salt,
They're people lovers to a fault.
They're high in spirits, playful, brave,
And look as though they need a shave.

SHIKOKU

This ancient breed of medium size
Once hunted boar for exercise,
So rare the Japanese government
Called him "a national monument."

SPANISH WATER DOG

This multi-purpose dog, you'll see,
Needs some sort of activity.
No matter whether boys or girls,
They're all known for their woolly curls.

SAINT BERNARD

This dog of Herculean form
Once rescued victims of the storm,
And Alpine St. Bernards of valor
Never did their deeds with pallor.
They still make rescues in Tibet
But if you want one as a pet,
Remember with their breadth and height
There comes a mighty appetite.

SCHNAUZER
(standard, miniature, giant)
– an alternate poem

Big and bold and liking chores,
The Giant served in both World Wars.
The Standard, too, did jobs that matter,
The Miniature worked as a ratter.

SCOTTISH TERRIER

To picture this wee dog begin
With heavy brow and whiskered chin.
His legs are short, his chest is wide,
His teeth are large, he's dignified.
When hunting rats he is frenetic,
He's tough and grizzled, energetic.
He's independent, kind, but dour,
And goes to earth with speed and power.

SEALYHAM TERRIER

The Sealyham's a playful pup
His coat is trim, his tail's straight up.
Past bushy beard and brow he'll peek,
He's plucky with a comic streak.
Bred in Wales for badger baiting,
Now he has companion rating.

SHETLAND SHEEPDOG

This rugged Lilliputian collie
Works well with no fuss or folly.
The Shetland Islands' native breed
Can herd small sheep with lightning speed.

SHIBA INU

The Shiba knows just where it's at,
He's independent, like a cat.
"Shiba" means "dog", while "inu" means "small",
He's a dog indeed, and he's not very tall!

SHIH TZU

In Chinese seventeenth century
These “lion dogs” pleased royalty.
Today they are well-loved again,
And owners give them ten of ten.

SIBERIAN HUSKY

In 1925
A dog named Balto helped keep folks alive
When his team ran 600 miles to Nome
With life-saving serum delivered from home.
The great endurance of this breed
Means exercise is what they need!

SILKY TERRIER

This Australian will vermin get
Though he was bred to be a pet.
He has some British ancestry
With Yorkies on his family tree.

SKYE TERRIER

When he’s running long and low
It’s lots of fun to see him go.
He often is reserved with strangers,
Saving family from life’s dangers.
Noted for his steadfast loyalty,
Once he was a friend to royalty.

SOFT-COATTED WHEATEN TERRIER

An Irish farm dog, full of humour,
He’s an all-round worker, that’s no rumour.
He’s wheaten-coloured, I surmise,
With hair that covers hazel eyes.

SPINONE ITALIANO

In Italy he first appeared
With shaggy eyebrows, mustache, beard,
And though he looked a grumpy sort
He's calm and gentle, fans report.
One of the oldest pointer breeds,
He just might fit your family's needs.

SPRINGER SPANIE
(English and Welsh)

As these breeds evolved this much we know,
Some lines were field dogs, some for show.
The Welsh preferred a white and red,
With smaller ears and tapered head.
Alll love their families, it's been shown,
And aren't too happy "home alone."

STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

With the days of dog fights spent
"Staff" breeders bred for temperament.
Now "Nanny Dog" likes kids a lot,
Plus other dogs if early taught.

SUSSEX SPANIEL

With his tail always wagging
And his humour never flagging,
This short-legged spaniel sets the pace
Where slow and steady wins the race.
He's good at working through dense cover,
At home he's loyal and a lover.

SWEDISH VALLHUND

We're not sure of his origin,
Or if the Corgi's kith and kin.
Droving, ratting, guard dog too,
So many jobs he liked to do.
With joie de vivre he'd work away.
It's pretty clear he's here to stay.

TIBETAN MASTIFF

Imposing and intimidating,
As guardian he gets top dog rating.
Aloof with strangers he may be,
But he's loving with his family.

TIBETAN SPANIEL

This Oriental lap dog was by monks considered lucky,
Born to be a watchdog, he's intelligent and plucky.
He's playful and likes games and such
And loves his owners very much.

TIBETAN TERRIER

Tibetan monks used dogs with zip
For protection and companionship.
At one time they could not be sold
But only gifted, I've been told.
A medium dog with big, round feet
That act as snowshoes, which is neat.

VIZSLA
(smooth, wire-haired)

Retriever and pointer and hunter in one,
Smooth-haired and wire-haired, both kinds love to run.
When World War Two hit at his home Hungary,
The Vizsla became a canine refugee.

WEIMARANER

The smooth, exotic Weimaraner
Has a proud and gentle manner.
When hunting he can run all day,
His eyes are amber or blue-grey.
He's silver-tinged and keen of scent,
Home- loving and intelligent.

WELSH TERRIER

With V-shaped ears and upright tails,
These dogs had origins in Wales.
Descended from the tan and blacks,
They've cat-like feet and short, strong backs.
Their jaws are powerful, so I'm told,
They're plucky, sturdy, loyal, bold.
And bold's a boon for son or daughter
When hunting badger, fox, or otter.

WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER

The Scottish-bred West Highland White
Is jaunty, loveable and bright.
A rugged outdoorsman of note,
He always wears a snow-white coat.

WHIPPET

The "poor man's race horse" loves to run
And thinks the track is lots of fun,
And yet despite his flashy stride,
At home he's always dignified.

WIRE-HAIRED POINTING GRIFFON

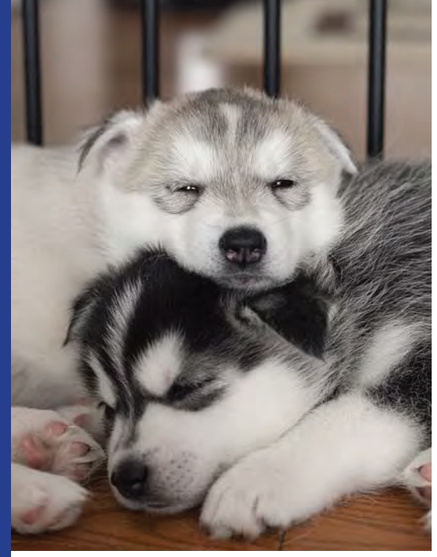
He's laid back and he's biddable
His keen nose is formidable.
He often seems unflappable,
In water he's adaptable.
On land he never needs a push
To do his work in densest bush.

XOLOITZCUINTLI
(standard, miniature, toy)

They've got ears like a bat's
And a tail like a whip,
And the Mexican Hairless ones
Don't need a clip.
Both coated and hairless
Need much exercise,
While saying the breed's name
Should win us a prize!

YAKUTIAN LAIKA

In earth's coldest region he survives,
In fact, as working dog he thrives
His piercing eyes are often blue,
An outdoor life is what he knew.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER

Folks of fashion helped promote
The Yorkshire's smooth and silky coat,
And for the show dog without match
There's booties so he cannot scratch.
He's long of whiskers, sharp of tooth,
And if you want to know the truth,
Despite his ribbons and his spats
He'd rather be out chasing rats.