



Smoushond

bitch to a German Shepherd male, and then continued by using close inbreeding, and later also some other female wolves. (The Czech Wolf Dog, Vlčak, is created by using male wolves with GSD bitches.)

The result of Mr Saarloos' breeding programme didn't quite turn out to be what he had been aiming for, although it is a fascinating creature. The wolf is actually cautious, timid and reserved, and these are hardly the desired characteristics for a working dog. Of course the typical wolf features are bound to appear in the wolf crosses. Saarloos did not meet only enthusiasm with his experiments, especially the German Shepherd breeders were strongly against his plans. Saarloos was very stubborn, and in spite of the war and criticism he met, he went on. He even believed that the wolf crosses would be immune to virus diseases.

The last wolf cross was made in the beginning of the sixties. Leendert Saarloos died in 1969, so he did not live long enough to see his dream come true. The breed was finally recognised in 1977.

A wolf cross is not a suitable dog for everyone. He does not necessarily consider a human being as his master, rather an equal member of the pack. An adult wolf dog cannot be re-homed, when you take a puppy, it really



Saarloos



means that you are supposed to keep the dog all his life. They are not friendly to strangers, not aggressive, but reserved and suspicious. One has to understand the behaviour of wild dogs.

The breed club controls the breeding and selling of the puppies very carefully, because in wrong hands this kind of dogs could be dangerous. You cannot just make a phone call and say: "I want to buy a wolf dog." You must be prepared for a very close inspection. If you manage to convince the club that you are a genuine nature lover, maybe you may join the queue.

The Saarloos Wolf Dog is quite a large dog, from 60 to 75 cm at withers. It really looks like a wolf, especially the expression, slightly slanted yellow eyes, completes the wolf-like appearance. Its body is longer than the height at withers, ears erect and the long tail is hanging. The coat is rather short and double. Colour is either solid wolf-grey or forest brown, cream or white. The brown and light coloured ones have naturally brown nose pigmentation. Typical lighter mask and lighter shades appear on the inner side of the limbs, forechest and behind.

The Saarloos Wolf Dog is an impressive and dignified animal, although it may not be the superb working dog Leendert Saarloos had in mind. The owners are not very interested in competitions, shows or working trials, and definitely dislike commercial breeding and all the exaggeration that is nowadays so common in the showdog world.

These three breeds belong to the FCI Group 1, Herding.

Extinct but reconstructed

The Smoushond is one of the rarest breeds in the world. Actually the Smoushond we see to-day is a reconstruction of an already extinct breed. It used to be a gentleman's stable dog. Traditionally the Jewish people in Amsterdam and Rotterdam used to keep small, shaggy dogs. The name of the breed comes probably from the Yiddish language and means bearded, rugged, shaggy. The original Smoushond shared his origins with Schnauzers and Belgian Griffons Bruxellois, maybe some Terriers, too, and his task was to follow the horse and carriage and kill rats at the stables. The colour used to be dirty yellow, brownish or sometimes black and white. The yellow colour was practical, it didn't show any dirt! It is important to remember that in the past the "German Wire-haired Pinscher" often used to be yellow in colour, too. The original Smoushond was small but not short-legged, short-bodied, stocky and his tail was docked, sometimes the ears were cropped, too. The head was hairy, not long but not as short-muzzled as the Griffon Bruxellois or the Affenpinscher.

There were a couple of attempts during the years to revive the breed, but not with any permanent results. In the seventies, when all the old original population had already disappeared, some enthusiasts, Mrs Barkman and Mrs van der Giessen, decided to do it. They found about thirty cross-bred dogs to start with. The health and the character were the most important things for them, less attention was paid to the appearance. The main idea was to make the Smoushond a happy and healthy housedog, as he has always been. So it is obvious that the breed is still very heterogenous, and the looks of each individual can vary quite a lot. Border Terrier crosses in the '80s appeared to be successful to maintain the desired type. Gradually the breed has become more uniform, but the breeding is still strictly controlled and that means also that puppies are not sold to be exported.

The Smoushond is a small, Pinscher-Schnauzer type dog. The height at withers is 35-42 cm. He is square in proportions, covered with rough, wiry, straight and shaggy coat. He must look neither trimmed nor matted. Colour is always solid yellow, straw colour is the most desired shade. The head is relatively short, ears high-set, small, folded. The undocked tail is rather short, carried gaily but not curled over the back. Nowadays the breed is mostly a family companion, lively but not over-active, friendly. He can still hunt the rats, but is also most suitable for modern hobbies like agility.

The Smoushond belongs to the FCI Group 2, Pinschers & Schnauzers & Molossers.



Partridge Dog



Gundogs

Hunting in general and especially hunting with dogs is very restricted in a tightly populated small country like Holland. Shooting birds is, however, quite popular, and so pointing and retrieving dogs are needed. There are four sporting breeds in Holland: the Drentsche Partridge Dog, the Staby, the Wetterhoun and the Kooikerhondje.

The largest of them, the Partridge Dog comes from the province Drenthe as its name suggests. The breed looks something like between a Setter and a Spaniel. He is a pointing Gundog and a good retriever, also suitable for working in the water. He works within the range of a gun and when searching, keeps near to his master.

The size of the Partridge Dog is 55-63 cm, so he is somewhat taller than the English Springer or Small Münsterländer for example. He is heavier than the Münsterländer, about the same type as the German Longhaired Pointer but not quite as big. The colour is always white with liver or orange patches, can also have tan markings, can be speckled, too. The coat is beautiful, long but not exaggerated, with nice feathering. The ears are hanging and the tail is long and feathered.



Staby

