

PEQUENOS IN PRINT

Summer 2016

PPPA



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Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America



National Specialty 2016
Santa Rosa, CA

The 2016 PPPA National is fast approaching don't forget to make sure all your plans are made to attend on August 26th - 28th.

A Day with the Podengos Português

The Rota do Podengo Português hosted a magnificent day with the Podengos Português at their hunting lodge near Rodondo, Portugal, on Saturday, June 11th. Eleven members of the club attended as hosts for the event, bringing with them their packs of Podengos, mostly medios and a few pequenos. The numerous attendees included Podengos enthusiasts from eight different countries, a few also with their own Podengos.

The club's motto translates roughly as:

morphology => breeding <= function = responsible stewardship of the breed

In his remarks to open the day, Henrique Passadinhas emphasized the view that the physical characteristics of the Podengos, as described in the breed standard, are based on the function of the dogs as hunters. Form follows function. Breeding for both type and function thus becomes the watchword for responsible stewardship of the breed. The day's program focused on both sides of this approach, first with a hunt and then with a discussion of the breed standard.

We accompanied the club members and nine packs of Podengos (about fifty dogs) on a "practice hunt" (no guns) for rabbits through the undergrowth of a large orchard spreading across several rolling hills. The packs hunted in parallel, with no notable interaction or tension among the packs. The pace was deliberate; as Mr. Passadinhas noted, the Podengos are hunters, not just runners. As each pack approached a thicket, large bush, ravine, or other likely rabbit habitat, the various dogs circled the objective and then pushed into it from various directions to investigate it. The dogs were quiet unless they located a rabbit, their bark being reserved, as the hunters noted, until appropriate to alert the others in their pack and their master. The dogs took some direction from their owners but each pack functioned mostly without instructions other than leadership as to the general direction of the hunt. Although the day was hot and the terrain often steep, the dogs hunted steadily for several hours. All but two of the dogs returned with their packs, and the two laggards showed up sometime later. As Mr. Passadinhas had said at the beginning of the day, remarking ruefully on the independence of the Podengos, they always return – "sooner or later."

The Portuguese Kennel Club has just approved a "natural skills test" for the Podengos. A caged rabbit is hidden under a brush pile after the immediate area around the brush is scented with the rabbit. The Podengo is brought on a lead to within ten to twenty yards away, as a first test of its manageability as a hunter. It is then released with an instruction to hunt. It is observed successively for its ability to locate the scent, find the rabbit, bark, and remain at the hunt through a simulated gunshot. Two judges independently rate the dog as "Pass" or "Fail" – a rudimentary evaluation of "will this dog hunt"? After watching the dogs in the field, the effectiveness of this test as a first measure of the quality and usefulness of a dog was apparent.

The lengthy discussion of the FCI breed standard[1] that followed lunch addressed numerous important points, illustrating again both the importance of a commonly accepted written breed standard and difficulties that can arise from ambiguities, lacunae, problems of translation, and small variations among various "official" standards. Led by Mr. Passadinhas and his son Nuno, this interesting conversation touched on the shape of the head; the shape and color of the eyes; the relative



length and angle of the skull and muzzle; ear position; mouth length; pigmentation; body dimensions; the alignment of the feet; and acceptable coat colorations. Some sharp differences on points large and small were expressed, at least some of which appeared to your reporter to reflect lack of clarity and gaps in the FCI standard and others to result from problems of translation and divergence among the statements of breed standards adopted by various accrediting bodies.

For your reporter, these observations frame an important question raised by this enjoyable and thought-provoking event. It occurs to your reporter to wonder if it would be timely to bring together the various accrediting organizations to iron out the small differences that have crept into the various official statements of the breed standard, address gaps in the standard(s), and reconcile translation problems, all with particular deference to the “home country” standard. Shouldn’t such a singular breed have a single standard?

[1] FCI Standard No. 94, dated March 30, 2009.

- Bruce Boisture



Podengo Days

My husband and I were luckily enough to be able to attend two great events in Portugal relating to the Podengo breed. The first was a hunting demonstration in Evora on June 11th. The event invitation was as follows:

“Hunting Demonstration with Portuguese Podengo Packs!

Meeting with the Portuguese Breeders of the group Rota do Podengo Português on a real hunting field to observe the best Portuguese Podengo packs, from different sizes and varieties, hunting during the morning, followed by a traditional barbecue on the countryside.

After lunch we will have discussions about the breed in several items and the possibility of interaction and exchange of experience with all the Portuguese breeders present.

A great opportunity to learn more about the breed, to get to know many of the Portuguese Podengos in Portugal and the top hunting/breeders, and to spend a great day in a beautiful landscape, with great people, great food and great wine!”

I was excited to be able to attend but I pictured just following some hunters around the fields with their Podengos. Maybe a bit of discussion but most of it would go over my head since I am not a hunter. This was NOT the case! The members of Rota do Podengo Português put on the most informative day. Podengo enthusiasts from eight countries attended. After we assembled the crowd, had introductions and insights on why they felt this was an important event to host, we gathered around large tables for breakfast in their rustic hunting lodge. We instantly felt at home. I think we all felt a strong connection to each other despite any language barriers. We all had one thing in common, the love of dogs but even more specifically the love for our wonderful breed, the Podengo Português. I instantly knew this would be an even more interesting and enjoyable day than I had expected. We headed back outside, talked more about what they expected from the dogs and why. Then they gathered the dogs and off we went.

We broke up into small groups while heading out. Walking alongside the members of the Rota do Podengo Português, we watched them work with their dogs. We were able to ask questions.

It was interesting to hear the other participants’ questions as well. All the groups met up for a refreshment in the shade, a Fado song under a cork tree, and many more questions and answers.

Off again as a large group, we stopped at a pond for the dogs to drink and cool off, then returned to the hunting lodge.

After a wonderful and very lively luncheon and a glass of wine, we had the privilege of previewing a book of photographs of Podengos on the hunt, which will be released soon. Then ensued a long, interesting, informative, and spirited discussion of the Podengo breed standard. Henrique Passadinhas led the discussion, covering many of the more tricky parts in the standard and turning this into a most informative Podengo seminar. (There are some further thoughts on this in an accompanying article.)

The day was getting late. We had gathered at 7:30am and it was now after 5 in the evening. Before saying “Good-byes,” though, we watched a demonstration of the newly approved Natural Skills Test. This is a pass or fail test that evaluates five different areas: sociability, search, smell capacity, prey instinct, and balance. The test is reviewed by two judges. One of the participants tested her dog at the demonstration and it did very well. It made an interesting ending to a magnificent day.

The second event was the very next day. The Monografica Podengo took place in Arruda dos Vinhos. The Monografica is comparable to a specialty here in the States. Only 20 minutes outside of Lisbon, the building was perfect to accommodate this event.

Anyone who has been to a dog show with me knows, I take the quote — ‘early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable!’ seriously. So despite having an early start the day before and arriving back from the hunt at almost midnight, I was eager to get to the Pavilion to see the dog show. We arrived early so we were able to greet partici-



pants as they arrived. Many of the new friends we had met the day before came either to enter their dogs into the competition or as spectators like us.

Approximately 100 podengos of all three sizes were represented. They had two rings set up and two judges for the day. Luis Gorjão-Henriques was the judge for all the medios and grandes as well as the best-in-show judge. Fernando Madeira Rodrigues was the judge for all the Pequenos as well as for best brace, best breeder group, best veteran, best progeny, best baby and best puppy. Despite being very interested in all three sizes, I found myself ringside to the Pequeno judging. We sat and watched for a few hours as each group of dogs was judged. The final group for best in show had a Podengo from each size and coat represented. The winner was a beautiful Medio.

Then came lunch festivities. The Portuguese are wonderful hosts and have such a hospitable spirit. We had a delicious lunch served with flowing Portuguese wine, followed by champagne, port and a local liquor regional to the area of Arruda dos Vinhos. The luncheon perfectly reflected the friendly camaraderie that seems to mark the dog shows in Portugal. The competition is serious and intense, the judging rigorous, but rancor and rivalries seem to be left at home.

The Portuguese Podengo owners, one and all, were welcoming hosts at both events, patient with all of our questions and thoughtful in their discussions of various views on important breed issues. They made our visit into an enjoyable and very educational session about the Podengos. It was great to learn about the Podengos in their home country, "straight from the horse's mouth." Based on this experience, I recommend that anyone interested in learning more about Podengos go to the source: Meet the hunters and breeders in Portugal, see what the Podengo is bred to do, and attend a show.

If you need any recommendations or tips for traveling in Portugal, just email me. I'd be happy to help.

- Margaret Boisture



President's Letter

Hello Members,

The final touches are being put on our 2016 National Specialty. We will have the contact person for ads for the catalog, available to you JULY 1, 2016

The club is moving forward working on different awards for active members. We will need members to help implement the award process so if you have skills in various positions please feel free to join the committees. If you have no experience, joining a committee is the best way to learn. Be active in your club because it truly is YOUR CLUB.

I am looking forward to seeing old friends in August and meeting new ones. Please remember to bring things for the auction.

Suzanne

New Members



Bring out the welcome wagon, we have new members joining our pack!

Every time I receive a new member notification from the PPPA Secretary I get excited. It is wonderful that more and more people are joining the club and are interested in the Podengo.

The Sunshine Committee would like to welcome to all the new members.

If you know of a club member who is in need of some cheer, due to personal or immediate family situations or if a member is having a birthday, had a baby or passed their state boards, please email Margaret Boisture at MargaretBoisture@gmail.com to add him or her to the list to spread Sunshine.

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Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America



National Specialty 2016
Santa Rosa, CA

PPPA 2016 Tentative Schedule

National Show chair/contact: Suzanne Faria, suzannefaria@att.net

Host Hotel:

- The Flamingo Conference Resort and Spa, 2777 4th Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.
- The rate single or double occupancy. \$35.00 pet for charged for the entire weekend.
 - Thursday, August 25, 2016 - \$129.00
 - Friday, August 26, 2015 - \$199.00
 - Saturday, August 27, 2015 - \$199.00
- To make reservations please contact Alisha at the hotel directly to make your reservation. Her contact info is: Alisha@flamingoresort.com P: 707-303-8630. There are a limited number of pet rooms available for the club. Let her know you are calling for Mensona/PPPA rooms.
- There are other affordable options available in the area contact Susan Souza at averson@abcglobal.net or via FB for a list of locations.
- RV parking will be available at the show site. Charges and contact information to follow.
- San Francisco International Airport is approximately a 1 hour drive to the hotel via Hwy 280/101 North. Shuttle service available through Sonoma Airporter <http://www.airportexpressinc.com/>

The Show Location:

Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

This will be an outdoor show.

Thursday, August 25, 2016:

- Arrivals
- Board Meeting (time and location TBD)

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America



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Santa Rosa, CA

Friday, August 26, 2016:

- PPPA Judges Ed (start 8:00am) location Showcase Café
- **PPPA National Specialty** (start no earlier than 9:30am)
 - Sweepstakes Puppy and Veteran – Carol Sowders
 - Junior Showmanship – Judge Mrs. Diane Collings
 - 4-6 Puppy - Judge Vitor Veiga
 - Regular and Non-regular classes - Judge Vitor Veiga
- PPPA Membership/Guest Education (start 2:00pm) location Showcase Café
- PPPA Annual Meeting (start 6:00pm) location Showcase Café or Finley Hall

Saturday, August 27, 2016:

- Mensona KC Pequeno judging (tentative start 8:30am) - Judge Judy Webb
- PPPA Concurrent Specialty (tentative start 10:30am) – Judge Gabriela Veiga
 - No sweepstakes scheduled for this show
- PPPA Annual Banquet and Auction (start 4:00pm) location: The Showcase Café

Sunday, August 28, 2016:

- Mensona KC judging (start TBD) - Judge Timothy Catterson
- Departures

Please note that the Mensona Kennel Club offers - Agility, Obedience and Rally classes ALL 3 DAYS!
Please see premium list for entry details.

Brag & Wags

Big Congrats to Tank and Charlene on the first MACH 5 PPP. What an accomplishment.



Sportsmen's DTC • March 5, 2016 • Cynthia Blanton, Judge

MACH5 *Tank*

Advertising Rates:

Full Page (8 1/2 x 11)	\$25.00
Half Page (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)	\$20.00

Mail checks made payable to PPPA to:

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138 Perry Road
Strafford, NH 03884

Email articles and ads to
Stacy Faw at
brokenroadkennel@hotmail.com

Photo Ready Ads, articles, and brags for the next issue
are due by September 15th 2016.

We want to hear from you!
Please send brags, photos,
articles, questions and
comments to:
brokenroadkennel@hotmail.com

