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Volume 12, January 1998

SHOW REPORT

August 3, 1997: CKC Mullica Hill, NJ

S.S. Big Kahuna 1 Best of Breed (4-point major), 1 Group 4

September 19th thru 21st, 1997: Canadian Rare Breed Assn & CKC, Watertown, NY

Grand Ch. S.S. Mufasa 5 Best of Breed, 1 Group 2, 1 Group 4>

Jr. Ch. S.S. Delphyne 2 Best of Opposite

Schmid & Belchers Nadine 1 Best of Breed, 1 Group 2

September 27th and 28th: ARBA Nutmeg Classic, Haddam, CT

Jr. Ch. S.S. Delphyne 2 Best of Opposite, 1 Best of Winners

Ch. S.S. Artemis 1 Best of Opposite

S.S. Big Bad John 1 Best of Opposite

October 18th and 19th: Eastern Working Rare Breeds, Heightstown, NJ

Jr. Ch. S.S. Delphyne 3 Best of Breed, 1 Group 3, 1 Group 4

December 13, 1997: Canadian Rarities, Toronto, Canada

Grand Ch. S.S. Mufasa 2 Best of Breeds

Jr. Ch. S.S. Delphyne 2 Best of Opposite

**** CONGRATULATIONS****

New Club Members

Andreas Koufiotis

Athens, Greece

Kostis Kostanddarakis

Pennsylvania

Clarence Whitmer

Michigan

New Presa Names

Shadie La Boy

Rufis

Dafni

Baloo

Ike Jackson

Cisco Kid

Spawn

Dias

Petra

King's Trust

R.K.Tina

QUIPS & QUOTES

Paris, France: We at the National Club wish to extend our thanks to our friend and international member (Barronne Victor de Saint Leger) for sending us a copy of the December, 1997, issue of the French magazine Top Dogs, which was wholly dedicated to the Presa Canario. One of the articles spoke of and showed an excellent photo of the Canary Island Presa foundation dog, known as the "Bardino Majorero" (see photo page). Please note it's rough coat, head type and brindle markings. Also, check out the Barronne's Presa playmates.

Evertan Wallace: Melville, New York, paid his respects to the Presa group at the September 27th, 1997 American Rare Breed Dog show, known as the "Nutmeg Classic", held in Haddam, Connecticut. He brought his 9 month old Presa pup called, S.S. Taz. This is a light colored brindle, who as you may recall, was shown in the summer issue of the Gripper confronting a larger Presa (Obie) in a "sez who sez Me!!" stand off. Well this little pup now weighs 130 lbs. and is able to leap straight up with all four legs off the ground as if launched like a rocket. What agility! In addition, he loves to play Lacrosse with Everton's son, but using rocks in place of a ball. When tired of playing "Taz" just devours the rock. By the way, this is S.S. Delphyne's (Sculley's) big brother. He is out of Grand Ch. S.S. Mufasa and Ch S.S. Elektra TT.

Detroit, Michigan: Brian McReynold's Razor, a Show Stopper Presa out of S.S. Bad Mamba Jamba and S.S. Posidan. The male pup was born on 2/14/97. At 9 months, he weighs 90 lbs. Brian thought so much of his pup he called Show Stoppers to order a female out of S.S. Elektra and S.S. Mufasa. Within a few days of reserving his pup he called Presa Breeder Richard Kelly all distraught and upset as to whether he should cancel his puppy order now that his male Presa had tasted blood. It seems, as the story goes, an acquaintance was coming by to show off a Pit Bull puppy. In the car was a four year undefeated champion fighting Pit Bull. What isn't certain is if the Pit was intentionally let loose or inadvertently escaped out of the car. In any case the Pit attacked the Presa Pup, grabbing hold of the Presa's left front leg. According to Brian, the pup made no cry of pain but immediately grabbed the Pit's head in his mouth, tearing the loose dog from his leg, which caused a large gash. The Presa began to violently shake the Pit while holding his head in his locked jaw and began running down the street dragging the Pit Bull along. Both owners pursued the dogs catching them four houses away. After a struggling effort, the owner of the Pit was able to separate the dogs. After all was said and done, the Presa acted like nothing ever happened. Richard explained that the Presa was doing what his instincts dictated, that is protect his owner. Reportedly all is well and Brian is adhering to his contract. By the way, the Pit Bull had thirteen head lacerations.

LiHue, Hawaii: The Salud Brothers, Ben and Rudy both own Show Stopper Presas. Ben's male Zeus now weighs 185lbs and readily jumps into the back of his pickup truck without any difficulty. Zeus is out of S.S. Calybos and S.S. Medusa. Brother Rudy's female Isis now weighs 140lbs. She is out of S.S. Posidan and S.S. Cassiopeia. There must be something in the island water contributing to the Presa growth.

S.S. Jumanji: A seventeen month old brindle male Presa, weighs 135 lbs., stands 28" at the withers. His owner, Lee Blossom of Chicago, Illinois, called the club to tell us how much attention he is getting from his community, especially from those knowledgeable dog fanciers, because of the quality of his Presa. In fact, Lee is amazed at the number of offers he has received to stud his Presa to some other kennels.

Ventura, California: Rio Demers writes, just wanted to send you a few photos of S.S. Bad Traffic Jamba and to let Show Stopper Kennels know how happy I'm with this dog. I've never owned a dog that receives so many compliments and questions about his heritage. I am training him to compete in obedience trials. He is already way ahead of other pups his age (7 months/ 92 lbs.). I take him to work with me every weekend, (I work at an outdoor shooting range) where he is a big hit! All the regular shooters spoil him rotten. He's become so used to the sound of gunfire that he fell asleep half way through the 4th of July fireworks show we attended. I can't wait to enter him in a confirmation/obedience trial show.

Cable Celebrities: FX, Fox Television/Liberty Media Network cable channel has a program called The Pet Department which is syndicated throughout the United States. They have on numerous occasions featured rare breed dogs. Show Stopper Kennels was first invited in 1995 to exhibit their Presa's (Ch. S.S. Posidan, TT and CH. S.S. Elektra), and most recently, in September 1997, were asked to return with their Presa Canario dogs where they featured Grand Ch. S.S. Mufasa, TT and Grand Ch. S.S. Medusa, TT. So check your cable listings and/or order Show Stoppers newly edited two hour video, which includes these broadcasts.

Anchors Away: Would you believe a Presa resides aboard a yacht! It's true and his owner reports as soon as they drop anchor or dock, the Presa jumps into the water and swims around. Here are some quotes from a most recent letter:

Hi Loraine, Richard, & Megan!

Hope you and all your crew are well. I just returned from Greece and wanted to touch base with you about Pooh Bear, whose official name is now S.S. Balloo. Kostis named him after his favorite stuffed animal when he was a child (the bear in the Jungle Book story). We are absolutely thrilled with him. He is defiantly the comic of the group and makes us laugh on a daily basis. He is also the most popular dog in the park when we go. Great swimmer, loves the water and has one heck of a personality! He puts the "Dogos" to shame in many ways. He is loveable like crazy, obedient, clever and really goofy. By goofy I mean he hasn't grown into his body yet. It seems as though he is just getting used to it and it is so funny when he runs. He looks like a bear (rough coat)

Kostis and I describe him as indestructible. He is absolutely fearless and is a real joy to have on board. He loves living on the boat and loves being with the other two dogs, the "Dogos". He is going to grow into a beast. He is huge already... But having the potential of being so huge. He is the cutest thing in the world. .Megan is right, his fur is like a soft, thick, fur coat.

"Balbo" weighs 66lbs at 5 months. He is out of Grand Ch S.S. Mufasa, TT and Grand Ch. S.S. Medusa, TT. Also, one of the funny things about him is his ears. They stand straight as they should, but he can put them in all types of positions. Sometimes they touch at the tips, sometimes he can cross them over each other and sometimes they stick straight on the sides like handlebars. I guess it depends on the mood he is in. He is extremely expressive. We would like to thank Show Stoppers sincerely for making this such a successful choice in dogs.

Kind regards,

Kostis and Ginny.

Pride Rock Kennels: Just an update on S.S. Mercedes (Casey). She is now 2 1/2 years old and 112lbs. I had her OFA x-rays evaluated and she passed with fair. We have been working hard on her personal protection training. She has incredible natural ability, and did a full mouth bite the very first time she was agitated by a stranger. I am working with a trainer from Germany whose father trained dogs during the war. He is very impressed with "Casey's" protection work. As you know she had her first litter of eight pups last February. I kept two pick females from the litter and sold the rest all over the United States. I also sold my older male Chance along with one of the male pups to a kennel in Mississippi that specializes in obedience and protection. We have finally decided on a Kennel name as Pride Rock Kennels. We started with Southern Oregon Kennels but thought the S.O. in the dogs' name was too close to S.S. and didn't want to infringe on the Show Stopper initials. We have recently purchased a male puppy from Dr. Gallardo of Grand Tenerife Kennels, Puerto Rico. He is very impressive, and at 5 months is twenty inches at the withers and fifty lbs. This is our third male. We finally found one we think will not only excel in the show ring, be an asset to our breeding program, but also be great as a working personal protection dog.

All of us at the National Perro de Presa Canario Club wish much success to Bruce and Dana in their Presa Breeding Program.

New Presa Canario Video

Show Stopper Kennels has just re-edited a brand new two hour video, showing their Presa's in many scenarios including about thirty minutes of video footage from the Canary Island of Tenerife, Los Palmas & Gran Canario. Introducing one of the top Presa breeders on Tenerife (Emanuel Curto Gracia) showing his temperament testing of pups, French Ring Sport, and agitation. There are winter scenes, Presa's playing and exercising with car tires. Excerpts from two segments (1995 & 1997) of the FX Cables TV production on The Pet Department, introducing Show Stopper's fine Presa's Medusa, Posidan, Elektra, and Mufasa. If interested, order early (\$20.00) the price is going to \$25.00 in March, 1998. Remember, a large portion of Show Stopper Kennels video sales go to defray the cost of the newsletter, The Gripper.

The Gripper Gripe

Dana Childers of Pride Rock Kennels, Medford, Oregon, expressed her gripe as follows: In my search for high quality Presa's, I became very distraught with many of the breeders out there, or should I say I was disgusted. I believe that having breeding stock OFA'd is of utmost importance. Many of the breeders not only failed to do this but gave no guarantee on the puppies they sold. In fact, one kennel I talked with bragged about their new \$60,000 kennel, but said that they couldn't afford to OFA their dogs. I have personally seen a Presa with hip dysplasia and know for a fact that it is out there. Let's not ruin this incredible breed before it has a chance to become a well known companion home guardian. If we all do our part to keep the Presa sound, it will pay off in the end, not only for us but for our dogs as well.

Thank You Dana, for your wonderful commentary on the Presa breed and it's dysplasia problems. Having breeding stock OFA'd is a good starting point to minimizing a known breed congenital deficiency. However, the Island breeders are quite aware of the existence of dysplasia in the breed and apparently content accepting the odds of the survival of the fittest. Here in the United States we have the luxury of ample knowledge available to us, for those who choose to utilize it, to combat this hereditary problem. We do believe that there are breeder's out there who have identified this problem in their breeding program and/or dog and have taken the appropriate action in culling and removing these afflicted animals from any further breeding. Furthermore, a Presa breeder of any worth will guarantee all of his puppies against any congenital defect, at least for a specified time period. These guarantees are typically stated in their contract or intent to purchase.

What is truly amazing, as this club has learned time and again, is how many Presa pups are purchased from breeders of no reputation and/or of questionable breeding practices. Pups are bought and shipped sight unseen, without photo's of parents or the pups themselves. They provide no certificates of health from a licensed veterinarian. The new owners are given no registration papers, from such legitimate sources as the NPPCC, the AKC Foundation Stock service or the FIC. When investigating further we find most Presa sales, outside the realm of responsible breeders, are from questionable breeders who contribute nothing to improving public awareness of this wonderful breed, the Presa Canario, and who sell on price alone. Remember! "Caveat Emptor", let the buyer beware. You only got what you pay for...

A Breeders Guide To Hip Displaysia & Other Congenital Defects

Understanding Congenital Defects: Congenital defects are those confirmation and health problems that occur due to a hereditary nature from either one or both parents. They can vary from an overbite to heart disease. These defects have a greater preponderance of occurrence when both parents carry the genes and when the genes are multiplied in the pedigree. You must remember one out of every hundred puppies born will express a demonstrable congenital defect. Many undesirable hereditary traits are expressed by recessive genes (Recessive genes are those that do not easily surface with each generation, unlike dominant genes which are easily

passed on). Such recessive genes can be carried down through generations of offspring causing no problem until it is combined with a like recessive gene. This is why recessive genes cannot be eliminated in one or two generations of careful breeding, and why sporadic hereditary defects are more frequently caused by recessive genes. Please note: With continued out crossing one will never be able to completely purify your line and remove congenital defects.

Line Breeding And In-Breeding Does Not Produce Birth Defects Or Congenital Defects: On the contrary what Line breeding and in-breeding does is concentrate the amount of defective recessive genes already present in your bloodline and allow them to be brought to the surface easily, and furthermore culls and removes them from the genealogical pool. Remember, if you run into problems while line breeding or in-breeding, you can correct it with a single out cross, but if you base your sole breeding program on out crosses, where will you turn when you run into problems?

Responsible Breeding Practices, Should You Breed?: When one decides to breed dogs, whether it is your only family Pet or you intend on having and breeding multiple dogs, you must be ready to make the commitment for the long hall. By producing a litter, your responsibility to the litter goes well beyond the eight weeks selling age of your puppies. You must be prepared not only to stand behind your dogs from a health stand point, remembering a dog must be two years of age to OFA, but also be responsible for the placement of your puppies if necessary. We as breeders must ensure that ALL of our puppies & dogs go to responsible homes, that will care for and raise a socially acceptable dog. You must ask yourself are ready to handle any and all questions and problems that may occur during the lifetime of that puppy. Are you prepared to foster that puppy should it end up in an abusive situation? Will you be able to financially care for not only the litter when they are young, but also if a puppy develops a serious problem and needs vet bill paid or money refunded? Are you equipped to keep these puppies until proper homes can be found for all of them, no matter the age or size of the puppy? These are the important and responsible question you have to ask yourself, before you even consider breeding.

A Guideline For Breeding Sound Dogs

- All breeders should guarantee their dogs against congenital defects in writing.
- All breeding stock should be temperament tested for a sound mind and strong temperament.
- All breeding stock should be at the very least be Hip x-rayed and evaluated by a licensed veterinarian, then, if possible at two years of age the dog should be OFA'd.
- With Mastiffs and OFA, anything from fair to excellent is considered passed and breeding sound but a fair should not be bred to a fair but to a good or excellent, as this will decrease the risk of hip problems occurring.
- Brucellosis test all breeding stock.
- Feed the highest quality food available and be sure that all breeding animals are in peak condition and well vaccinated prior to breeding.
- Develop a good rapport and strong relationship with your veterinarian, and together establish an effective and proactive health, vaccination, deworming, and husbandry program for your kennel.
- Remember, even with taking all these measures, soundness problems may still occur, and you as a responsible breeder must be ready to handle and rectify them to the best of your ability.

THE NATIONAL PERRO DE PRESA CANARIO CLUB PRESENTS A MINI-SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF THE "PRESA CANARIO" (CANARY DOG).

The Presa Canario Standard

El Perro Presa Canario
(The Canary Dog of Prey)

CANARIES, LAND OF DOGS
by Eduardo de Benito Ruiz

"The old philosophers, were those who investigated most the occult, and as they saw these qualities and others, they esteemed these islands so much that they obtained them through Eliseos Campos and they named them "Good Fortune".

Jerusalem Libertada

Of the diverse etymologies about the origin of the name of the Canaries, the Indo-Germanic preferred by Nebrija ("They called themselves gomers and by Gomer, is meant son of Jafet.") the one of the cane, the one of the numerous dogs, the last is the best known. Cita Chil y Naranjo in his fat Historic Climatological and Pathological Studies of the Canary Islands (Las Palmas 1876-1891) a text attributed to Barker-Webb that fell upon this curious theory of the dogs and canines. "The Canaries has conserved with its Roman name its dogs of great size. This breed of which Pliny gives value, has not followed the luck of the primitive inhabitants of the Canaries and is concentrated today on the island of Lanzarote. In the time at which Juan de Bethencourt arrived in 1402, the Grand Canary still possessed many dogs." Botic and Le Varrier qualify them as "savage dogs", that resemble wolves, although they are somewhat smaller. Antonio de Viana, adopting in his patriotic poem the etymology of the name of the Canaries, according to the designation of the Roman historian, expresses in the following terms: "Some affirm that because there are many dogs that even up to today are bred on Grand Canary."

What we can deduce is that in the times of the Canary poet, that is to say, at the end of the XVI century, the indigenous dogs still existed on that island. We will not omit, moreover that the city of Las Palmas, capital of the Grand Canary, has kept on its coat of arms two rampant dogs at the foot of a palm tree and that dogs holding a coat of arms completed with the crown of Spain and seven islands on a blue field, are seen also on the arms common to all the archipelago. Neither should we omit, how much Lopes de Gomara in his General History of the Indies as also Francisco de Tamara in his extravagant Customs of All the people assure that the Canaries are so named "because the inhabitants of these islands used to eat much and to eat things raw like dogs." Also Viera y Clavijo, the greatest Canary historian assured, citing Tomas Nichols, that the food of the ancient Canary dwellers was goat milk and meat of castrated dogs. Finally, the archeological studies of Carmen del Arco Aguilar about burial in the pre-Hispanic Canaries picks up several testimonies of the presence of the dogs among the remains of animals that made up the household of the deceased stored in caves or tombs. What appears certain is that the islands and the dogs have been intertwined since the most distant antiquity.

The Canaries are a land of dogs and the dog fight seems to be the unquestionable origin of the Presa Canario dog. We synthesize the cultural elements that propitiate the birth of this love for fighting. A first fact is evident, said custom does not have its roots on the Peninsula where dogs never fought. Then we must seek its origin in the idiosyncrasy or genius of the island, that is called the "Island Air" or culturally strange to the Hispanic world.

A BELICOSE SPIRIT

Antonio de Nebrija in the XV century wrote "there is a bellicose type of men that are called gomers and are accustomed to hire for war". Herculean strength, extraordinary physical agility and large stature are characteristics of the primitive men island chroniclers repeat. The Canaries, the lost Atlantis, used to be populated by giant--or Atlases that surprised the Britons and the Castellians not only with their pack of green dogs, strange canine color, (which according to some legends the dogs were set on the Spanish troops), but also with the giant rocks that were hurled and could not be lifted by two Spaniards together.

The Canaries, land of Atlases is presented to us by Garcia de Ia Torre in his Guanche Legends of the Canary Islands (Barcelona, 1972) on bringing us the memory left in Lanzarote by the tomb of Mahan, an Atlas of 22 feet tall. The same Chil y Naranjo tells that a certain prisoner by the name of Guadaifa broke his chains with his own hands with little effort. This people, son of Atlas in the physical, and Mars in the spiritual aspect, found in the fight their most noble expression.

In England these were the golden years of Combat among dogs. In 1600 the historian Guillermo Camden gave us the description of a garden situated near St. Thomas Hospital. "A place like an amphitheater, to pursue bears and bulls with 'bandoge' dogs that are so strong and bite so hard that three of them are sufficient to seize a bear, and four for a lion." The English merchants took to the islands their affection for fights and their dogs. Those primitive specimen, ancestors of the moderm Bulldog and Mastiff were used also as guard dogs in consideration to the name by which they were known: "Ban Dog" and "Tie Dog" (chain dogs). The vigilance exercised by a dog of whose qualities we have full confidence seems fundamental when we compel them to guard ships and stores in a strange land and with a profound gulf of hate which awakened religious disparity in many. In the islands the English found "a multitude of dogs of strange size." (Pliny); and their affection for fighting found a model in the fiery island character. The result of this mixing is evident and soon were born threats, fights, and crossbreeds. While lacking documentary testimony I dare to affirm that the affection for dog fighting germinated in the Canary Islands more that 300 years ago.

For the islander the existence of the Presa Canario dog is an unquestionable truth, a truth that is at first a concept of breed, now that one counts tangible reality of his dogs. If some want the Presa Canario dog to be like the island of San Borondon, a fable, it is necessary to remind them that Viera y Clavijo said of it, "to deny the inhabitants of La Palma, Hierro y Gomera, that what they were accustomed to seeing at certain times of year was not a real and true land, it was to give them the death of denying an evident thing. Today that evidence is called the Presa Canario.



EL PRESA CANARIO

by Manuel Martin Bethencourt

About the Presa Canario dog on the islands.

The existence of the Presa Canario Dog XVI century, normally merchants and agents, traffickers in wines, and fruits of the islands, bring us for the first time; the ideal configuration of the Presa dog of the Canaries.

Bull-baiting and bear-baiting in England was a frequent and regulated sport in that country, for which they used bulldogs (ban- dog) and mastiffs (tie-dogs) that united their qualities of excellent fighters trained for guard dogs.

The British character and its sports traditions pertaining to the dog as a fighter, arrived at the islands. For dog fighting they used their typical gladiator dogs, bulldogs and bull terriers that they brought from their country, attempting inevitably crossbreeding with the existing Presa dog in the archipelago. This English affection for fighting dogs is identified completely with the island character of combative disposition, an aptitude we observe equally in the Balearic Islands with their Ca de Bou or Presa Mallorquin dog or in Japan with its Tosa or national fight dog.

In the said process of racial fusion is presented the veteran Majorero dog of small bark and of great courage. The rustic and crossed hair of the sheepdog of Fuerteventura, the gray green tone being very dominant, appeared each time with more frequency in the Presa dog, and the synonym "Verdina" is generalized for both breeds.

One attempted in the populations of the Presa of the islands to have determined morphological modifications. Not only did one think about a Presa dog that developed a correct labor like a guard dog, or as a cow herd dog, but that it also ought to possess a good aptitude for fighting.

The English influence lasted a long time in the Canary Islands by reason of commerce with that country. Time settled the existence of the Presa Canario, which is presented to us in the present century as a fighting dog, with a large population in Tenerife and Grand Canary and very fit as a guard dog, an unquestionable aptitude of its breed. During the first third of this century, the practice of fights is a frequent event in the numerous sites on the islands, from whose period has come an ample oral tradition on the part of old fans who lived them and participated actively in them. Halls were established where the best specimen are gathered and selected for their best condition for fighting and not for their breed characteristics. There are specimen that test the beginners and give the size of their courage, virtue, and defects.

Until 1950, in spite of the prohibition of fights for more than ten years, there was a high index of quality and population from the islands developing around many popular persons, capable in the management and raising of the Presa Canario, an unending statement of its deeds and a slang where the words boast the ferocity and the nobility of the protagonists.

Historic Facts about the Recovery of the Presa Canario

The presence of the Presa Canario is made each time more evident in the islands in 1970. This dog that in the previous decade was relegated in small numbers to the farmer and herdsman, began to be adopted as a guard dog in the urban areas which permitted its entrance into other social mediums and its rapid diffusion.

In the year 1982, a group of breeders from the island of Tenerife, responsible for the major part of the population of that time, decided to work as a team, forming an association with the goal of carrying forward the recovery of the Presa Canario breed already started in the previous decade, in a labor of respectful repasturing with tradition that they submit to a program of selection governed by a standard that completed the view of the geographical and historical data, the oral information of the old breeders and the population of Presas most representative at the present time.

The Spanish Club of Presa Canario was formed with this purpose, duly authorized by the RSCFRCE that initiated from that moment an unending labor of diffusion of the Presa Canario by all means especially through popular shows.

The club with a group selected from model specimen was present at the National Exposition of Tenerife in 1985 as a breed in recovery and in the same manner at the International Exposition on Las Palmas in 1985 and 1986.

They were diligent and got from the RSCFRCE in collaboration with the Council of Agriculture of the government of the Canaries, the celebration of the First Regional Show of Presa Canario dogs on the 19th of October in 1986 in Santa Cruz of Tenerife. They catalogued for this First Regional Show 150 specimens and made reports of the same by the Commission of Spanish Breeds containing their morphological characteristics and character.

With the goal of studying in large number the population of existing Presa in the neighboring province of the Palmas, the Spanish Club of Presa Canario organized on the 6th of June of 1987, the Second Regional Show of the Presa Canario in the locality of Guia of Grand

Canary. There were assembled eighty reports on the specimen presented that condensed mainly the population of the Grand Canary localities of Ouia, Galda, Arucas, Firgas and others.

The two Regional Shows were celebrated with the goal of studying the existent population for the Commission of Spanish Breeds. For the future compliment of a breeding standard, the Royal Central Society sought the presence of two specimens in Madrid, one from each Canary province to be presented officially at the International Exposition in the fall of 1987.

The official presentation of the Presa Canario was made on November 1, 1987. For this were sent to Madrid the male "Faycan" from the breeder D. Mario Montequi and the female "Marguesa" from Las Palmas, of the breeder D. Eugenio Estevez, receiving complete acceptance on the part of the Spanish fans present at the event.

Through the related documents the Commission of Spanish Breeds collected sufficient documentation for the appointment of a breeding director who fixed the physical-psychic characteristics of the Presa Canario. The said labor required a long gestation and culminated with the approbation and confirmation of the official standard of the breed, which was communicated to the Club on the 24th of January of 1989 with which the Perro de Presa in the Canary Islands perpetuates its existence.

The Presa Canario Of Today

As a consequence of the labor of diffusion and promotion of the Presa Canario carried out especially by the breeding club during the preceding decade, the interest in this dog has again penetrated the old fans that knew it and bred it. It has inspired new generations who contemplate enthusiastically the Perro de Presa of the islands. Today it astonishes the people who see how the breed progresses and goes beyond the limits in which once was.

That is to say the farm or herd dog, or a fighting dog. It was a gladiator above all, showing its magnificent aptitudes as a guard, faithful and incorruptible.