

Little Dogs  
**Rock! II**

# Cairn Terrier

Hero of Oz



by  
Duncan Searl

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**by Duncan Searl**

Consultants:

John Cleland  
President of the Potomac Cairn  
Terrier Club (2005–2010)

Lois Cleland  
Co-Rescue Chairperson of the  
Potomac Cairn Terrier Club

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# Contents

A Star .....	4
Back in Time .....	6
Four Breeds from One .....	8
Colorful Coats .....	10
Today's High Standards.....	12
A Visit to a Breeder .....	14
Puppy Love .....	16
A Mind of Its Own.....	18
The Best Little Pals .....	20
Earthdog .....	22
Star Power.....	24
A Fan Favorite .....	26

Cairn Terriers at a Glance .....	28
Best in Show .....	29
Glossary .....	30
Bibliography .....	31
Read More.....	31
Learn More Online.....	31
Index .....	32
About the Author.....	32



# A Star

Poor Terry. Becoming a movie star wasn't easy. The little Cairn terrier had played only a few small parts in films. What she needed was a big role.

In 1938, Terry finally got her break. MGM Studios, a movie company, needed to fill a key role in a major new film. Studio officials wanted Terry to try out for the part.



**Terry the  
Cairn terrier**



Terry's manager, Carl Spitz, drove her to the audition. The studio officials took one look and hired her. The **scrappy** little dog was perfect for the part.

The new film was called *The Wizard of Oz*. Terry would be playing the role of Toto. Little did she know that she was about to become the most famous Cairn terrier of all time!



◀ A movie poster from the film *The Wizard of Oz*

Terry was a female Cairn terrier. However, in *The Wizard of Oz*, she played a male dog.

Dog trainer Carl Spitz rescued Terry from a dog shelter. ▶



# Back in Time

The Highlands of Scotland are a long way from Hollywood, California, but that's where Terry's **ancestors** got their start. Life in the Highlands was hard in the 1700s. The climate was wet and cold, and the land was rocky. Farmers called **crofters** raised sheep and grew oats. However, there was never enough to eat.

Crofters lived  
in homes such  
as this one.

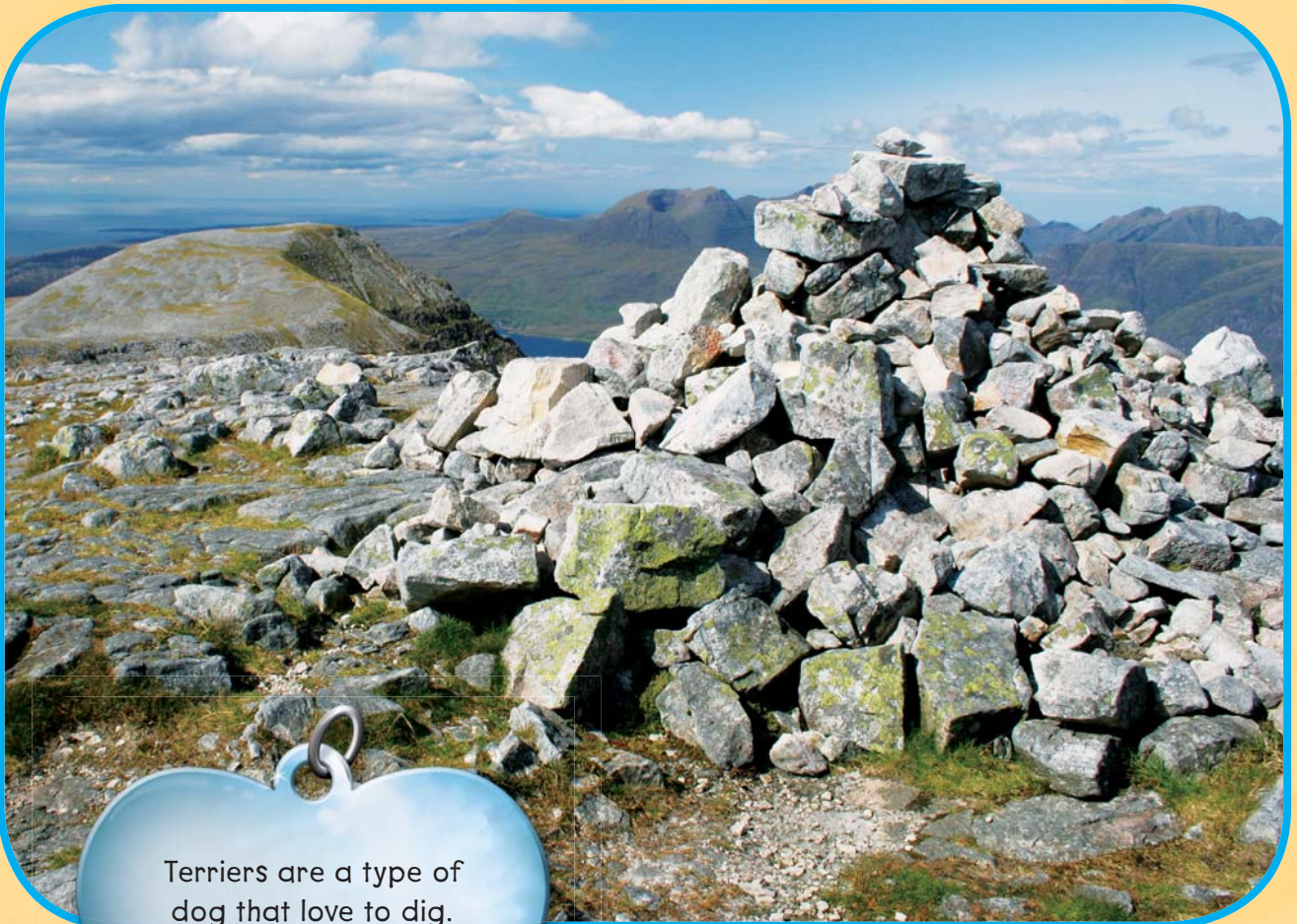


The ancestors of  
the Cairn terrier  
were raised in  
the Highlands of  
Scotland more than  
300 years ago.



To make matters worse, rats, weasels, and foxes often stole the crofters' food. These wild animals lived in cairns, or rock piles, that dotted the landscape. To survive, the crofters had to figure out a way to control these pests.

To solve this problem, they **bred** small fierce terriers that weighed about 15 pounds (6.8 kg). These brave dogs were the perfect size to squirm through the tiny openings in the cairns and catch their **prey**.



Terriers are a type of dog that love to dig. Their name comes from *terra*, the Latin word for "earth."



▲ Small animals, such as rats and mice, made their dens in cairns like this one.

# Index

- American Kennel Club (AKC) 12–13
- Best in Show 12
- Cairn Terrier Club of Denver 22
- coats 10–11, 28
- crofters 6–7
- Dandie Dinmont terrier 9
- Earthdog 22–23
- Fred 26
- grooming 11
- I Love Lucy* 26
- Lajeunesse, Debra 14–15
- Lindsay 22–23
- litter 16
- MGM Studios 4–5
- puppies 16–17
- Scotland 6, 22, 28
- Scottish terrier 9
- Skye terrier 8
- Spitz, Carl 5
- standards 12–13
- Terry, 4–5, 6, 24–25, 26
- training 18–19
- West Highland white terrier 9
- Wizard of Oz, The* 5, 24–25, 26
- working dogs 8

## About the Author

Duncan Searl is a writer and editor who lives in New York State.  
He is the author of many books for young readers.



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**Little Dogs  
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# Cairn Terrier

**Hero of Oz**

Becoming a movie star wasn't easy. Terry, a Cairn terrier, had played only a few small parts in films. What she needed was a big role. In 1938, MGM Studios, a movie company, needed to fill a key part in a major new film called *The Wizard of Oz*. Studio officials wanted Terry to try out for the role. Would she finally get her big break?

Look inside to learn more about Terry and other Cairn terriers—as well as surprising facts about the little dog's history, its physical appearance, and its personality. You'll also discover what every Cairn terrier owner knows—that even though these dogs look small, in their own minds they're large and in charge!

**Cairn Terrier**  
**Hero of Oz**

**French Bulldog**  
**The Frenchie**

**Miniature Schnauzer**  
**Whiskers**

**Papillon**  
**Monsieur Butterfly**

**Shih Tzu**  
**Lion Dog**

**Toy Fox Terrier**  
**America's Dog**

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