



Breed History

The Ibizan Hound's ancestry can be traced back nearly 5,000 years. Depictions of prick-eared, alert hounds have been found in the tombs of Hemaki (3,000 BC), Ptolemy and Nefermat (2650 BC), Mereku, Tutankhamon and the archeological site of Nagada (3100 BC). These hounds are thought to be the ancient ancestors of the Ibizan Hound, and they also bear a striking resemblance to the modern day Pharaoh Hound (Kelb Al-Fenek) and other "Podenco" type hounds of the Mediterranean region.

At least 2,000 years ago, these hounds were brought to Ibiza, one of the Balearic Islands off of the coast of Spain. They became extinct in Egypt, but due to the efforts of the Spanish farmers living on Ibiza, the island became the primary breeding center for today's modern day Ibizan Hound. In Spain, the Ibizan Hound is called the Podenco Ibi-cenco or Ca Eivissenc.

The Ibizan Hound Today

Elegant and athletic, this breed is a delight to many, but is not an appropriate choice for everyone. If you are interested in obtaining an Ibizan Hound, carefully consider the breed's activity level, training needs, and how it will fit into your lifestyle before making this breed a part of your family. Make sure that you can provide for the needs of your new dog for its lifetime.

Founded in the 1970's, the Ibizan Hound Club of the United States is dedicated to preserving the welfare of the Ibizan Hound. Further information about the Club, the breed, and a list of breeders can be found at www.ihcus.org.

The Ibizan Hound



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Living With An Ibizan Hound

The characteristics which make the Ibizan Hound so beautiful and unique can pose difficulties in daily living.

Ibizan Hounds are slow to mature, and the high activity level and destructiveness of puppyhood may continue until three years of age. Their elegant leaps and twirls may become an annoyance in the house, where they can literally bounce off the walls and leap onto countertops. Some hounds can even reach the top of refrigerators, searching for off-limit items. Many Ibizan Hounds learn to open gates and cupboard doors. While in this adolescent stage, they will need to be constantly supervised.

A combination of regular, vigorous exercise, the appropriate use of a crate, and a good selection of toys and chew items is the best way to keep a young Ibizan Hound entertained and limit destructive behavior.

Ibizan Hounds possess a somewhat-soft ego, which can be destroyed by rough handling. Because of this, owners should avoid using any form of physical punishment, which would be remembered by their Ibizan for a very long time. Physical abuse will destroy this hound's proud yet playful temperament.

Daily exercise is important for this breed; however, since they were bred to hunt small game this hound will instinctively and passionately hunt down interesting sights, scents, and sounds—even into the path of an oncoming car. Ibizan Hounds should never be allowed to run off-leash in an unfenced area unless they have had extensive obedience training and reliably come when called.

For more information visit www.ihcus.org

You should know...

A crate is one of the most valuable pieces of equipment for both dog and owner. An active youngster can be safely confined when the owner is not able to supervise him. Ibizan Hounds have strong denning instincts, and are content to be crated, provided crate training begins as a puppy and is not more than two or three hours during the day. Ibizan Hounds can be left to sleep in their crates throughout the night.

Although they are not protective guard dogs, Ibizan Hounds can be quite vocal. They alert their owners to neighborhood activity, including passersby, wandering cats, or birds that light in their yards. This can be an annoyance for both the owner and their neighbors and may require persistent training.

Young Ibizan Hounds love to dig, and they appreciate an area of the yard where they can pursue this hobby. If an owner does not want their Ibizan digging in the yard, they should carefully supervise their hound when outside. Occasionally, some Ibizan Hounds will see a fence as a challenge, and will find a way to jump over or dig under in an attempt to get out of the yard.

Health problems that are known to affect the breed include seizures, allergies, cataracts, deafness, and immune disorders. The Ibizan Hound may also be sensitive to barbiturate anesthetics, Rompun or Halothane. Allergic reactions can result from diet, pesticides, topical shampoos or treatments, grass, bug bites, and other causes. Severe allergic reactions require immediate veterinary treatment.

Characteristics and Care

Ibizan Hounds are even-tempered, affectionate and loyal. Some are quite outgoing, while others are aloof with strangers; however, all are typically friendly and gentle. They make excellent family pets, and with training they can learn to accept cats and other small animals.

The accepted American Kennel Club breed standard height is 22.5 to 27.5 inches tall at the withers (varying between dogs and bitches) and weighing an average 45 to 50 pounds when mature. Sizes slightly over and under these norms are also accepted. Coat types are short- or wire-haired, and acceptable colors are any combination of red (from light yellowish red to deep red) and white.

Ibizans are agile, active, athletic dogs that are able to jump great heights from a standstill. Popular activities with this breed include conformation showing, lure coursing, obedience, agility, and open-field coursing. The Ibizan Hound normally lives eleven to fourteen years.

Ibizan Hounds require little in the way of grooming, and they shed moderately. Weekly brushing and occasional bathing, nail trimming, and teeth and ear cleaning will keep your hound well groomed.

Ibizan Hounds are both temperamentally and physically unsuited for living outside. Left alone for hours, this active and clever breed will find ways to keep busy, often to the owner's dismay.

Please do not consider an Ibizan Hound if your dog cannot live indoors. This breed wants and needs to be an integral part of their family, and will give a lifetime of love and devotion in return.

(photo by Jim Wiggins)