

The Staby, or the Frisian Pointing Dog, is also a pointing Gundog, somewhat smaller than the former, about 50-53 cm high. He originates from another part of the country, the Friesland.

This breed is a typical continental Gundog of Spaniel type, very good in water work. He is an active dog, lively and alert. The colour can be black and white, or liver and white or orange and white. The coat is long, feathered, not curly nor wavy. The ears are rather small, hanging, fairly low set. The tail is long and beautifully feathered. These two breeds are in the FCI Group 7, Pointing Gundogs.

Special kind of traditional hunting

The Wetterhoun, or the Frisian Water Dog, is a most peculiar looking animal. He is a very strong, sturdily built curly-coated dog, with tightly curled tail carried over the croup. He was originally mostly used for otter hunting, but that is forbidden nowadays. He was also used for hunting mole, polecat and vermin. The coat suggests that he most likely is related to the Irish Water Spaniel, Curly-Coated Retriever and the Barbet.



Wetterhoun

By nature the Wetterhoun is calm, courageous, may be stubborn to some amount, not particularly easy to be trained. It is not a dog for everyone. He is reserved with strangers and has an obvious guarding instinct.

The correct coat texture is very important. It must be oily and water-resistant, tightly curled and dense, somewhat longer than the coat of the Curly-Coated Retriever. The Wetterhoun is compact and stocky, but not clumsy. He is square and thick set. The colour is either solid black or liver, or may have white markings. Ticking and roaning is also permitted. The size is 55-59 cm.

The Kooikerhondje, or the Dutch Decoy Dog is a Spaniel type dog, used for duck hunting. The particular type of hunting is a Dutch invention and it has been done in Holland for centuries. In the past centuries it was big business, some decoys caught thousands of birds yearly. Good dogs were very valuable. The wild ducks were lured by the tame, so called 'stable' ducks. They bring the wild ones to their home ponds. The dog runs around the pond, while the decoy man scatters seed for the birds. The wild ducks swim together with the tame ones to the catchpipe. The dog's white tail plume attracts the ducks, and when the dog is running around the fences towards the catchpipe, the ducks follow. The tame ducks are used to the dogs and associate the tail plume with feeding, and when they follow the dog, the wild ones follow, too. The birds are lead into a catching pen by startling them just at the right moment.

Running around the fences is a specific job of the decoy dog. The feathered white tail is very important to raise the ducks' curiosity. The dog must be silent, because the ducks will be frightened by noise. The dog is taught to follow hand signals, not only vocal commands. Well trained dogs are able to work independently.

Although duck decoy is no more economically significant, it is part of national tradition. The decoy dogs have a grand



Markiesje

The club has now registered about 1000 individuals over the years. It is estimated, that seven hundred Markiesjes are living to-day, and the demand for the puppies is great. The club does not want the breed to become a "fashion", and tries to prevent commercial breeding. Puppy buyers are advised to help in reconstructing the breed, and that's why no dogs yet are allowed to be exported.

history, it is known that Prince William of Orange had this kind of a dog in the sixteenth century. There is a bronze sculpture of the Prince and his dog in the national museum. Although the breed is known to be old, it was not introduced to the organised canine world before 1966, when it was first time temporarily recognised. Now this beautiful and attractive breed is gaining popularity in other countries as well.

The Kooikerhondje is relatively small, 35-40 cm high, a parti-coloured, long-haired dog. It is lighter than the British spaniels, and especially the head is different. The muzzle is not as deep and blunt as for example that of the Cocker Spaniel. The colour is always white with red patches, and black ear fringes are very desired, as is the white tail plume. The body is slightly longer than high, the ears are hanging close to the cheek and the nose is always black.

These two breeds belong to the FCI Group 8, Flushing Dogs.

Royal companion

The newest and least known of the Dutch breeds is the Markiesje, which is not yet internationally recognised. It is a Toy spaniel, purely a domestic companion. For centuries there has been this type of dog both on the Continent and on the British Isles. Especially the Royal families are known to have kept small decorative dogs as pets. The name "Markiesje" may come from Marquise de Pompadour, who was supposed to have Toy spaniels, or it may mean straw basket, or rather a dog which was small enough to be carried in a straw basket.

There are lots of old paintings of Royal and other noble families with their pet dogs. Some enthusiasts realised that there is a separate Dutch type of these dogs, and it was in 1977 that they started to gather the owners and dogs together, to start re-building the breed. In 1998 it was recognised by the Dutch Kennel Club as a breed, but it still will take some time before full international recognition.

The Markiesje is an elegant little Toy spaniel, more slender than the Cavalier and not quite as small as the Papillon and Phalene. The height is about 35 cm. The desired colour is solid black, some white markings are allowed. It has a shiny, silky and flat coat, semi-long and feathered. The ears are high set, triangular, drop almost like the Phalene ears. The tail is long, carried gaily but not curled over the back.

It is more than likely that in the future this charming breed will become very popular. It is an ideal little companion, small and fine but not fragile, friendly and easy to groom.

The stud book is still open, which means that dogs without pedigree can be registered, after being judged at a special assessment day organised by the breed club. In the beginning some crosses with Papillons Phalenes and Cavaliers were used, but the results were not very satisfactory.

