

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



## Extended Breed Standard of **THE PORTUGUESE PODENGO**

Produced by

The Australian National Kennel Council

Standard adopted by FCI 2008  
Standard adopted by ANKC 2010  
FCI Standard No 94  
Breed Standard Extension adopted by the ANKC 2010

Copyright Australian National Kennel Council 2010  
Country of Origin: Portugal

Extended Standards are compiled purely for the purpose of training Australian judges and students of the breed.

In order to comply with copyright requirements of authors, artists and photographers of material used, the contents must not be copied for commercial use or any other purpose. Under no circumstances may the Standard or Extended Standard be placed on the Internet without written permission of the ANKC.

## **HISTORY OF THE BREED**

The Portuguese Podengo's probable origin, like all other Mediterranean prick-eared breeds, is from unspecified, primitive dogs used for various game (all once called 'kelb tal-fenek' or 'rabbit dogs') obtained and distributed by Phoenician traders during their navigations of Africa in 600 BC. They reached the Iberian Peninsula and the land that later became Portugal in the 8th Century BC (evidence of 8th Century BC Phoenician presence in Portugal has been found under Lisbon Cathedral, which was built in 1147). They traded and travelled extensively in this land, which was between their famous city of Gadir (Cádiz) in Iberia and Cornwall, England (where they obtained the valuable tin needed to make bronze). They also moved goods via river transport from their Iberian trading cities as well as storing goods safely on the island of Ibiza. It is entirely possible that the Phoenicians brought dogs with them to these areas at that time as it is very likely that hunting dogs were a valuable commodity for them. When the Moorish (North African) invaded and occupied the Iberian Peninsula (from the early 8th Century to the late 15th Century) they probably brought their own version of these primitive dogs with them, which would have further influenced and refined Iberian breeds such as the Podengo in Portugal, Podengo Galego in Spain and the Charnigue Hound (or Charnègre Hound) in France.

The Portuguese Podengo was developed with six varieties (consisting of two coat types, short and smooth or long and wire, and each with three sizes small, medium and large), each suited to different climates, terrain, type of prey and hunting style. Each is a very versatile hunter and companion that use all of its senses combined with agility, speed and endurance, running singly or in packs. The wire coat variety is better suited for hotter climates with its more open coat texture which provides better cooling and the smooth variety is better suited for cooler climates with its tighter, denser coat which provides better insulation.

The Grande (large) 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 (medium) 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.

The Pequeno (small) was also developed for flushing rabbits from cover. It is also a good vermin exterminator and was probably kept on board explorer ships when the Portuguese initiated the European worldwide explorations in the 15th and 16th centuries.

## DO YOU KNOW THE PORTUGUESE PODENGO?



The Portuguese Podengo is the Portuguese national breed. It is very fast and agile and extremely durable. Podengos exist in three sizes, small, medium and large. Each has two hair types – smooth haired and wire haired - for a total of six varieties. The Portuguese Podengo Grande (large) height: 55-70cm; the Portuguese Podengo Medio (medium); Height: 40- 54cm, weight: 16-20kg; and the Portuguese Podengo Pequeno (small) height: 20-30 cm, weight: 4-5 kg

The Podengo Pequeno (small) height at the shoulder is only 20-30cm which makes him a very handy dog, and yet he is a hardy hunter. This smaller variation of the Portuguese Podengo Medio (medium) was bred for hunting. It chases the rabbits out of the tiny rock ledges, and the Podengo Medio would follow them on the flat ground.

The smaller Podengo is a variation of the medium sized Podengo but without losing any of its other characteristics. Not much attention was paid to colour or tone of coat. The Podengo may be uni-coloured with occasional white markings, and his colour can vary from a rich red to a light sandy colour or even black. His coat may be short and shiny or longer and rough.



*Small Smooth Podengo hunting*

Due to its friendly and agile disposition and its small agile size, the small variety is suitable for town life.

The Podengo breed is extensively free of any genetic defects. The Podengo is a happy, attentive, agile, friendly as well as fearless dog. It is easy to keep, only barks occasionally, is very attached, and friendly with children and other dogs. It requires exercise and attention and likes to play. It is a very fast learner.



*Large Wire Podengo*

Historically speaking, the two above mentioned forms of the Podengo are the smaller types of the original greyhound like Portuguese Podengo Grande (Large) which has sadly become very rare nowadays. The breed goes back as early as the ancient times. The Pequeno was originally used for catching rats and other small animals. Later he was used in combination with the medium. Even though the small is still being used for hunting, it also has been regarded as a household pet for as long as three centuries.

The Portuguese Podengo to this day maintains the characteristics of its early ancestors. The selection of the breed has been made naturally thanks to the absence of human intervention. It is a natural breed adapted to the environment and hunter functionality. The designation of Primitive Breed is recognized by the Federation Cinologique International (FCI) in the fifth group of "Dogs from Spitz type and Primitive type." The Podengo is adapted perfectly to the climate, as well as to the form of Portuguese life. It has a lively character and a resistant and healthy body.



## Geographical distribution

While today we find Podengos in the whole national territory, their number is greatest in High Alentejo, Estremadura and in the area north of the Douro River. This geographical distribution appears to be the result of incursions of merchants along the rivers Douro and Tejo.

The small Podengo (Podengo Pequeno) is more likely to be found in the centre of the country along the Tejo River and in the high Alentejo. The medium Podengo (Podengo Medio) can be found in larger numbers in the north along the Douro River and in the centre along the Tejo. The large Podengo (Podengo Grande) is found most often in Alentejo near the border, given its exclusive use in the thick hunt. In the north one finds more smooth-haired Podengos, and in south, more wire-haired.

## Functionality



To this day, the Podengo has retained his innate aptitude for hunting. Historically the poorer population hunts for subsistence, which is why the Podengo is such a popular breed. It is rustic and resistant, used to privations and linked to poor people survival since the most historically remote times. This connection might have caused some problems for the breed's acceptance. But today, the Podengo has succeeded to claim its place in Portugal and the world, thanks to hunters and breeders. Podengo now reach excellent classifications in highly competitive national and international exhibitions.

The Small Podengo has been known for centuries. It was used initially to hunt mice, controlling the vermin in the houses, barns and even in the caravels - which is why it has travelled the world!



The Podengo small has a special aptitude for hunting under the soil, pursuing badgers, foxes and bag-tails. It was used to enter in the burrows and frighten the quarry, or to kill them directly. That's why it is courageous, smart and lively. Characteristics that we see to this day.

But above all, the Podengo is a fearsome rabbit hunter, often used in impenetrable areas, sneaking out from among vegetation and rifts in the rocks. It is known as a "last-resource," exploring where other dogs won't go.



Evolution today. The Podengo – Dog that hunt rabbits – had the first written reference in 1199 in the reign of King D. Sancho I. Since then, there are several references in historical records. This breed was also used in the real and nobility hunts as well as being diffused into the general population.

This breed was present in the first canine exhibitions held in Portugal in 1902. Since then, its presence has grown until the present time. In the first Portuguese Book of Origins, LOP; edited in 1956, there appear 29 Podengo of the several varieties. The Standard of the breed was approved in 1955. It adopted the three sizes and two varieties, except in the small ones, only with smooth-haired. In 1978 the standard was changed, to finally include the small wire-haired Podengo.



For the record, since 1000 A. D., the Podengo has retained the characteristics that it presents.

*Medium Wire-haired*



Fig. 1. Medium

## **BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

Primitive type dog, it probably originates from the ancient dogs brought by the Phoenicians and Romans to the Iberian Peninsula in the Classic Antiquity. It was subsequently influenced by the introduction of dogs accompanying the Moors in their invasions in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. It adapted to the Portuguese terrain and climate, to become what is nowadays known as the Portuguese Warren Hound. It evolved morphologically throughout the centuries due to its functionality, with the small variety being selected, from the 15<sup>th</sup> century on, as a ratter on the Caravels of the Portuguese navigators.

## **! GENERAL APPEARANCE**

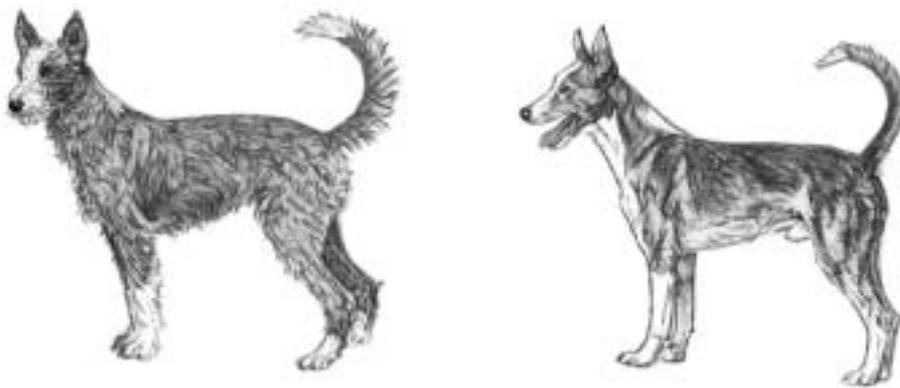
***Quadrangular pyramidal head, with erect ears, sickle shaped tail, well proportioned, with sound construction and well muscled; very lively and intelligent; sober and rustic. It exists in three sizes, with two varieties of coat: smooth and wire.***

This breed is in three sizes – large, medium and small, all with two coat types smooth and wire. The large and medium varieties are almost square, with a ratio of length of body to height at the withers eleven to ten. The small variety is slightly longer with a ratio of length of body/height at the withers: 6/5. All varieties depth of chest is half the height at the withers. All with length of muzzle slightly shorter than length of skull. Head, lean shaped like a four-sided pyramid with a large base, diminishing considerably towards its pointed end. Longitudinal axes of the skull and foreface diverge (not parallel planes nor with planes coming towards each other).

Any sign of cross breeding either with sighthounds, pointing breeds or with any other breeds are clearly eliminating faults.



Fig. 2. Small Smooth Coated



## ! IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

***Large and Medium-sized Podengo:*** Almost square (Sub-mediolinear) of large or medium substance respectively. Ratio of length of body to height at the withers: 11/10 and depth of chest to height at withers: 1/2.

***Small Podengo:*** Body slightly longer than high (Sub-longilinear), of small stature. The length of the body is slightly more than the height at withers with a ratio – length of body/height at the withers: 6/5 and depth of chest /height at withers: 1/2.

***In all varieties, the muzzle length is less than the skull length.***

## ! BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

***Large Podengo:*** used for hunting big game.

***Medium Podengo:*** also known as Warren Hound, its natural aptitude as a rabbit hunter is well used, hunting either in a pack or alone.

***Small Podengo:*** used for searching rabbits in holes and rocks.

***All varieties are also used as watch dogs and as companion dogs.***

The Small Podengo is today used as a companion dog, with excellent results, thanks to his obedient character and affectionate nature. The Podengo maintains a great resistance to diseases or genetic defects and demands very little maintenance. The hair has only one layer and presents obvious advantages during shedding. The breed has a great variety of colours and satisfies different tastes. Because of its size, health, coat and personality, the Small Podengo adapts easily to apartments and to the city as well as country living. This is a distinct advantage when compared to the more traditional companion dogs.

The Medium Podengo is an excellent hunter of rabbits; there is no equal in this activity. His physical aspect serves as a reference for the breed, and the Large Podengo is his extension. The Medium Podengo is superb at following clues and is able to hunt individually and also in a group. In a group or on his own, the Medium Podengo combines a sense of smell and very select hearing. It is very strong physically and is capable of enduring high temperatures. Training is not necessary, as it has an instinctive aptitude for the hunting. When hunting, the Podengo emits a bark called "sing" or "maticar. The Medium's character is more independent and reserved than that of the Small, although it is used equally as watchdog and companion. This versatility is proven through the use of medium Portuguese Podengo in television series and American films such as "Zeus and Roxanne", "Three Wishes", "Dante's Peak", "Soccer Dog", and "Second-hand Lions".

The Large Podengo is used to hunt big animals, like the boar. To this day it continues to hunt in this manner, although it has suffered strong decreases since the 1970s due to the agricultural and forest policies of Portugal. Currently, we are seeing a resurgence of the Large Podengo, in the two varieties, protected by two breeders who saved the Large from extinction. It works in packs and follows tracks, being considered an excellent dog in the thick hunt, at times sacrificing of its own life. The Large Podengo Grande is most often seen in Alentejo near the border, perfectly adapted to the dry and hot climate of the South.

Any sign of shyness should be regarded as a fault and overly shyness is an eliminating fault. Aggression is also a eliminating fault.

## **! HEAD AND SKULL**

*Lean and of a quadrangular pyramid shape, with large base and definite pointed muzzle. The longitudinal superior cranium-facial axes are divergent.*

*Skull: Flat; almost straight in profile; prominent superciliary arches; scarcely perceptible frontal furrow; the area between the ears is horizontal with prominent occipital protuberance. Cheeks: Lean and obliquely set, seen from the front. Stop: Barely defined. Muzzle: Pointed; curved seen from the front, with a straight profile; shorter than the skull; broader at the base than at the tip. Nose: Tapered and obliquely truncated, prominent at the tip; of darker colour than the coat. Lips: Close fitting, thin; firm, horizontally cut and well pigmented.*

Head lean, shaped like a four-sided pyramid with a large base, diminishing considerably towards its pointed end.

Skull flat, almost straight in profile. Superciliary ridges prominent. Frontal groove hardly perceptible; the region between the ears horizontal; occipital bone prominent. Stop barely defined. Tapering towards the slightly protruding tip; frontal plane of the nose slightly slanting.

Partial pigmentation is regarded as a fault and total lack of pigmentation as a severe fault.

Longitudinal axes of the skull and foreface are divergent. This means parallel planes of the head are incorrect and indeed are regarded as a fault. Equally convergence of the two planes are listed as a severe fault. Hence the planes of the head must divert from each other.

Fig. 3. Heads of the Varieties

### HEAD IN DETAIL

Lean, shaped like a four-sided pyramid with a large base, diminishing considerably towards its pointed end. Longitudinal axes of the skull and foreface divergent.

**Skull:** Flat, almost straight in profile. Superciliary ridges prominent. Frontal groove hardly perceptible; the region between the ears horizontal; occipital bone prominent. Stop barely defined.

**Nose:** Tapering towards the slightly protruding tip; frontal plane of the nose slightly slanting.



Large



Medium



Small

### ! EYES

*Very lively expression; not prominent; they are small and slanted with the colour ranging from honey to brown, in accordance with the coat; lids darker than the coat colour.*

Small, slanted eyes almond shaped and not prominent, the colour of the eye should blend with the coat from brown to honey. Eyes of different colour are an eliminating fault.



*Fig. 4. Correct eyes and ears*

## **! EARS**

***Set on obliquely at the level of the eyes; straight, erect, with high mobility; vertical or tilting slightly forward, when attentive; pointed, wider at the base, triangular; thin, of considerable length, more than the width at the base.***

Obliquely set at eye level of considerable length, greater than the width at the base. It is important that the ear be vertical or tilts slightly forward. The ear should be triangular in shape, pointed and thin in texture.

Rounded ears are a fault. Folded or hanging ears are eliminating faults.

## **! MOUTH**

***Normal with scissors bite, with solid, white teeth; normal occlusion of both jaws. Full dentition in the large variety.***

The teeth should be very strong, white and with a perfect regular and complete scissor bite, for example the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaw. Incorrect occlusion or badly implanted teeth, pincer bite and incomplete dentition in the large variety are all faults. Undershot or overshot bites are regarded as a eliminating faults.

## **! NECK**

***In a harmonious transition from head to body; straight; long; well proportioned, strong and well muscled; without dewlap.***

The neck should be strong, straight, long with plenty of muscle, fitting gracefully into the body and joining the head without sharp angles. The dog should be completely free of throatiness. An arched neck is a fault.

## ! FOREQUARTERS

*Upright when seen from front and sides; well muscled and lean. Shoulder: Long; inclined; strong and well muscled; scapula-humerus angle, approximately 110°. Elbow: Parallel to the main line of the body. Forearm: Vertical; long and well muscled. Carpus (Pastern joint): Lean and not prominent. Metacarpus (Pastern): Short; strong; slightly inclined.*

The shoulders must be laid back, muscular but not loaded. The points of the scapulae should be fairly close at the withers. The elbows should be parallel to the main line of the body. The forelegs should be straight with good and long bone. Pasterns should be strong, short, slightly sloping and flexible.

Dewclaws are regarded as a fault.



Fig. 5. Small smooth

## ! BODY

*Top line: Straight, level. Withers: Only slightly visible in relation to the neck and back. Back: Straight and long. Loin: Straight; broad and well muscled. Croup: Straight or slightly sloping; medium sized; broad and well muscled. Chest: Down to the elbows; of moderate width; long, with the sternum rising back and up; ribs slightly sprung and inclined; forechest neither too apparent nor too muscled and of moderate width. Underline and belly: Slightly tucked up; lean belly and flanks.*

The topline is straight and level. Forechest slightly accentuated, muscular, not too wide; chest deep and long, of medium width; long sternum rising towards rear; ribs hardly rounded, oblique. An arched topline and a croup with too much slope are both regarded as faults. Too much tuck up in the belly is a severe fault.

Length of body exceeds height at withers as follows:

Large and Medium-sized Podengo: Almost square ratio of length of body to height at the withers: 11/10 and depth of chest to height at withers: 1/2.

Small Podengo: Body slightly longer than high. The length of the body is slightly more than the height at withers with a ratio – length of body/height at the withers: 6/5 and depth of chest /height at withers: 1/2.



Fig. 6. Small smooth



Fig. 7. Small wire

## ! HINDQUARTERS

***Upright when seen from back and sides, well muscled and lean, parallel to the main body line. Thigh long, of medium width, well muscled. Stifle joint: Femur-tibia angle approximately 135°. Second thigh: Inclined, long, lean, strong, well muscled. Hock: Of medium height, lean, strong, open hock angle, approximately 135°. Metatarsus (rear pastern): Strong, short, inclined, without dewclaws.***

Hindquarters straight and parallel when viewed from the rear. Well muscled, clean. Upper thigh long and of medium width.

Rear pastern strong, short and when standing naturally slightly inclined towards the front – not completely vertical.

Dewclaws are regarded as a fault.

## ! FEET

***Forefeet: Rounded, long toes, strong, tight and arched, with strong and preferably dark nails, tough and firm pads.***

***Hind feet: Rounded, long toes, strong, tight and arched, short and strong nails, preferably dark, tough and firm pads.***

The whole nail should be dark, with firm thick pads. The feet should be rounded, with well arched, but long toes. Flat feet are objectionable.

Fig. 8. Small smooth



## ! TAIL

*Natural, set on rather higher than low; strong, thick and thinning to the tip, of medium length; at rest falls slightly curved between the buttocks down to the hocks, in action it rises horizontally either slightly curved or vertically in sickle shape, but never curled, fringed on the underside.*

Set on high rather than low. Strong, thick and of medium length tapering towards a fine point; in repose hanging low with the tip slightly curved upwards; in movement carried horizontally with a slight upward curve or carried upright in sickle shape. Never curled up into a ring shape, such a tail is regarded as a severe fault.



*Fig. 9. Small smooth*

## ! GAIT/MOVEMENT

*Light trot, easy and agile movement.*

Light trotting action. When trotting the feet tend to come closer together at ground level as speed increases, but when the dog comes to rest it stands four square. Movement should be free and tireless, the dog must have the ability to turn at speed.



## MOVEMENT *continued*



Fig. 10. Breed in action

### ! COAT

***SKIN:*** Thin and tight. Mucous membranes preferably dark pigmented or always darker than the coat.

***HAIR:*** Two varieties: Either short and smooth or long and wire - both of medium thickness; without undercoat. The short coat is denser than the wire coat. In the wire variety the hair on the muzzle is longer (bearded).

Contrary to what one would think, the smooth-haired dogs are more adapted to a rainy climate, because they dry quickly, while the wire-haired ones need a drier climate, so as not to accumulate water inside the hair. Hence, the smooth-haired avoids pneumonia and the wire-haired is naturally protected against excessive sun and heat.

Mucous membranes preferably with black pigment or in any case darker than coat colour. Skin thin and close fitting.

Silky coat and/or with undercoat are faults.

## PORTUGUESE PODENGO – SMALL WIREHAIR



*Fig. 11. Small wire haired*



## PORTUGUESE PODENGO – MEDIUM



*Fig. 12. Medium*



## PORTUGUESE PODENGO – LARGE



*Fig. 13. Large*



## ! COLOUR

*Yellow and fawn in all shades from light to dark, with or without white markings, or white with patches of these colours.*

*In the Small Podengo, the following colours are accepted but not preferred: black, brown, with or without white markings or white with patches of these colours.*

The most common hair colours of Portuguese Podengo are the Fawn and Yellow, both with the tones, Dark, Common and Clear.

The Fawn and Yellow Podengo, in their several tones, are the majority of the population.

The dogs can have only one of these colours/tones or have also white marks. Also frequent are the white with marks of the tones previously referred.

The less common colours/tones, even considered rare are: Brown, Red, Rose, Black and Ash/Grey.

Brindle; black and tan; tricolour and totally white colours are all eliminating faults.



*Dark Fawn*



*Common Fawn*



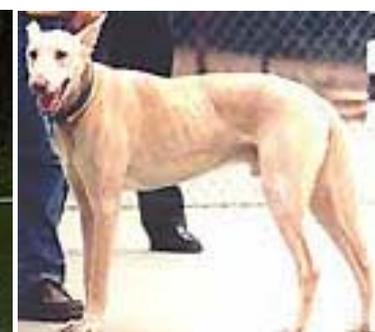
*Clear Fawn*



*Dark Yellow*



*Common Yellow*



*Clear Yellow*

## PORTUGUESE PODENGO COLOURS



*White spots*



*Colour with white*



*White with colour*



*Brown*

*Figure 14 Various colours and combinations*



*Red*



*Rose*



*Grey*



*Black*

## ! HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

### *Weight*

*Small: 4 to 6 kg*

*Medium: 16 to 20 kg*

*Large: 20 to 30 kg*

### *Height*

*Small: 20 to 30 cm*

*Medium: 40 to 54 cm*

*Large: 55 to 70 cm*

### PORTUGUESE PODENGO - Small smooth haired



*Fig. 15. Small smooth haired*



### PORTUGUESE PODENGO - Medium



*Fig. 16. Medium*

## **! 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 and its effects on the health and welfare of the dog.*

*Behaviour: Signs of shyness.*

*Cranium/Muzzle: Parallel longitudinal superior cranium-facial axes.*

*Jaws: Incorrect occlusion or badly implanted teeth; pincer bite; incomplete dentition in the large variety.*

*Nose: Partial lack of pigmentation.*

*Neck: Arched.*

*Body: Arched top line.*

*Croup: Too sloping.*

*Dewclaws: Their existence is not appreciated.*

*Coat: Silky and/or with undercoat.*

### **SEVERE FAULTS:**

*Cranium/Muzzle: Convergent superior cranium-facial axes.*

*Nose: Total lack of pigmentation.*

*Ears: Rounded.*

*Belly: Too tucked up.*

*Tail: Curled.*

### **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

*Behaviour: Aggressive or overly shy.*

*General Appearance: Signs of crossbreeding to sighthounds, pointing breeds or any other crossbreeding.*

*Jaws: Undershot or overshot.*

*Eyes: Of different colours.*

*Ears: Folded or hanging.*

*Colour: Brindle; black and tan; tricolour and totally white.*

*Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.*

## **! NOTE**

*Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Translation by the Portuguese Kennel Club.

Revised by Jennifer Mulholland and Renée Sporre-Willes.