

MAN'S BEST FRIEND!

The domestication of animals began thousands of years ago, but now they are most definitely part of the family.

Dogs are the most popular choice of pet in Wales today.

The John Dillwyn Llewelyn Collection at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales contains some of the earliest images ever taken in Wales.



Willie Llewelyn sat on the steps of the porch of Penllergare House with dog Mustard, taken by his grandfather John Dillwyn Llewelyn, c. 1853



'Corrin', Champion Welsh Springer Spaniel. Oil painting, Bonnor, Rose Dempster (1875-1967)

Corrin

The Welsh Springer Spaniel is well known for being a loyal, friendly and affectionate breed of dog.

Corrin was a show champion in Wales, and was the first of the breed to be photographed. His owner, Mr. A.T. Williams of Neath, was passionate about preserving the breed.

He described Corrin as “a magnificent worker, a devoted companion, with the best of tempers...I have never owned a better-looking spaniel and have never seen a better worker.”

*Did you ever have a dog as a pet?
If so, what was its name?
What do you remember about it?*

Did you know?

The Romans used dogs for healing as well as companionship.

Several dogs like these examples from Pen-y-cae, probably associated with healing, were found at the Roman temple at Lydney Park.



Farmers and their dogs watch sheepdog trials at Gwernogle, Carmarthenshire.

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Question:

Q: *What breed of dog has been favoured by the Queen since childhood?*

A: *The Corgi*

Did you know?

The Queen has owned more than 20 Pembroke Welsh Corgis since she came to the throne in 1952.

A breed of dog called the Saluki is the world's oldest breed. It dates back to 329 BC.

The Welsh sheepdog is an active and intelligent breed of working dog, known for their herding abilities and distinct from the more widely used border collie.

Trivia:

In the 2019 movie the Secret Life of Pets 2, the character Rooster the farm dog, voiced by Harrison Ford, is a Welsh sheepdog.



*Painting of Welsh sheepdog, Sir Kyffin Williams.
The National Library of Wales*

Suggested Activities

Have a sing along to '(How Much is) that Doggie in the Window?', a novelty song from the 1950s that has been popular for generations!

Starting with 'A', go through the alphabet and see how many dog breeds you can list under each letter. E.g. 'Airedale Terrier, Afghan Hound....etc.'