

Old English Sheepdog

Originally used by drovers and graziers in the South of England to take finished stock to market, and bearing a close relationship to the working Bearded Collie which frequently performed a similar function. Its curious plodding, rolling, distance consuming gait is supremely adapted to the leisurely movement of finished sheep or cattle from one point to another.

One of the three original herding breeds to find favour with early exhibitors and well established as a distinct entity before the advent of Dog Show, the Old English Sheepdog has enjoyed a variety of no-deplumes, including English Bobtail, and Short Tailed English Sheepdog under which name the early Stud Book entries appeared, but is now generally referred to by its initials OES.

The initial research into drug sensitivity included OES samples and although the MDR-1 mutation did appear the instance was

relatively small being less than 10% of those tested, with no double negatives. This fact can undoubtedly be attributed to the OES's early establishment as a distinct entity owing little to the wider herding breed gene pool.

Photo: Sally Ann Thompson

