

DOGS *NOT* IN CANADA

THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB RECOGNIZES 164 BREEDS, BUT THERE ARE HUNDREDS MORE WORLDWIDE, SOME OF THEM RARELY SEEN OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

Cesky Fousek

(Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffon or Czech Pointer)



ORIGIN:

Medieval Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic).

ORIGINAL PURPOSE:

Gun dog, now also companion dog.

DESCRIPTION:

Medium-sized pointer, whose general appearance shows strength and endurance. The lean, somewhat narrow and long head is held high. The muzzle is somewhat longer than the skull and the nasal bridge is moderately arched ('ram's nose'). The occiput is barely noticeable; the stop is moderate. The almond-shaped eyes are deep-set and dark amber to deep chestnut in colour, and show a kind expression. The ears are set high and must lie close to the head. The neck is well developed and muscled. The short firm back slopes from the well-developed withers toward the croup. The ribcage must be oval and the forechest should be well developed. The belly should be somewhat tucked up, without giving the impression of leanness. Shoulders, elbows and forearms must be firmly made and muscled. The upper thigh is broad and the lower thigh must have correct angulation to enable flexible movement. Forefeet and hind feet are compact and in the form of a blunt spoon. There is a noticeable atrophied remnant of webbing between the toes.

The coat has three types of hair: undercoat (soft and dense, 1-1/2 centimetres), topcoat (harsh and coarse, three to four centimetres) and guard hair (harsh and straight, on forechest, topline, flanks and shoulders, five to seven centimetres). The tail must not have a brush on the underside. The coat on the head is different: on the lower jaw as well on the lips, the hair is longer and softer, forming a beard, typical for this breed. The hair on the eyebrows points obliquely and noticeably upward. The forehead, cranial region and cheeks are covered by short coarse hair.

Permitted coat colours are dark roan with or without patches, brown with ticked markings on the forechest and the lower parts of the limbs, and brown without any markings. The tail is medium, strong and, if permitted by law, docked by three-fifths of its length.

The movement should be regular at a walk and trot, with the back showing barely any movement and the footprints virtually covering each other at the trot.

HEIGHT/WEIGHT:

Dogs 37 to 42 centimetres (14-1/2 to 16-1/2 inches); bitches 35 to 40 centimetres (14 to 16 inches). About nine to 10 kilograms (20 to 22 pounds).

BOHEMIA – CSSR – CZECH REPUBLIC

It's not difficult to guess where the Cesky Fousek originates. The word "Cesky" derives from the Czech Republic, a rather new country situated in the heart of Europe. Bohemia, however, is the county of origin of the Cesky Fousek and this western part of the Czech Republic has a long and rich history. In the first year BC, Bohemia was inhabited by Celts and it's said that

the name "Bohemia" has derived from a Celtic tribe, the *Boii*. Since the 10th century, various European royal families have ruled Bohemia, which therefore has always been orientated toward Western Europe. In 1198, the crown of the Bohemian kings became hereditary and in 1526, Ferdinand von Habsburg, a brother to the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V of Spain, became King of Bohemia.

The relations between Bohemia and Germany have

always been very close, being neighbours for ages and sharing parts of their history. In the 18th and 19th centuries, nationalism in Bohemia grew quickly and the population started to show much interest in Czech literature, language, music and arts. In 1848 – when revolutions broke out all over Europe – the Austrian rulers put down every indication of nationalism.

In 1918, as a result of the First World War, the Republic of Czech-Slovakia was formed by the amalgamation of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Roethenia (now part of the Ukraine). A more-or-less ‘artificial’ country by the name of Czechoslovakia was the result. Between 1939 and 1945, Bohemia was part of the German Reich; in 1948, the conquering Russians claimed the area. In 1960, the Republic Československá Socialistická Republika (CSSR) was formed, controlled by the Soviet Union. The so-called “Velvet Revolution” took place in 1989, and in 1993, the two countries carried on separately as the Czech Republic and the Slovakian Republic, each with a democratic government.

Today, Bohemia is becoming a popular tourist draw, not only because of its beautiful landscape and unspoiled little towns, but also for winter sports.

Canis Bohemicus – BOHEMIAN WATERDOG

The Cesky Fousek belongs to the large family of the wire-haired pointers of central Europe. Looking at the German Wire-haired Pointer and several types of the Griffon, it's obvious that the Cesky Fousek is a close relative, perhaps even the founder of this family, although strong evidence isn't available. However, some old documents indicate that the Cesky Fousek was being used as a gun dog in the time of Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia (1316-1378). There is, for example, a letter written by Vilem Zajic, the King's tutor, which states: “In 1348, the Emperor Charles IV gave a number of hunting dogs, called *Canis Bohemicus*, as a present to Count Ludwig von Brandenburg.” This letter was found in the archives of the Castle of Karlstejn, which was built by Charles IV just outside Prague. In those days, the *Canis Bohemicus* was already known as a versatile and powerful dog, quite easy to train for the gun.



The Cesky Fousek is an attractive show dog as well as a worker.

As well, in the book *Der vollkommene Teutsche Jäger* (*The Perfect German Hunters*), published in 1724 by Johann Friedrich von Flemming, one can read about the “Bohemian Wire-haired Waterdog,” popular as a waterdog because of its waterproof coat. In his book *Vsecky druhy pas slovem i obrazem*, published in 1903 in Prague, Václav Fuchs states that a German breeder, Hanus z Kadichu, was certain that the Cesky Fousek originated in Bohemia. He also writes that some experts on Russian dogs claimed that the wire-haired pointers originated in the mountains of the Caucasus (Russia). But again, no solid evidence is available.

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Top: Longer, softer coat on the lower jaw and lips is typical for the breed.
Above: Two bitches pointing game.

The first detailed description of the Cesky was written by Josef Cerny of Beroun, a city situated about 30 kilometres from Prague. A few years later, in 1896, the first breed club was founded in the southern part of Bohemia, in the city of Pisek.

In the Czech Republic, a male of this breed is called *Cesky Fousek*, a female is *Ceska Fousa*.

DEDICATED BREEDERS

The Association for the Wire-haired Pointer Cesky Fousek had been established in 1924, and in 1931 a new breed standard was written, but by the end of the

First World War, the breed was almost extinct. The dogs that survived those difficult times before and during the war were scattered all over the country. In the newly formed Republic of Czechoslovakia, dog breeding was not a priority.

In the following years, dedicated breeders worked hard to rebuild the breed, using only the best dogs, which were specially selected and fulfilled all requirements, including a high standard for working ability. Only dogs that passed the tests could be used for breeding. In those years, nearly all the Ceskys were used for hunting. Another reason the breed could survive was that an all-round working dog was a necessity. Today, the Cesky Fousek is one of the top 10 gun dogs in its home country.

A handicap between the Second World War and the 1990s was lack of contact between Czechoslovakia, behind the Iron Curtain, and neighbouring Germany and Austria. At that time, it was difficult to attend shows or to import and export dogs. Contacts are easy, now, because both the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia are members of the EEC.

MULTI-PURPOSE GUN DOG

Until 1958, other varieties of wire-haired pointers were used to rebuild the breed and to strengthen the hunting qualities of the Cesky. As soon as the breed could prove eight different bloodlines, a new standard was written and approved by the FCI (1958).

Today, the 'modern' Cesky Fousek is a multi-purpose gun dog, suitable for the fields, forest or water. When properly trained, he can cover vast areas of land, and he follows scent persistently. His coat is ideal for working in difficult conditions – in thorns, brambles, etc. The Cesky Fousek possesses an ingrained talent to locate, point and retrieve game and is a lovely companion dog.

The first part of his name could easily be explained; the second part – Fousek – means that this dog has a beard and moustache. Therefore, 'Moustache' is a popular name for the Cesky.

A retired bookseller and publisher, Ria Hörter is senior editor of De Hondenwereld, the national dog magazine of Holland.