



# The Portuguese Podengo

A Happy Hunting Hound  
*An official presentation by the American  
Portuguese Podengo MedioGrande Club*

# PORTUGUESE PODENGO History

- The Podengo shares common roots with other similar Warren Hound Breeds of the Mediterranean



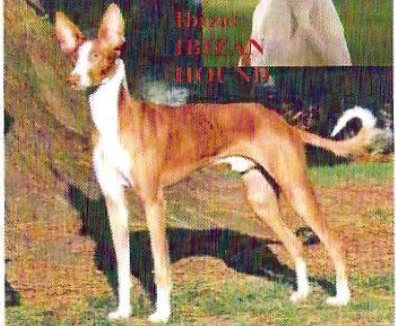
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## Podengo Português



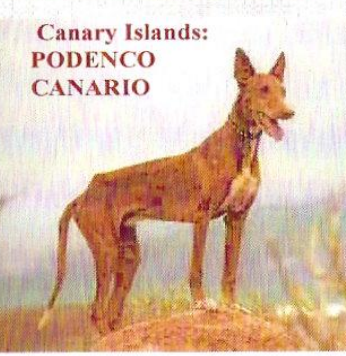
Iberian: IBERIAN HOUND



Palestine: BARIAH



Spain: PODENCO ANDALUZ



Canary Islands: PODENCO CANARIO



Malta: PHAROXIA HOUND

# PRIMITIVE DOG BREEDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

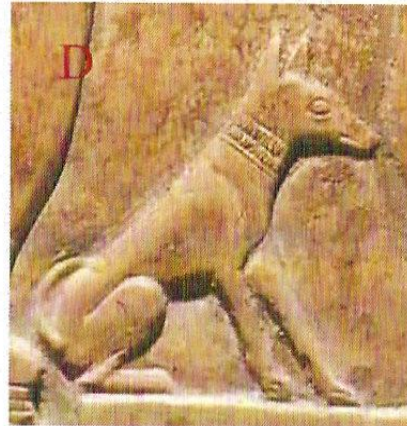
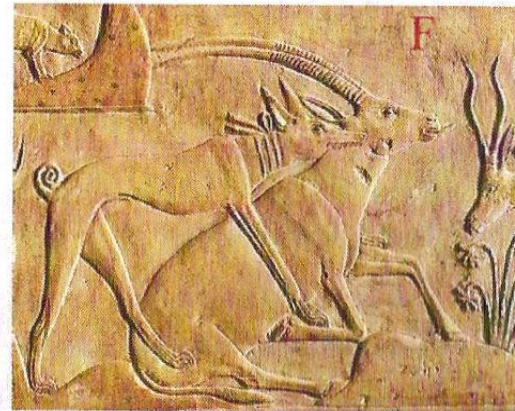
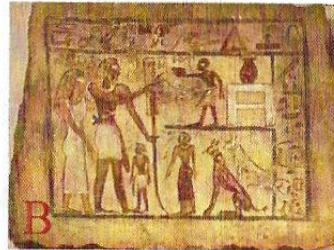
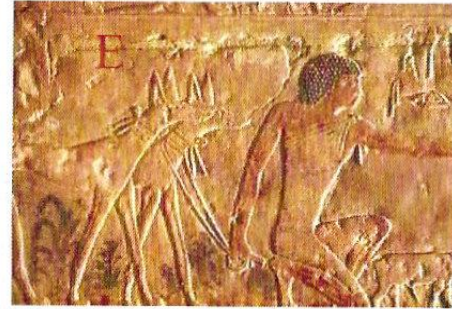


# PORTUGUESE PODENGO

The prick-ear hunting hound of Egypt can be found in many ancient artifacts

- In Egypt this type of dog is present in several important archaeological findings dating as far back as 5000 BC

## History



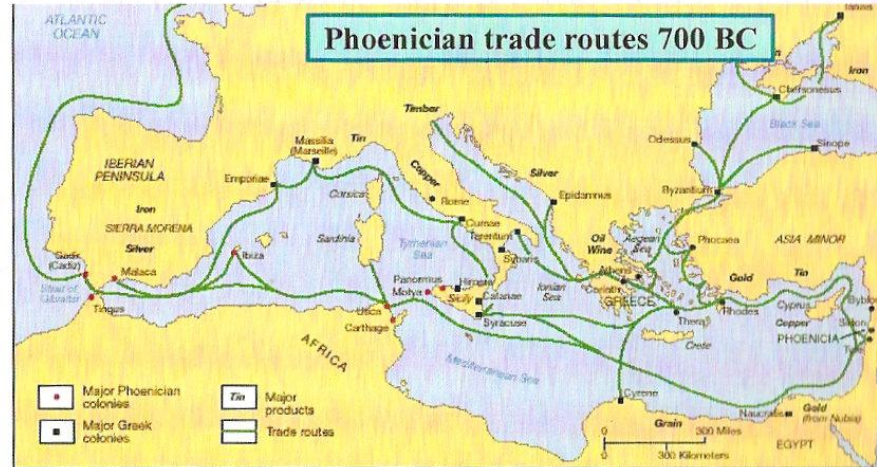
A: Hunting dogs 5000BC  
B: Egyptian scrolls circa 4000BC  
C: Steatyite disk 1rst Dinasty 3000BC  
D-E-F: Dogs in stone Egypt 2350 BC

# PORTUGUESE PODENGO

The Portuguese Podengo is a multi-millenary breed

- The Podengo originated from dogs brought from Egypt by the Phoenicians
- These sea merchants established an important trade route navigating the Mediterranean Sea from 1550 BC to 300 BC.
- The Phoenicians used the bireme galley, a man-powered sailing vessel

## History



A



A: Phoenician dogs on a stone tomb 600BC and on a papyrus scroll



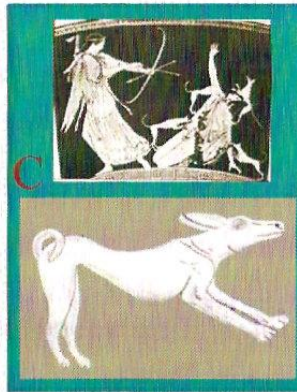
B: Phoenician merchants trading goods and dogs

# PORTUGUESE PODENGO

## History

In ancient times good hunting dogs were in great demand

- The Phoenician people sailing from Canaan shores traded all sort of goods, including the Egyptian prick ear hunting dog, in the Mediterranean Basin from Asia Minor to Cyprus, Crete, Greece, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Cartago (Tunis), Ibiza, Tinges (Tangier Morocco) and the Iberian Peninsula

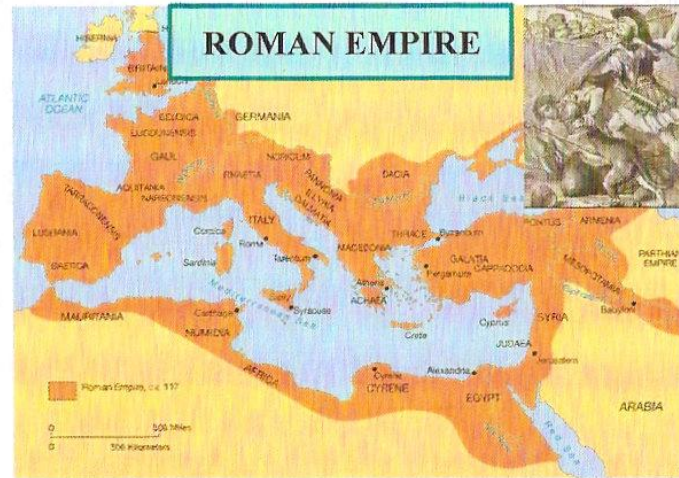


A: Ancient Bizantine mosaics (House of Dyonisius, Paphos, Cyprus), 200 BC  
B: Greek coins 450 BC  
C: Microsegiptu Hunting dogs, Crete  
D: Hunting Dogs (ancient Mosaic Bardo Museum, Tunis)

# PORTUGUESE PODENGO History

The breed was influenced by the dogs brought by the Roman conquests of Lusitania in Iberia

- In Portugal the breed originally brought by the Phoenicians was influenced by the introduction of dogs accompanying the Romans in their conquest of Lusitanian Territories
- Later on hunting dogs were also brought by the Moors of north Africa in their invasions on the 8<sup>th</sup> century AC



A: Dog Mosaic of Cartago  
B- . Dog Mosaics in ancient Roman Villa  
C- Dog mosaics of Pompei 200 BC



# PORTUGUESE PODENGO

## History

The name "PODENGO" comes from the Latin word "PODOS" which means feet

- This term was used in Iberia to refer to all lightfooted hunting hounds
- By the Middle Ages all hunting dogs of Portugal were called "Podengos de Mostra"
- The breed as it exists today is described in several old books



Gaston  
Phoebus,  
Count of Foix  
"Book of the  
hunt"  
14th Century



# PORTUGUESE PODENGO

## History

It is possible that the Pequeno is one of the ancestors of the Chihuahua

- The Pequeños are found on stone carvings of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and bronzes of the 16<sup>th</sup>
- They are associated with the Portuguese Discoveries of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and were used as mousers and ratters on the voyages of the Navigators aboard the Portuguese Caravels on their journeys to the New World
- There it is possible they were mixed to a local bred, the Colima



COLIMA Dogs of Mexico



Portuguese soldier and dog, bronze 16th century



Tomar Church stone, 11th century

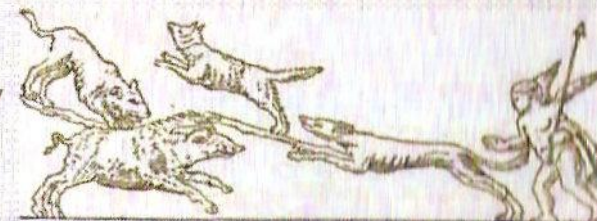
# PORTUGUESE PODENGO

## History

- Over the centuries the Podengo established itself as the most popular hunting dog of Portugal
- The breed characteristics were preserved by the hunters and their selection was based mainly on their hunting ability



2nd century  
BC

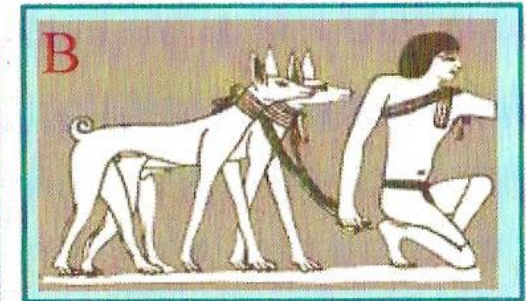
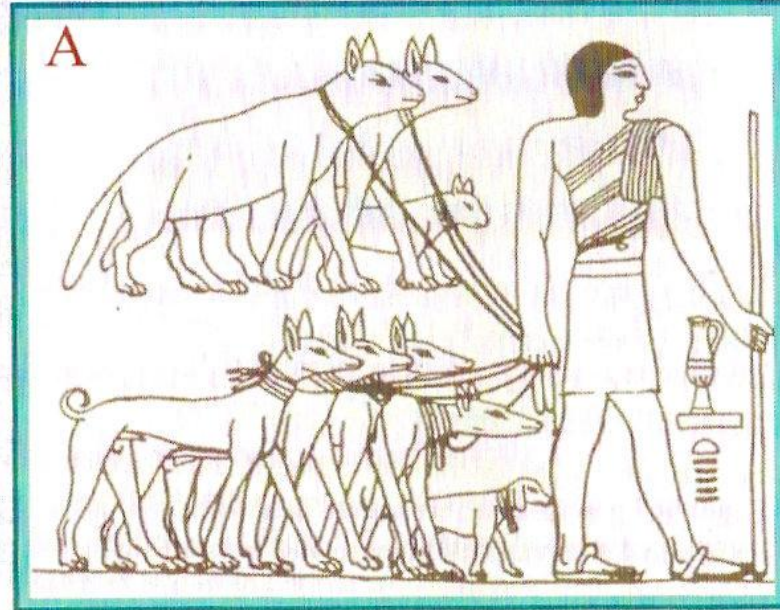


Podengos were used to hunt in pack wild boar and big game. Nowadays they are also widely used for hunting rabbits and fowl

# PORTUGUESE PODENGO History

The ancient Egyptian word for dog was "IWIW", which referred to the dog's high pitched bark

- The dogs served a major role in hunting, but were also used as guard and war dogs, in military actions and as pets
- A similar, but smaller, variety became also a very popular household dog



A -B: Hunting dogs of Egypt  
C-D: Egyptian Household dogs

# Typical Sighthound Right?

- Clearly this history is one that can be repeated by many breeds currently being shown.
- It does show the interconnectedness and common ancestry of in particular the Medio and Grande.
- It also shows the division of purpose that many countries followed.
- The Wire Pequeno however – had so few numbers in hunt packs that it was RESTORED by the Lisbon Zoo in the mid 1980's.

# The Challenge:

## 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 ?

- Is it 6 breeds – 3 sizes 2 coats?
- Or 3 breeds – only by size,
- Or 2 Bigger Square together and Small rectangle together
- Or 2 by coat (wire/rough & Smooth)
- Or all sizes coats together and 6 varieties.
- ??????????????????????

# OTHER COUNTRIES:

- ▶ In England – the Pequeno is the ONLY size that was brought over, is recognized and shown. The Kennel club recognizes the Pequeuno as the “Podengo”. The other sizes must go through the recognition process individually.
- ▶ In Spain the Podengo Andeluse the smaller size (which is their version of the Pequeno) is split out as Maneto. “Maneto by its special morfoestructura is utilized exclusively in the small game hunting and more concretely in that of the rabbit. Is especially adapted to the Mediterranean scrub with bramble patches, streams and tight ravines. This thus due to their short extremities that qualify it perfectly to be unfolded in the lands of thick vegetation and those spots of difficult access and details of the land.”

# WHY WAS THE PODENGO SPLIT INTO 2 BREEDS:

- ▶ AKC defines a breed so that all sizes can be bred together.
- ▶ While the Medio and Grande – can both be in the same litter and historically have been bred together.
- ▶ The Podengo Pequeno is a rectangle – and has different proportions based on it's function
- ▶ **Should be NO breeding with larger size!**

Breeding a more square long legged sight hound, open field runner with a rectangular – low to the ground dog that must be able to push through brush so needs a lower center of gravity would produce animals who could fulfill neither purpose.





# Considerations:

- FCI you are what YOU are – AKC you are what your parents are. (Just ask the Belgium Breeds about this one)
- Wire and Smooth in same litter – well sometimes, maybe sort of.
- Since you CAN and HAVE gotten big from medium and medium from big we needed to accommodate that.
- FCI considers them more of a breed w/ variety and using their system 6 podengos go to the group. AKC has not done a ‘variety ‘ in 50 years. UKC says they judge like Portugal but only send 1 of the 6 to the group.
- Hence the ONLY configuration that works in the AKC (and other US judging) system that also preserves the integrity of the breed is to have 2 breeds.

# Split the Breed

- ▶ In December of 2008 letter was submitted to AKC along with Pedigree documentation as well as the differences of the FCI and AKC rules on what defines a breed and how dogs are judged.
- ▶ July of 2009 – Board action created 2 separate breeds. (better for the breed but meant that the bigger sizes would have to wait for numbers)

# If form follows function...

▶ *...what's the function!*

It's important to know what the function of the sizes are. If you have studied any breeds and their function at all – you already know what the breed should look like.

*Really you do!*

What do they hunt? What is the terrain like? The answers leads to the FORM of the dog you see before you.

# The Rabbit!

The European rabbit is a smallish, grey–brown (or sometimes black) although it ranks as medium–sized by lagomorph standards. It ranges from 34 to 50 cm (13 to 20 in) in length, not counting a tail of 4 to 8 cm (1.6 to 3.1 in). Weight can range from approximately 1.1 to 2.5 kg (2.4 to 5.5 lb). As a lagomorphs, it has four sharp incisors (two on top, two on bottom) that grow continuously throughout its life, and two peg teeth on the top behind the incisors, dissimilar to those of rodents (which have only two each, top and bottom). It hides in dense cover.



**Teeth - Sharp: Body 13-20 inches long.**  
What do you know about the substance, hardness or strength of the dog that can catch and carry this?

# What structure do you need to push through this?



# Or run across this?



Long or short legs? Efficient  
effortless gait – Gallop?



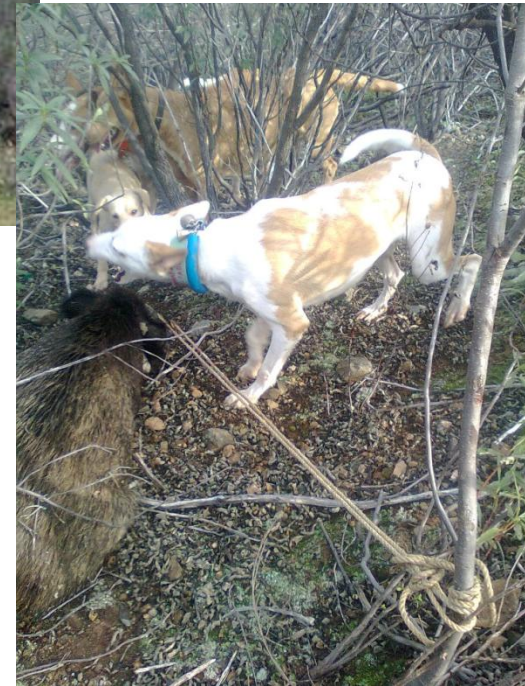
# The Boar

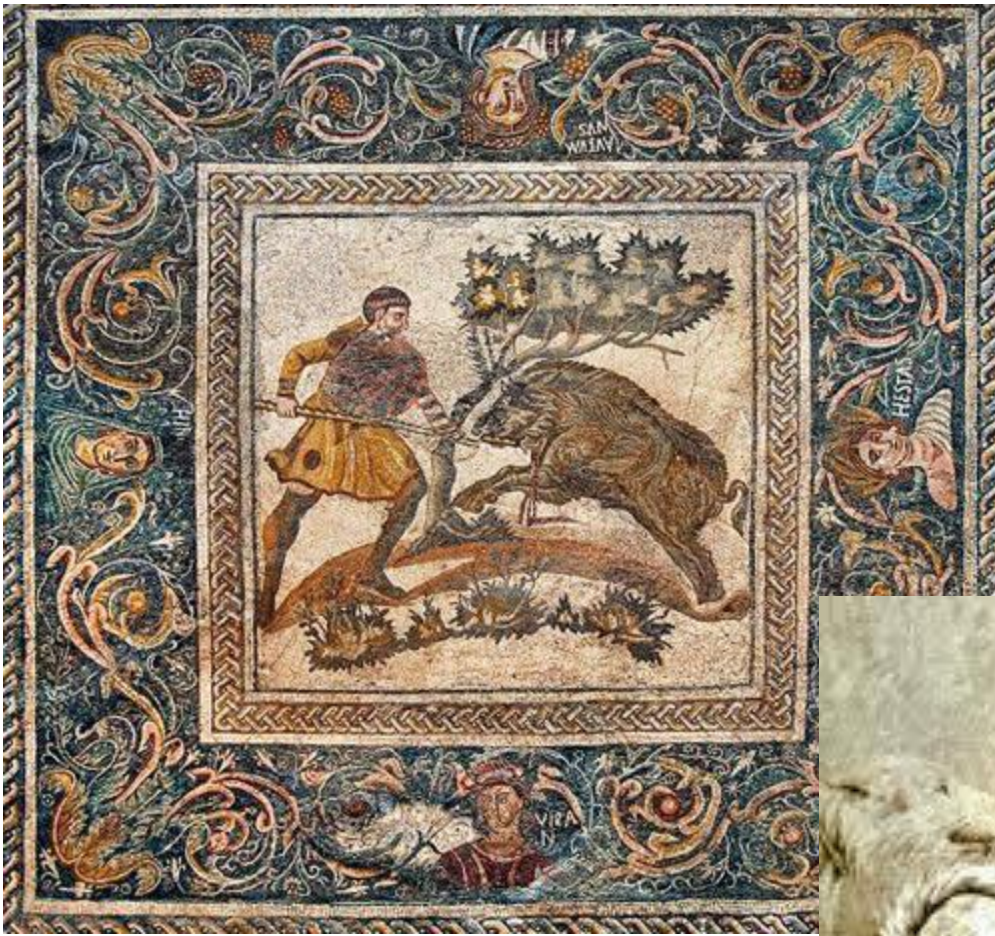
- ▶ The male boar is bigger than the female in stature and tusk length. weighing an average of 80kg (176 lbs), rarely attaining 120kg (264 lbs). The average length from head to tail is 120-170cm (47 -66 inches) and average height at the withers is 48-69cm (18 – 27 inches).
- ▶ The male wild boar has stocky body with relatively thin legs, a short neck, and a long snout. The upper tusks grow outward and backward and the lower ones grow upward and backward, forming a circle. Tusks will wear against each other and develop very sharp edges.
- ▶ In Portugal, hunters congregate in various-sized groups called 'Montaria' and hold hunting drives with beaters and dogs.
- ▶ Wild boar hunting in Portugal may also be done from a blind. It is allowed for 10 nights per each lunar month - 8 nights before full moon, the night of the full moon and the following night only.

# What if this is waiting for you?



# Courage, Speed, Substance,





So now that you know that the **Pequeno** – needs to push through brush and bring back a rabbit for the family meal – you are better able to know what are the ‘functional priorities’

-Substance in a small package, Sturdy, Height at withers equally divided between depth of chest and length of leg. Longer than tall. Alert, attentive, with highly mobile ears.

-**Podengo(Medio/Grande)** More square – open field runners, agile, alert. Stamina and strength for running down Rabbit, and add substance in the largest sizes for Stag and Boar.

# The Podengo Medio and Grande

»» The Standard in pictures and words:

# The American Portuguese Podengo Medio Grande

- ▶ **Origin: Portugal**
  - Portuguese National Breed
- ▶ **Utilization:**
  - Rabbit and large game hunting, watch dog & companion
- ▶ **Classification:**
  - Proposed AKC: Hound
  - FCI Group 5
  - KC: Hound



# Brief History

- ▣ Primitive type dog
- ▣ Probable origin lies in the ancient dogs brought by the Phoenicians & Romans to the Iberian Peninsula in antiquity.
- ▣ Adapted to the Portuguese territory & climate,
- ▣ From the 15th century on, the Medio and Grande were used as hunters for rabbit and large game.
- ▣ Today the Grande size exists primarily in hunting packs.



The Podengo is the most common hunting dog in Portugal



# Used For:

- ▣ The GRANDE was developed for deer and wild boar hunting. It will exhaust and hold down the prey and await the hunter's gun. The Grande is now very rare in its home country.
- ▣ The MEDIO was developed for rabbit chasing, flushing, hunting and retrieval. Its hunting style includes catlike stalking and, similar to the Ibizan Hound, it often jumps above the prey before landing on or near it to flush it out of dense brush, rock crevices or burrows. It will dig if necessary to flush prey.
- ▣ Both size varieties are respected as versatile hunters and companions that use all their senses as well as agility, speed and endurance, running singly or in packs.

# Grande Hunt Pack





# Grande Pups



It is important that pups learn manners –although we may not agree with this method – it has a purpose in the pack.

# Mixed Pack in Portugal



# Behavior – Temperament

- ▶ Podengos are great watchdogs & companions.
- ▶ Lively & clever, agile affectionate, happy, loyal, attentive, fearless & very playful.
- ▶ Quick to learn but not always easy to train.
- ▶ May be reserved with strangers.
- ▶ They will both surprise and test the unprepared owner.





Springfield, IL - U.S.A.  
October 12-14

2007 TDAA Petit Prix

**Kinr**  
*Bento*

Teacup Dogs Agility  
Association

## AKC Performance events



# General Appearance

- Quadrangular pyramidal head, with prick ears.
- Sickle tail.
- Well-proportioned body slightly longer than tall.
- Sound skeleton & well muscled.
- Lively & intelligent; wary & alert with highly mobile ears.
- Exists in the Smooth & Wire-haired varieties.



# Proportions

- ▶ Slightly longer body length than height with a relation – body length/height at the withers: 11/10
- ▶ Chest should be down to the elbow
- ▶ The muzzle length is shorter than the skull length



# Height – Weight

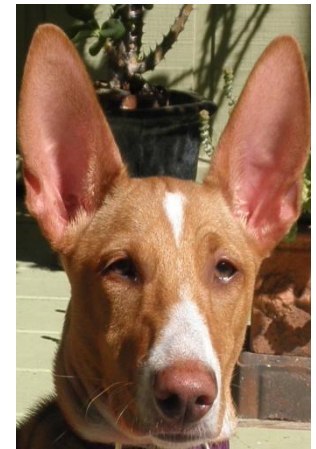
- ▣ The proportions of the Grande and Medio are almost square. Strong in build. Body length from prosternum to point of buttocks is approximately 10% longer than the height at the withers.
- ▣ GRANDE: 22" to 28" at the withers, 44 to 66 lbs
- ▣ MEDIO: 16" to 22" at the withers, 35 to 44 lbs

They are examined on the ground.

**DQ – SIZE Over 28" UNDER 16"**

# Head

- Lean, fine, flat or slightly arched skull.
- Shaped like a 4-sided pyramid, tapering towards a slightly protruding tip.
- Occipital bone slightly prominent.
- Stop barely defined.
- Nose:
  - Nose Color is always darker than the coat

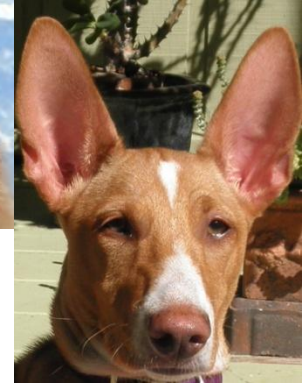


- ▣ **Muzzle:** Curved, with a straight profile; shorter than the skull; broader at the base than at the tip.
- ▣ **Lips:** Close fitting, thin; firm, opening horizontally and well pigmented.
- ▣ **Jaws/Teeth:** Normal with scissors bite, with white solid teeth.
- ▣ **Cheeks:** Lean and obliquely set.
- ▣ **Eyes:** Very expressive, moderate in size, not prominent, set obliquely, color varies according to coat color, from Honey to Brown.



## Ears:

- ▶ Large, thin, triangular shaped, broad at the base tapering to a fine point.
- ▶ Set on medium high and obliquely.
- ▶ Carried erect, always very mobile, vertically forward when the dog is attentive.
- ▶ Length of ear greater than width at set on.
- ▶ **DQ -Lop or folded ears**



# Body shape

- **Neck:** With a harmonious transition from head to body; Straight of medium length, strong and well-muscled, clean throat line.
- **Top line:** Length of body slightly greater than height at withers. Topline typical sighthound straight or slightly arched over loin.
- **Body:** Ribs moderately well sprung and well carried back. Chest moderately deep and not too wide. Fore chest slightly accentuated. Underline slightly rising.
- **Croup:** Straight or slightly sloping; medium sized; broad and muscled.
- **Chest:** Down to the elbows; of medium width; long, with the sternum sloping back and up; ribs slightly arched and slant; breast not too prominent and muscled, not very broad.
- **Bottom line and belly:** Slightly uprising; lean belly and flanks, slightly tucked up.
- **Tail:** High set of medium length, thick at the base tapering to a fine point. Curved over the back when moving. Hair fringed on its under side



**DQ -Tail curled over,  
touching the back**

- ▣ **FOREQUARTERS:** Upright when seen from front and side; well muscled and lean.
- ▣ **SHOULDER:** Long; oblique; strong and well muscled; open shoulder angle, approximately 110°.
- ▣ **ELBOW :** Parallel to the axial body plane with **forearm vertical**, long and muscled.
- ▣ **CARPUS (Pastern joint):** Lean and inconspicuous.
- ▣ **METACARPUS (Pastern):** Short; strong; slightly slanting.
- ▣ **FORELEGS:** Strong round feet, toes tight and well arched. Nails strong and short. Firm pads. Absence or presence of front dew claws is immaterial in the judging of the dog.

## FRONT



# Hindquarters

- **HINDQUARTERS:** Upright when seen from back and side; well muscled and lean; parallel to the axial body plane.
- **Thigh:** Long; of medium width; muscled.
- **Leg:** Slant; long; lean, strong, muscled.
- **Hock:** Of medium height; lean; strong; open hock angle, approximately  $135^\circ$ .
- **Metatarsus:** Strong; short; slant; without dewclaws.
- **Hind feet:** Strong round feet, toes tight and well arched. Nails strong and short. Firm pads. No rear dewclaws.





# Movement

- ▣ Free & light-footed, easy & agile movements.
- ▣ Reach and drive
- ▣ Should not paddle, prance or flip in front.



# Coat

- ▣ **SKIN:** Mucous membranes preferably darker than the coat; thin and tight skin.
  
- ▣ **COAT:** Short or long coat; medium thickness; smooth hair when short or wire hair when long.
  - Short coat is dense with undercoat present
  - Long and Wire variety: hair on the muzzle is long (bearded); without undercoat.
  
- ▣ **COLOR:** accepted – yellow, fawn, sable, in the light, common and dark varieties; solid, white-patched or white with patches of these colors.
  
- ▣ Accepted but not preferred: black, brown, white-patched or white with patches of these colors.



# Natural



- Wire coat is rough and can be bristly. It can change seasonally. It is NOT a terrier wire coat. The coat is to be shown in a natural state, no trimming or shaving is condoned. The body is not to be trimmed, scissored or stripped. The coat does transition as new coat grows in and the old coat dies in sections. So it may appear uneven.



# Faults & DQ

**FAULTS:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

- ▶ **NOSE** – Partial lack of pigment.
- ▶ **COAT** –Wire: Silky and/or with undercoat.
- ▶ **EARS** – Rounded, Bent
- ▶ **EYES** –different colors.
- ▶ **COAT COLOR** – Brindle; black and tan; tricolor and solid white.

## **DISQUALIFICATION:**

- **SIZE** Over 28” UNDER 16”
- Tail curled over, touching the back
- Lop or folded ears.

# In Summary

- ▶ Quadrangular pyramidal head, with prick ears.
- ▶ Well-proportioned body slightly longer than tall.
- ▶ Heavier bone in larger dogs.
- ▶ 2 coats wire and smooth
- ▶ Free & light-footed, easy & agile movements
- ▶ Sound skeleton & well muscled.
- ▶ Lively & intelligent; wary & alert with highly mobile ears.
  - ▶ **3 DQ's:**
    1. **Over 28" under 16"**
    2. **Tail circled touching back,**
    3. **hanging or folded ears.**



*The End*

Visit our website:  
[www.podengo-mediogrande.com](http://www.podengo-mediogrande.com)





# Bibliography

- ▶ Portuguese Podengo Pequeno: An Educator's Perspective 2.0 (also eBook) Ginger Bowles
- ▶ Portuguese Podengo Pequeno – Carla Molinari 2011
- ▶ The Portuguese Podengo – Vitor Viega 2001, 2005
- ▶ Sight and Scent Magazine – Various issues

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY MAY WE SUGGEST

- ▶ <http://clubedopodengoportugues.com/>
- ▶ [www.podengo-mediogrande.com](http://www.podengo-mediogrande.com)
- ▶ <http://podengos.com/>

# Many Thanks!

- ▶ As always there are so many people to thank for sharing breed information and allowing us to share their dogs. Some specific people **include**: Nuno Ferro, Sergio Freitas, Vitor Veiga, Fernando Borges, Mary Dixon, Nanci Pereira, Nuno Passadinhas, Carla Molinari, Marilyn Piurek, Kip Bergstrom, any many others who love the breed, any size any country! So many times we pose a question and they come through with the answers!
- ▶ Of course the members of the American Portuguese Podengo MedioGrande Club who continue to support and care for the “Middles” and “Bigs”.