

A small country which is improving a new relation between its society and the Dog



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MARIA AMÉLIA TABORDA
**CASA DOS
HERDEIROS
DO LOBO**

Portugal is a small country.

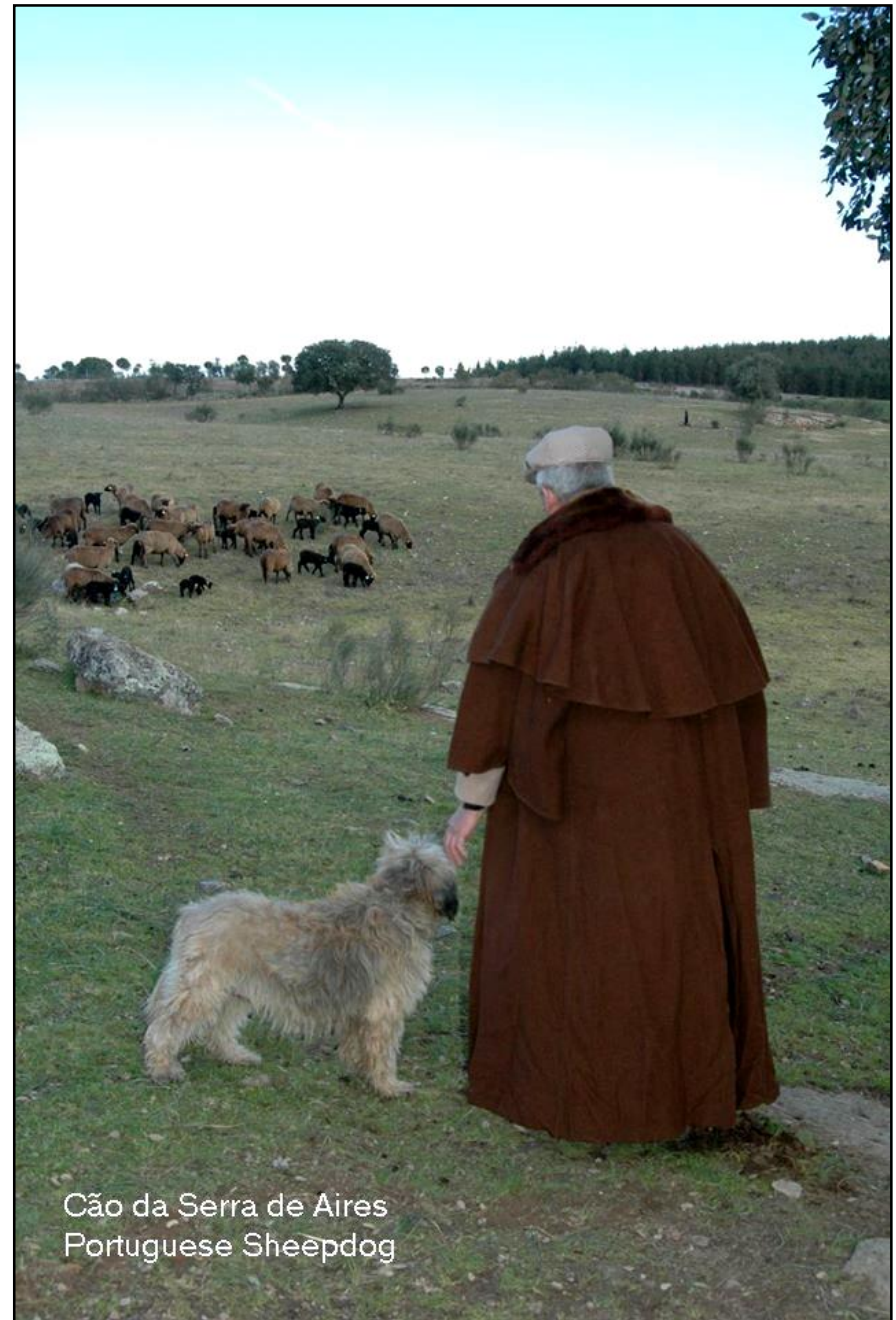
Interestingly, it has a rather significant population density for its size.

But it also expands overseas.

There is the so-called "Continental Portugal" but there is also the Madeira Island, which is totally dedicated to tourism, and also the magnificent 9 small islands that form the archipelago of Azores which, despite attracting tourism today, are a quality center for cattle and for what it produces: "the cows."



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Cão da Serra de Aires
Portuguese Sheepdog



The geo-morphological diversity is immense, of a glaring variety. There is the sea, the Atlantic Ocean, immense beaches everywhere, from the most exotic and small, almost private, to the stretches of sand extending as far as the eye can see.



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There are the mountains, some of them of important altitude, and the immense plains of orange color in the South, and the small green properties in the North. There is therefore the large and the small estate. And there are also some cultural clusters with their own traditions and their own followers.

And there are almost 5 million emigrants who dream of returning back home.



Why this introduction?



Because we have our breeds of dogs that we want to preserve, for their eternal functionality, but also for being untouchable national heritage, internationally recognized for the most part, and because all of them have their origin in all the different regions of the country.

The world changes by the minute in the wrong direction, at least for me, in the matter that brings us here today, - and I believe I can speak for the CPC too, - and it may compromise the noble existence of the canine breeds.

And how can we reverse this reality? How can we capture a potential dog owner for this problem? How can we guarantee a relevant place for the dog in this apocalyptic and destructive society which is acting in the name of a cynicism never seen before?



Cão da Serra da Estrela (Pêlo Curto)
Estrela Mountain Dog (Shorthair)



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Cão de Castro Laboreiro
Castro Laboreiro Dog



There are more and more "associations" for the protection of the abandoned, whose purpose is not as meritorious as it is propagandized and there has been a certain impotence on the part of some Kennel Clubs in different countries, to make themselves heard and respected.

It seems simple, although it has not been, to understand that the dog is a social surplus. And beyond the tasks he performs with man, he is also a factor of self-esteem amidst the family.

So what is it and how can we first interact with the political class to open up perspectives of survival, interaction and respect for this species?!



*ACA*lves

Cão de Gado Transmontano





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Rafeiro do Alentejo
Alentejo Mastiff

The CPC, as the regulator of national cynology, has been concerned with establishing partnerships with our government so that new laws more respectful of the essence and existence of the dog would be created.

It is part of a platform that integrates other associations managing other species and, as such, has defended the dog's capabilities in modern society.

Last year, several cynological agents such as veterinarians, biologists and breeders were present in the Portuguese Parliament, along with representatives of all political parties, showing our existence as breeders of canine breeds as well as our determination to continue as such.

We achieved our goal!



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Podengo Português (Pequeno - Pêlo Cerdoso)
Portuguese Warren Hound (Small - Wirehair)

But how can we capture the attention of the civil society as the engine of change, for a new mindset?

In an informal conversation between me, - at the time, responsible for holding CPC technical events, - and the responsible for CPC Jovem, we came to the conclusion that young people would play a fundamental role in this change.

And how?





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Obviously, feeling that the foundation of cynology lies in the breeding process, we decided to develop courses for young breeders approaching the following subjects:

Basic notions on Cynologic Activities - CPC; Registration of a litter, L.O.P.; vaccination; FCI and FCI Youth; Relationship between the FCI, the CPC and the Breeder; Canine Types and the FCI Groups; The Portuguese Breeds.

Progeny Selection - Study and observation of specimens; Breeding Methods and recommended facilities; The importance of the Pedigree and of the Breed Standard; Types and possible exaggerations; Physical and behavioral conditions of the mating specimens; Possible pathologies.

Care before and during delivery - Evolutionary process of the neonatal period of the dogs (the birth and the end of the second week of life); General anatomy - reproductive system; Gestation period; Observation of pregnant bitches and common symptoms; The delivery; Possible complications; The first two weeks of the puppies' lives.

Weaning and socialization - The first month of the litter; Methods of interaction with the surrounding environment; Recommended facilities for the best physical conditions for the dogs and for their socialization; Ethics of the breeder.





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The importance of deworming - Parasites; What is the importance of deworming?; Parasite vs Host; Endoparasites and ectoparasites, differences and examples; Examples and description of various parasites; Their life cycle and the diseases they transmit and provoke; How to prevent them and why.

As a practical part of the course there was a visit to the premises of an accredited breeder so they would realize which are the minimum environmental conditions they would need to have in order to become responsible breeders and, from that , to aspire to other roles in cynology.

None of this would make sense if we did not instill in the youth and in the Portuguese society the pride of our culture, of our heritage, in which our canine breeds are included. Hence they are part of this small presentation.

In this line of thought, I brought for your appreciation some "flyers" that have been approved and recommended by the Portuguese Government, that were distributed through various channels, and which positively complement the main goals of the CPC:

Preserving the Portuguese Breeds.

Promoting the welfare and utility of the dog.

Cynology at the service of society.



There are other institutions, such as:

- **A.B.A.A.D.V.**
- **School of Guide Dogs for the Blind** (Since 1995) - This private association is supported by our Government and other institutions and some private affiliated members.
- **ANIMAS** (Since 2002) is a private institution for social solidarity which prepares assistance dogs “pro bono”. It has cooperated with CPC in animal behavior workshops.
- There are other private people with some knowledge in Geriatrics that go visit homes for the elderly and schools with their own dogs trying to improve the self-esteem of those in need.
- There is also a University institute who promotes courses on animal assisted therapy (**ISPA**)



Cão de Água Português
Portuguese Water Dog



But how can we interact with those institutions that promote the dog as a social surplus?
This is the challenge.

I leave you here my own positive view about this matter: We are close to find the way.

I thank you for the attention given to my humble presentation which would not have been possible without the collaboration of some photographers who allowed me to use their work.

Maria Amélia Taborda / 2017





Podengo Português (Grande - Pêlo curto e liso)
Portuguese Warren Hound (Large - short and smooth hair)



Maria Amélia Taborda
(Portugal)

Bernese Mountain Dog breeder

FCI Judge for Group 2, all Portuguese breeds and some of Group 1.