

HELLENIKOS ICHNILATIS

(Greek Harehound or scenthound)

History & Origin

The Hellenikos Ichnilatis is a black and tan tracking & chasing hare hound, indigenous to Greece.

It exists for thousands of years and its progenitors are the ancient Iaconikoi (later: Iagonikoi, where Iagos=hare) kynes (dogs) native in the Southern Greece (Peloponessus). These were described and praised by many ancient writers and through colonization and sea-trade they became widespread in the ancient world.

heavy as a bloodhound's. The ears should lie flat and be neither too long nor too heavy. The nose and nails are black and the pigment should be dark and strong. The breed has a regular scissor bite and the eye-rims should be tight, showing no haw. The Hellenikos Ichnilatis has a beautiful and loud voice that can be heard for many miles. The breed gives voice on the chase and is fit to travel great distances on the gallop, capable to hunt independently if it has to, before turning the hare towards its handler. This innate ability means that the breed has a strong temperament and they can be stubborn at youth and slow maturing. Rough handling makes them worse as does lack of proper discipline; they need careful guidance, patience and understanding. Also they require a certain amount of freedom and plenty of exercise.

Character

Brave, outgoing, intelligent and sometimes impatient, they are passionate hunters but they never vicious. Friendly, affectionate and extremely playful, this is a natural breed that loves open spaces and can be a handful for the inexperienced dog owner. Certainly not a choice for the apartment dweller, this is an open-air breed that shows excellent manners when its needs are catered for. As a farm dog it's happy and useful in many ways, as it is not without a sense of boundaries and it will give voice in the presence of strangers or danger, relentlessly chasing vermin as well. Extremely courageous and resourceful, it possesses the stamina and cunning necessary to face the wild boar. However, in the presence of its master, it's a happy and friendly fellow, wagging its tail and living peacefully with other dogs. Traditionally, the breed hunts in pairs or small groups of three or four dogs.

Information & Contacts

The height is 47-55cm at the withers for dogs, 2cm less for bitches; the animals should be athletic, in good condition, neither fat nor too thin. A copy of the official breed standard (FCI no 214) in english and information about breeders, puppies etc can be obtained by the parent club: Friends of the Hellenikos Ichnilatis

(Text: Maria Winsor-Ginala, founder-member of the Hellenikos Ichnilatis Club, Greece.)

Descendants of the ancient Greek scenthounds can be found all over Europe and beyond. In its country of origin the breed had no competition and due to its isolation in inaccessible & often mountainous areas the breed remained pure and little changed. Ancient Greece covered most of the Balkans and so the Hellenikos Ichnilatis left its heritage in the neighboring countries, too: black and tan or tricolor scenthounds can be found all over this area. In Greece too, there is a not-yet officially recognized tricolor variety, localized in the very same vicinity that the ancient breed took its first name, in Laconia (Sparta), a south-most part of Peloponessus.

Form, Function, Requirements

Of medium size and shaped by function rather than fashion, the breed is a prototype hunter that uses its fine nose and high average speed to track and catch its prey. There are no extremes in its conformation: athletic, robust and of normal proportions, the Hellenikos Ichnilatis is slightly longer than tall, with taugt skin and short, sleek hair. Predominately black with tan markings (there are no specific limitations as to the tan markings, apart from the fact that the color should be rich and discoloration is a very serious type fault); a small white spot is tolerated on the chest. The head is noble and houndy but never coarse nor as



12th INTERNATIONAL DOG SHOW

Kifissia Park, Athens, Greece

About six hundred dogs from seven different countries gathered to the outdoors Athens venue for this event, to be judged by a panel of experts including Hans Lehtinen from Finland, Goran Bodegard & Karl-Erik Johansson from Sweden, Ilona Onstenk-Schenk from Holland and George Kostopoulos, Stelios Makaritis, Voula Papoutsani & Mata Skoura from Greece. The winners were:

BEST IN SHOW:

Judge :
Hans Lehtinen (Finland)

BIS.

Whippet male
RUGGERO RAIMONDI DU SAC A MALICES
breeder_esavage Karen (France)
owner Rovani Annalisa (Italy)



BIS2.

Old English Sheepdog male
GR.GIBR.CH.JWW'01 REATA'S COSMOPOLITAN
breeder Javor D.&A. (Croatia)
owner Kanales Nikolaos

BEST PUPPY IN SHOW

Judge :
Goran Bodegard (Sweden)

(Best Puppy Sunday & BPIS)

Weimaraner female
GREYDOVE NEW YORK NEW YORK
breeder Peters V. & Gold N. (Australia)
owner Antonopoulos Dimitris



Above: Greek Harehound

Right: Cretan Hound

