



LE PODENCO

Who is he? Is he really a dog for you?

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THE LINK

The demanding nature of the primitive in the bond of trust. What does “demanding nature” mean exactly?

In canine energy and behavior, we can see four general types of link to man. The absorption, the copy, gift and protection. You're a human who lacks confidence: Some races like

the retrievers absorb, and will try to cure you, even if it means taking your ailments. Others, like the shepherds, copy and will gradually create the same emotional responses as you. And then there are the primitive people, who protect themselves, and cut the link so as not to affect their great sensitivity. There are of course exceptions, because individuality prevails, but they are recurring patterns.

So what you have to understand is that you can't choose to adopt a Podenco if you're not someone confident, stable and calm. You must be calm and straight in your gestures, your voice, your emotions, your trust in us because if you're not a stable mark of trust right down to your emotions, your Podenco will never trust you. Trust is not affection, he will probably accept your proximity, your caresses, but you will never be his referent in all circumstances. And that is dangerous. It can create insecurity, and many other disorders.

You must also understand that gaining the trust of a podenco is a long process. As I was able to discuss it with Huskies or Akitas owners, the link is established over time, over several years, by having had the repeated opportunity to prove to them that we were trustworthy. To prove we know how to manage the environment, that their needs are respected, interactions are positive, rich, and they are not allowed to get into difficulty, that our framework is immutable but learned in gentleness and respect.

The Podenco is an equal, a binomial. He is proud, he doesn't really consider himself a dog, so we tend to forget all education in pain or duress. For all that, it is necessary to be coherent and inflexible, because they're terribly opportunistic. So, we play, we seduce them, we redirect them. We always move forward with respect, and above all, we don't forget to educate them. Yes, they will be able to learn things, even if it's long, even by indirect means. But you have to understand that they're not dogs that live to please us. However, for the human who has proven its value, the connection is incredible. They communicate with a lot of subtlety, they observe, we anticipate. They don't wait for demand; they create a situation in which everyone feels good. They know us better than we know ourselves and force us to become better. They are attentive, and above all of infinite fidelity. It's long, yes. But when you love that subtle, deep, shed relationship with the dog, then you're fulfilled. They're poor working dogs, but they're wonderful pairs of life. True consciousness elevators expressing infinite love.



THE OUTDOOR

He is not only a sighthound, his ancient origins and his rustic behaviour make him a primitive hunter. That is, a dog that has been selected for thousands of years to hunt. And to hunt independently, in arid territories. He is a dog close to his environment, he needs nature, exploration. Tracking, stalking. The nose on the ground, his senses on alert, nature is for him the most beautiful playground.

They are emotionally independent, strong dogs. They don't mark easily, and adapt quickly. To sum up, as soon as the Podenco is outside, it finds all that is most rustic in him.

So what does that mean in concrete terms, in their everyday life? It means that you forget the idea of having a dog waiting for you on a walk, watching you every two minutes. You're forgetting the idea of having a dog that will naturally follow the paths, the trails, you, or your horse. These are dogs that by their ability to get away quickly and far away is going to be in jeopardy. Because our modern life, made up of roads, traps, poison, others, theft, cannot match this exploratory and determined nature.

It is a dog that cannot be unleashed everywhere, not all the time. Some will be more easily detached, others never. Smaller breeds (Andalusian, Portuguese) have been selected for more docility, and proximity to man in the hunt, and will be much easier for first-time adopters.

The Podenco is therefore a special walking companion. You don't let your life go on, nose to the phone, by hoping he's keeping an eye on us, no. You learn how to enter his world. Even at the end of a tether, or... of a line. We change our perception of the dog, and we let him guide us. Looking at nature through their eyes and finding wonderful things in them. Forgetting the trails, and the poor environments, to seek the most beautiful energies like him.

It means accepting to work on his bond with us in the long term, it means accepting that there will be days and trips in the future. liberties, and weeks tied up.

Tied up doesn't mean deprived of liberty, not if you get lost together and go exploring. Not if the tether is big, fast pace. Not if the walks are rich, varied, intense. Not if the walk is a link between you, and not a hindrance.

To have a Podenco is accepting to change the way you look at walks, at the outside. It is accepting to make safety first, and to learn to follow and guide each other, to explore but keep the link, to stay focus, and not over months, but over years.



INSIDE / WITH OTHERS / ADOPTION

Now I've come to my favorite side of Podenco. The greyhound that is inside him, and that reveals itself once he enters a cozy place. These are real divas on a sofa. While some dogs like their quiet corner, most of them are close to the man, and will love to snuggle under a plaid, against you. Not very barking and patient, they will appreciate the day's naps. The Podenco does not like rain or cold, so rainy Sundays will be much more appreciated on the couch. Not too early, not too late, not too fast, the Podenco likes to take its time. And for this reason it is ideal for people who love hiking as much as they love a nap. It is a happy but delicate dog. Snobbish, but gentle. He is discreet but observant, extremely opportunistic. One should avoid leaving food under his nose... With the others, he's great. If the primitive likes to play loudly and abruptly, he knows how to adapt and communicates very well with his fellow creatures. The younger ones will surely need to be framed in excitement, but they are dogs that run away from conflict. They are born and grow up in a "pack", cohabitation with other dogs is quite obvious to them.

Be careful though.

When you adopt, you're taking in an inhibited dog. Protective behaviour that is both survival and emotional, your dog's behaviour will evolve for at least a year. If he follows you everywhere, even on walks for 3, 4, 5 months, this will change quickly. They will reveal their character as confidence builds. Dogs that have missed can be shy, marked, a bit thieving, a bit protective. It is advisable to choose its association well to be advised as well as possible on your future companion, so it corresponds to your expectations, and especially with the Podenco in general. Never take anything for granted, be regular, coherent, stable and confident so that your Podenco walks proudly and with confidence by your side, far from its life of wandering and abuse.

They are wonderful dogs. They are not everyone's dog and that's something we must all respect. Just as the sheepdog is demanding, just as the terrier is demanding, they all have their specificities that make me say that no dog is to be put in all hands. It corresponds to the way of functioning of some people, and not others. The most important thing is to be aware of what you can give, of how you want to consider your relationship with the dog, by being honest with yourself, not blinded by physical preferences or fads. There is one, animal souls that you will make happy and fulfilled, take the time to find them.