

Longhaired Whippet

A small sighthound of American origin, the Longhaired Whippet made its appearance during the 1950s after Walter A. Wheeler Jr., a breeder of Whippets and Shetland Sheepdogs using the *Windspirit* kennel name, claimed he had re-established an extinct long-haired gene into the Whippet. Purists still contend no such gene exists, and the variety has failed to gain acceptance with any major canine registration authority.

Photographic evidence suggests a strong resemblance to Whippet in appearance, but as the gene for long-hair is always recessive we must ponder on the probability of two such specimens being mated together to produce the long coat, and then sufficient numbers being found to establish a breeding programme particularly as a majority of Whippet breeders refute the gene's existence.

Included in the original research into drug sensitivity at least one copy of the MDR-1

mutant gene was found in more than two thirds of the 89 Longhaired Whippets tested, and as this breed shares other health abnormalities with the Collie the inference must be that the Longhaired Whippet has more in common with the Lurcher than its supporters are prepared to admit.

