

THOUGHTS ON THE MANCHESTER TERRIER

"As before written, the large Manchester Terrier and the smaller black and tans are old and worthy varieties. Moreover, it can be said that no breed has been so well maintained in their types, formation of heads and bodies, length, carriage and style of tails; distribution of the Tan-Colour markings; colour of the eyes and dispositions, especially that as rat killers rather than rat hunters.

The Manchester is altogether too fine in his coat to become a useful hunting terrier. He is game enough for anything, but his 'togger' does not befit him as a dog for brush, briar or brookside ridding. Mister Manchester's sporting place is in the Rat Pit. As to the gameness of the Manchester I can write with some authority. About 50 years ago, I resided at Ferryside, Camarthenshire, South Wales, a charming fishing and wild fowl shooting resort at the estuary of the salmon, sewin and trout-holding River Towey. At low water during the spring-tides periods, conger eels were sometimes found under the large but moveable boulders left uncovered at such times. By the use of crowbars the

huge stones could be 'rocked' and the stranded eel would glide out like a scared rabbit. Small crabs would likewise make their exits and these Pauline, one of my Manchester Terriers, would grab at to be immediately nipped and lip-held by the crustacean. Although this was terrible punishment, Pauline never yelped; but would swing the crab until its claw became detached at the butt. She would again tackle the one clawed creature and ridding it of its second holder, take up and actually crush the arthropod into a shapeless mass. As most people have observed, dogs have no particular taste for live fishes or crustaceans of any kind, so, it was considered that Pauline's method of destroying crabs was done more in the spirit of revenge, backed up by pluck, than simply for the game or sport of chewing or biting live fish.

* From "Dog Breeds of the World," ~ by Freeman Lloyd, 1930's.