



## Breed presentation

### Podenco.

It is important to understand that one dog is not another. Linked to his living environment, his own history, his bond with his humans, it is difficult to establish a fixed profile of a dog of the same breed. Those who have lived with many dogs of the same type for years can testify that, in the end, there is a huge variety of personalities, but also of evolutions and changes in contact with different environments.

However, there are similarities, generalities that should be taken into consideration. Why is this so? Because humans always have expectations and constraints with regard to their future life companion. So, a cynological approach, an understanding of the behavioural patterns associated with selection and generalities help to project oneself in a responsible and adapted adoption project. Just to say that we don't expect from a dog anything really opposed to its natural functioning and its nature.

Then, these main lines are not valid for all the podencos to the adoption nor all the adopted podencos, they are not immutable and fixed features. We propose rather a questioning of its own expectations, an understanding which starts from the animal to reach us, to confront us with the constraints that we are then able to accept or the points on which it is difficult to reconcile. The goal: To accompany a committed decision by helping you to better imagine yourself alongside these very special dogs. ♥

The podenco is a primitive breed and a greyhound. A dog whose origins go back to more than 3000 years. Descendants of the Egyptian dogs, close cousins of the Cinerco del Etna and Pharaoh's dogs, these long-eared Spanish canines come in several breeds, could we say types? Canary, Ibizan, Portuguese, Andalusian, big, small, long, short-haired, wire-haired... They are distinguished by their unique face, their pink or brown nose and their big straight ears.

For all these years, podencos are selected to be formidable hunters. Able to use their sight, their smell and to combine speed and endurance, they are determined dogs with a complete predation sequence: They kill and can eat the caught preys. They hunt in packs, without their hunter, in total freedom on infinite desert areas. For the podenco, the human is bully. Maltreating, the hunters abuse, damage and throw away these dogs-tools. Then, inevitably, there are consequences to that in the everyday life.



## Breed presentation

### With people

In their bond with humans, for example. How can we expect them to have a perfect impregnation and natural trust in humans? Of course, most of them will appreciate quickly the affection, the petting and the attention. But affection is not trust and it takes time before a podenco considers that a human is trustworthy, able to manage correctly its environment, its resources and to ensure its safety. Modesty and acceptance, this is what they ask their adopters. To accept the part of animality in them, this natural distrust, their way of listening first to their survival instinct. Choosing to flee or to protect, these are reflexes that can last long after an adoption. Our world and our codes are sometimes far from the life they have known, or to which they were destined, and from this comes a requirement that they have in the link to the human.

The podencos need coherence according to their dog's look. "Why should I walk quickly stuck to the leg of my human, when I discover my environment with my nose on the ground? Why does he ask me to sit and stay still, when I need to be able to move to communicate and feel safe?" Rethink your relationship with the dog by taking into account their way of perceiving the world. To accompany without forcing, to frame without constraining, to suggest, to divert, without shouting or frightening. It is up to us, pawrents, to find the balance between acclimatization and respect of their authenticity, because each individual will be different.

To be consistent is also to be consistent in their emotions. Sensitive dogs, they capture everything about you, with them it is impossible to cheat. A peak of stress can be felt as strongly as a scream, and anxiety is contagious. It is important to be a pillar of stability and trust that they can rely on. Your consistency and patience will always be the foundation for a calming relationship and a strengthened trust.

For the human who will have proven their worth, the bond is incredible. They communicate with great subtlety, they observe, they anticipate us. They do not wait for the request but create a situation in which everyone feels good. They know us better than we know ourselves and push us to become better. They are attentive, and above all, infinitely faithful. It is sometimes long, yes. But when you like this relationship with the dog, subtle, deep, in the questioning, then is fulfilled.

### Outside

The podenco is a dog close to his environment, he needs contact with nature, exploration. To track, to hunt. The nose on the ground, the senses in alert, the nature is for him the most beautiful of the playgrounds. Then, the question of release and recall quickly arises. Can we really expect a dog selected to hunt alone for long hours to follow a marked trail or to keep the human in sight? To give up tracking and have no pursuit reflex? No, of course not.

This is a dog that cannot be unleashed everywhere, not all the time. Some can be untied more easily, others never. The small breeds (Andalusian, Portuguese) having been selected for more docility, and proximity of the man in the hunt, are often more "suitable" for a first adoption. The podenco is therefore a particular companion of walk. We do not let him do his thing, nose on the phone, hoping that he keeps an eye on us, no. We learn to be part of his world. Even at the



## Breed presentation

end of a tether. We change our perception of the dog, and we let him guide us. To look at nature with his eyes is to find wonderful things. To forget the paths, and the poor environments, to seek like him the most beautiful energies. It is to accept to work on his connection to us in the long run, it is to accept that there will be days and walks in freedom and weeks attached. Tied up does not mean deprived of freedom, not if there are two of you to get lost, to explore. Not if the tether is long, the pace is steady. Not if the rides are rich, varied, intense. Not if the leash is a link between you, and not a constraint. To have a podenco is to accept to change its glance on the walks, the outside. It is to accept to put security first, and to learn to follow and guide each other, to explore but keep the bond, to guide each other, and not over months, but over years.

This degree of predation and this relationship to the outside world is specific to each individual, but we cannot adopt hoping to find an exception; it is better in this case to choose a dog already in a foster home whose behavior is known. There is no harm in choosing another dog, another breed, another story. The ultimate goal is that the dog that comes into your home never leaves.

### Daily life

There is so much to say, but let's keep it short. The podenco is often gently mocked by the owners of other sighthounds - often more clean, noble and measured. Yes, he barks, he does not fear the mud or the brambles that scratch his muzzle when he looks for a mouse. He digs, he expresses himself, he is opportunist, then a little clown and sometimes mischievous too. He sometimes plays by growling loudly, by running fast, by barking. It is a dog that joyfully throws its paws in the air to welcome you, or that presents its hindquarters directly to get scratches.

On cold or rainy days they often prefer the warmth of the home, wrapped in a blanket and snuggled up to their humans or buddies. Used to living in a "pack", most of them live wonderfully in community, they are respectful and well coded dogs. Mostly calm indoors and lively outdoors, they are a versatile breed with great adaptability.

Unique. They are one of a kind, they are fabulous life companions, filled with infinite love. Their resilience leaves no one indifferent, as well as their history of martyrdom in Spain and on French soil. They are dogs that only ask to take a worthy place at our side.

They are wonderful dogs. But they are not everyone's dog. It is not everyone's dog, and that is perfectly fine. Just as the sheepdog is challenging, just as the terrier is challenging, just as the crossbreed in the shelters, all have their specificities that make no dog to be put in all hands. It corresponds to some people, and not others. The most important thing is to be aware of what you can give, how you want to see your relationship with the dog, being honest with yourself, and not blinded by physical preferences, fashion effects or a biased vision of yourself. After all, they will welcome you as you are.





## Breed presentation

---

*Be careful though.*

*When you adopt, you are taking in an inhibited dog. Protective behavior both survival and emotional, your dog presents a behavior that will evolve for at least a year. If he follows you everywhere, even on a walk for 3, 4, 5 months, it will change. They will reveal their character at the same time that trust is established. Dogs that are missing can be fearful, marked, a little thief, a little protector. It is advisable to choose well its association to advise you at best on your future companion, so that it corresponds to your expectations, and especially with the podenco in general: Never take anything for granted, be regular, consistent, stable and confident so that your podenco walks proudly and confidently at your side, far from its life of wandering and abuse.*



## Breed presentation

### REMINDER ON THE PHYSICAL STANDARD OF THE PODENCO: OUR DOGS ARE NOT SKINNY!

A little health information; We do not target anyone but we see more and more overweight sighthounds so we take the opportunity to remind the damage of overweight, and what is a podenco in shape.

-

Applies to all large sighthounds, so the podenco. (Not quite the same for smaller ones but the idea is the same).

"Large sighthounds have a long, powerful neck, a muscular, rather slender chest, with a flexible spine that has a surge of several vertebrae at the waist, which is supported by strong, muscular rear legs. This breed has a unique body structure that, at the peak of its physical fitness, can propel itself at speeds of over 60 km/h. Like all creatures of nature, the sighthound is built in such a way that all vital parts work together cohesively, providing optimal longevity and quality of life.

A perfectly healthy sighthound naturally has prominent bones in certain areas, which may suggest that he is undernourished when in fact he is at his ideal weight. The ends of the hip bones should be slightly pronounced, the outline of the ribs visible and the back vertebrae located at the point of flexion of the spine. The heart and joints are also naturally designed to effortlessly handle the slender physique of a sighthound, whereas they will struggle to carry the extra pounds of an overweight sighthound. Moving from a prone position to a static position will require more effort and will also put additional strain on the entire body.

Despite their natural athleticism, sighthounds are unfortunately susceptible to becoming obese, as are other breeds, if they are overfed. Fortunately, the sighthound is not predisposed to being overweight and should therefore not be encouraged to become so. This is the owner's responsibility. Note that the gross weight is not an absolute, since muscle mass is heavier than fat.

In the long term, obesity has a lasting impact on health, with the emergence of arthritis, osteoarthritis, heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney disease, diabetes and the appearance of fatty tumors. In addition, breathing difficulties develop when excess fat in the chest prevents the lungs from fully expanding. In some cases, excess fat in the abdomen compresses the diaphragm, thereby reducing the space in the chest for the lungs to expand. This condition is further exacerbated by the fact that the extra weight places additional demands on lung activity. In this context, physical activities that are natural for a sighthound, such as running and playing, inevitably become dangerous, as the dog will no longer be able to expel the body heat generated during the physical activity through the lungs.

In addition to the long-term health consequences, obesity also affects the dog's quality of life. Many dogs experience discomfort or become intolerant and lethargic due to the joint pain caused





## Breed presentation

by being overweight. When inactive, dogs become mentally bored, which can lead to anxiety and even destructiveness."

### ILLUSTRATION

*Podenco too skinny:*



*Overweight / Obese Podenco:*







## Breed presentation

*Ideal morphology:*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

This document has been written according to our approach, our values and in relation to our work. It does not pretend to be the word of a single truth, nor does it oppose the discourse of other associations or professionals.

Contact : [sospodencorecue@gmail.com](mailto:sospodencorecue@gmail.com)