

G7 BREED COLUMNS

hounds

Once the puppy is relaxed on the table, look at his overall balance and proportions. Then examine the puppy utilizing the breed standard as your guide. At 8 weeks of age he should resemble an adult Greyhound in a puppy body. Is he slightly longer than tall? You don't want a square puppy. Is he well balanced? Are his front and rear angulation comparable? Can you see "S" curves? You don't want to see any sharp angles.

Start with the puppy's head. Keeping in mind that the head of an 8-week-old is not going to be as long and elegant as an adult's, you can still check the shape. Is it "wider between the ears with little or no stop"? Are the planes level?

Are the eyes beginning to turn dark? If the puppy is a dilute, he may have lighter eyes, but hopefully they are as dark as possible. And eyes do continue to darken for quite a while. The puppy's eyes should be "bright, intelligent, indicating spirit." —S.L.

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Greyhound Club of America website: greyhoundclubofamericainc.org

Ibizan Hounds

Ibizan Type: A Breed Apart

Type is the set of specific qualities that distinguish the breed, the embodiment of the standard. The Ibizan Hound is a dog of light frame, and deerlike to the point that the very deer are sometimes fooled. He is a dog built for agility and high leaps. The structure that allows for this unique ability sets it apart from closely related breeds, like the Pharaoh Hound. Long bladed bone, narrow of body, lithe, and upright.

Overly heavy and way-over-standard dogs are handicapped in being capable of the leaping style of hunting in rough, brushy cover. Muscling must be flat and sinewy, not round and bulging. The head is long, fine, and chiseled, but still wedge shaped. The ears are large, rhomboid, and set high, the base of the ear being on level with the eye. The rhomboid shape is unique to the breed,

and a point almost lost. The leather should be strong, but thin. To look his best the Ibizan Hound must show them off in competition.

There is very little stop to the plane of the head; a heavy stop is a bad fault. To give proper expression and good peripheral vision, the eyes should be set obliquely. Round, staring eyes give the wrong look and lose the exotic aspect. In profile, a slight Roman convex is correct. In addition, the nose extends beyond the muzzle. A blunt muzzle is incorrect. Lips must be tight and puckered.

The long, arched neck is held high. The term *arched* implies upward carriage, otherwise the dog would be looking between his own front legs. The topline is slightly arched over the loin.

One of the most unique things about the Ibizan Hound is the long upper arm placed forward of the deepest part of the chest. This does not excuse an upper arm that drops straight from the point of the shoulder, but set back just a little. Shoulders are laid back. This allows for the beautiful lift and reach of the suspended trot, not to be confused with a hackney gait.

Feet are oval as in the hare, not round. Hindquarters are sinewy and moderately angulated, with long second thigh. Coat is hard and slick in the smooth, and hard and coarse in the wire. Neither should be soft or silky.

The color of the Ibizan Hound is limited to all combinations of red and white, from almost pure red to pure white, no markings are preferred to another. The eyes should be amber, not pale yellow. Any dark brown or black is a disqualification and implies impurity.

The temperament is generally effervescent and friendly. Young dogs can be embarrassingly reticent, but they generally settle down with exposure.

An Ibizan Hound should stand out as a member of his breed to the informed. The Ibizan is not a red and white Doberman, nor a prick-eared Greyhound, not even a mismarked Pharaoh.

With the worldwide exchange of

knowledge on the breed, it is exciting to see the many beautiful and typey Ibizan Hounds that are variations of the acceptable range of type. Particularly to stay grounded, there are the great images of the Spanish hunting packs. To understand type is to understand heritage.

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Ibizan Hound Club of the United States website: ihcus.org

Irish Wolfhounds Beginner's Luck

“You should really give some thought to adding compost mix and making the holes larger,” I advised my neighbor, who had bare-root roses still in their colorful boxes strategically placed up and down her driveway. “Oh, I only have an hour before I leave for an engagement,” she replied, as she proceeded to drop each rose, box and all, into its hole. Imagine my surprise next spring to look out my kitchen window and see a display to rival the famous Huntington Gardens.

Most of us who have been in dogs for any length of time can tell a similar story of a novice breeder who manages to come up with the coveted Best in Show dog in their first litter. Upon careful study, however, it becomes apparent that their success is due not to beginner's luck, but to the work of those who have gone before them—no different than my neighbor, who just happened by chance to select plants from one of the great nurseries.

When pursuing success in breeding dogs, there is no substitute for hard work, and there is nothing more necessary in that endeavor than establishing a great female line. “Great bitches come from other great bitches” was the advice of my mentor, Alma J. Starbuck. And she knew of what she spoke, having produced one famous brood bitch after another that left an enviable record for Ambleside, both in the show ring and whelping box.

Mrs. Florence Nagle, of England, whose Sulhamstead Irish Wolfhounds

held a unique place in the Wolfhound world, had this to say in an article on breeding:

“Having obtained a well-made bitch, absolutely sound, with good powerful hindquarters, whose dam and grand-dam are, if possible, the same, mate her to the best dog you can find who is particularly good in any points in which your bitch is a bit weak. I like to line-breed to any really good hounds, as a violent outcross is not so likely to be satisfactory, as one brings in unknown factors. In my opinion, the bitch is by far the more important, though one does get some outstanding sires that produce good stock from almost any bitch. However, if your bitch comes from a good line of first-class hounds, you cannot go far wrong.”

In the selection of a foundation bitch, it is better to take a companion puppy from an outstanding, established line than a show prospect with a pedigree containing nothing but a mix of unrelated individuals. To do so allows the amateur, with limited resources, to profit from the arduous study and research already done by the breeder of that line, whose intimate knowledge of the ancestors and family characteristics allows her to make skilled decisions in the selection of breeding stock.

For the novice to be able to build upon such a breeding program leaves little to chance in his first generation.

Dr. Braxton B. Sawyer, in his seminars, always suggested careful selection when choosing a brood bitch, and he listed three points of investigation: the individual herself, her pedigree, and the progeny (this is where the “horizontal pedigree” of siblings, aunts and uncles gains importance).

Because the brood bitch’s window of opportunity to demonstrate what her bank of genes will produce is so much more limited by the number of offspring as compared to the stud dog, great care should be taken in her selection.

A great brood bitch becomes the jewel in your crown. She carries your hopes for the future, nourishes and cares for the puppies upon their arrival,

and during those early, critical weeks she imprints them for a lifetime as she teaches them how to live in the world they will inhabit. The dam may only contribute one-half of the chromosomes, but her influence is far more reaching when you consider that she helps shape the puppies’ character. This is why it is so critical to breed only from bitches with solid temperaments, as the puppies take their cues from their mother as she interacts with humans.

Down through history, great importance has been laid on the selection of the bitch. Over 100 years ago, the “father of the breed,” Captain Graham, said much the same in *The Kennel Encyclopedia*, when he wrote:

“In the breeding of Irish Wolfhounds, the same principles apply as in the breeding of all other dogs, namely, only to breed from the best possible strain available, and from only the soundest of the breed. As regards the bitch, the writer is strongly of opinion that only bitches of well-matured age should be used, as Wolfhounds do not reach maturity till two years old; also they should only be bred from once in the year, and, for choice, a spring litter should be aimed at, so that the whelps may have all the summer before them, to enable them to get through all their puppy ailments with everything in their favor; as once over the first six months they are strong and hardy and better able to withstand any disease such as distemper.”

Regarding the choice of the bitch, he continues:

“The writer believes, with Colonel Garnier, that the following rules are the correct ones to recognize, that quality (nervous development, vigour, energy and character) is very much more dependent on the dam than on the sire. Bone or size, on the contrary, is far more dependent on the sire.”

After listing color and coat under the sire’s influence, Captain Graham concludes: “Muscular development and general form is chiefly dependent on the dam.”

After observing the resulting progeny from hundreds of matings in the past 60 years, I would acknowledge that the “rules” set forth are surprisingly accurate more times than not. Great size and bone will be found carried down in a strong tail-male line of ancestors with great size and substance, while outstanding-quality puppies are sure to have behind them a tail-female line of grand, first-rate bitches.

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Norwegian Elkhounds Cavalcade of Events

Denver was the place for Elkhound folks to be in April, with events over the weekend of the 12th to 14th hosted by the Columbine Norwegian Elkhound Association. Performance events and a supported entry were put on by Columbine, and the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America held its Futurity/Maturity and sponsored a supported entry as well.

Longtime breeder-exhibitors Marie Peterson (of Windy Cove) and Nelson Huber (of Valdemar) judged Columbine’s specialty and sweeps, respectively. There were 66 dogs, with a total of 91 entries. This was a wonderful entry, considering the low entry numbers we have been experiencing recently. It seems that the Columbine folks and the national’s committee did a great job hosting a wonderful Elkhound weekend.

Our breed’s national is held every two years. A number of years ago, in an attempt to provide a yearly venue for breeders, the Futurity/Maturity and specialty weekend was established. The motivation was to provide NEAA members with a yearly opportunity to evaluate breeding stock from across the country, prompted by the idea that an event only every two years did not benefit the breed. There have been several attempts to eliminate the Events Weekend and return to only even-year nationals. The latest vote from the