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Fact Sheet: Old English Sheepdog

Dog type: pastoral

History:

- The Old English Sheepdog breed has been around since the 1800's and was recognised as an official breed by the Kennel Club in 1873.
- The Old English Sheepdog was a 'drovers dog' bred to drive sheep and cattle to market in the southwestern counties of England.
- People believe that the Old English Sheepdog is descended from the Scottish Bearded Collie or the Russian Owtchar.

Do you know...?

- In the days when dogs were taxed, farmers didn't have to pay tax for working dogs. To prove that they were workers, Old English Sheepdogs had their tails docked. This gave them the nickname 'Bob' or 'Bobtail'.
- The Old English Sheepdog is sometimes called the 'nanny' dog because it gets on well with children. Nanna was a famous 'nanny' dog in the story of Peter Pan.

Old English Sheepdogs as pets:

- Playful and affectionate.
- Intelligent and easy to train.
- Need plenty of exercise and regular brushing.
- Needs special care in hot and cold weather.