

Lancashire Heeler: Small Dog with Big Smile

今回は、絶滅の危機にあるイギリス原産の小型犬ランカシャー・ヒーラーを紹介する記事です。かつては家畜を追い立てるなど働いてきましたが、今は世界に約5,000匹しか存在せず、保護と繁殖の努力が続いています。最近アメリカン・ケネル・クラブに登録され、ドッグショーにも参加できるようになりました。記事に出てくる「affectionate」は「愛情深い」という意味で、や an affectionate nature（愛情深い性格）や an affectionate person（愛情表現豊かな人）のように使われます。飼い主に笑顔を見せるような仕草も魅力ですが、希少な犬種を守るにはどんな工夫が必要でしょうか？講師と話してみましょう。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

It is a small dog with a big “smile.” And it is ready to compete with 200 other kinds of dogs, known as breeds.

Say hello to the Lancashire Heeler.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) announced Wednesday that the rare dog breed can now compete in thousands of dog shows across the United States. That includes the famous Westminster Kennel Club show.

The AKC describes the breed as “a medium to high energy dog.” The organization says the dogs are intelligent, friendly and quick to learn new tasks. They are happy, talkative and always ready for a walk.

Lancashire Heelers have long bodies and short coats of hair, or fur, in black and tan. The breed stands about 30 centimeters high and weighs up to 7.7 kilograms. Historically, they helped to [drive](#) farm animals and chase away rats. The breed can also perform several dog-related sports and activities.

“They’re gritty little dogs, and they’re very intelligent little dogs,” says Patricia Blankenship of Flora, Mississippi, who has bred them for many years. “It’s an enjoyable little breed to be around.”

The breed is often described as “courageous, happy, [affectionate](#) to owner.” And owners say they sometimes pull back their lips into a “smile.”

Lancashire Heeler Club President Sheryl Bradbury says the breed “has to have a job” or stay active with its owners. It is also helpful for them to meet different people and dogs.

Lancashire Heelers have lived in Britain for hundreds of years, but they are now at risk of dying out as a breed. Britain’s Kennel Club has added an average of just 121 Lancashire heelers yearly to its [registry](#) in recent years. The AKC says only about 5,000 [exist](#) worldwide.

Founded in 1884, the AKC is the United States’ oldest purebred dog registry. It also organizes dog shows where 201 recognized breeds compete for the traditional “best in show.” To get recognized, a breed must have an official breeding standard and there must be at least 300 of the animals in at least 20 states.

Jennifer Peltz reported this story for the Associated Press. Hai Do adapted it for VOA Learning English.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. compete (v.) to try to be the best at something

Over a thousand high school students are competing for this year's science award.

2. drive (v.) to push forward; to lead

Cowboys drove the cows across the land to market.

3. affectionate (adj.) showing love for

My Russian Blue cat is a very affectionate animal.

4. registry (n.) an official list or record of names or individual people

Please add your name to our wedding registry.

5. exist (v.) to be

Life may exist in other places in our solar system, but none has been found yet.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What kind of personality does the Lancashire Heeler have?
2. How were the dogs used in the past? What other abilities do they have?
3. How common are the dogs today?
4. Would you like to own a Lancashire Heeler?
5. When choosing a pet, would you buy one from a breeder, or would you adopt one from a shelter? Why?