



THE FIRST GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIERS RECOGNIZED BY THE IRISH K. C.

Rare Breeds of the World

By "CANIS"

Photographs furnished by the Author

UNUSUAL dogs are extant in both mongrel and pure-bred form, but a strange fact about these rarities is that what may well be the world's most rare breed is more often than not also the most peculiar. Consider with me the rare Phu-Quoc of the Gulf of Siam, one of the only two breeds out of many hundreds which shows a marked ridge of reverse hair; the much-sought-for Philippine Island dog, so relished as food by the Luzonites; and the Glen of Imaal dog prized by Eireish farmers as fighting dogs. These are but a few

of the world's canine treasures, hidden from the man in the street by practical miles of ocean or impenetrable taboos of foreign cult.

THE Islands of the South Seas are rich in rare dogs as are the Arctic belts of Siberia, and . . . but as I have already said, rare dogs are scattered the world over, even though sparsely.

Thousands of ocean miles away the American Philippine group of islands has its own native breed of dog, like many others in the southern Pacific.

The breed by virtue of its very presence claims more than ordinary attention, but even beyond its geographical restriction it has another feature in that the native tribes of Luzon—the most important isle of this American group—for a considerable time have considered its flesh a delicacy.

THE meat of the Philippine Islands native dog well boiled or braised, with a quantity of cooked rice added for dietetic balance, has been the Luzonite staple diet right until recent years when the authorities decided to

intervene in an attempt to dissuade the native from indulging in so unconventional a dish. The Director of Animal Husbandry tells me the custom is gradually dying out, which, though unfortunate for the Luzonite, is a good thing for the native dog.

Speaking of the Philippines, I might add that the rare Manila spaniel has no connection with the metropolis of this American group; rather the West Indies instead. However, though in the Philippines the Japanese spaniel and the Pekingese are plentiful, the demand is now increasing for the native edible dog as a companion. Well fed and groomed, the breed is quite a likeable sort of chap, as you can see from the picture of this rare dog at the top of the third page of this article.



South Africa is the home of the Sealydale terrier where he was first manufactured by the deliberate crossings of the Airedale and the Sealyham

THEN there is the Phu-Quoc dog, the strange canine phenomenon of Siam. Here is a dog whose origin is problematic, whose peculiar ridge of reverse hair remains unique among the dog tribe, and whose history is, to say the least, quite interesting.

The father of the Rhodesian ridgeback, itself not a very well-known race, the Phu-Quoc dog is one of the rarest of breeds. Named after the island of



These two photographs of the Phu-Quoc dog, the strange canine phenomenon of Siam, the first to be published in the United States, show how sharply defined is the famous ridge of topsy-turvy hair



There are two varieties of the Portuguese water dog. This is a picture of a long-haired dog, about five years old, just after clipping

Phu-Quoc in the Siamese Gulf, the breed is now to be found on the Indo-Chinese mainland. But until a couple of years back, it had been more or less

pair which, for some time, was in the Jardin d'Acclimation—The Zoological Gardens of Paris, France—attracting great attention, but these have long since been dead.

No Phu-Quoc dogs were ever brought to England, but it is quite possible that in the future a typical male might be imported to put fresh ridge-producing blood in the British-bred ridgebacks. Perhaps the United States may beat the British breeders to it, and import one earlier?

The two photographs in the center of this page, I think, are the first to be published in America of a genuine Phu-Quoc dog and

marooned on the isle, perilously close to annihilation.

As it is, the Phu-Quoc is difficult to obtain, even by the shooting-men who, knowing him as one of the best of the Asiatic hunting dogs, offer high prices for specimens of his breed.

His ridge of reverse hair is more clearly defined than on the ridgeback. It runs from the set-on without a

were taken especially to prove how sharply defined is this famous ridge of topsy-turvy hair.

The Phu-Quoc stands about 22 inches at the shoulder and weighs 60 pounds. His coat is short and smooth, but wiry on the back and mane. Colored black, tan or red, never white or with white markings.

The Indo-Chinese sportsmen, especially around the Saigon area of Northern Indo-China, are rallying around the breed to resuscitate it into its former fame as a hunting dog.

IF you picture in your mind's eye a dog which looks as if it were half a poodle and half curly-coated retriever you will have a good idea of the appearance of the Portuguese water dog,

or Cao d'Agua as the native name goes. His is a strange duty, and his appearance is almost as weird. His tail is clipped close, yet the tip which is invariably curled over his back wears a long tuft like that of a male lion.

In fact, the complete dog is leonine in semblance and spirit, for he brooks no nonsense from those other than his owners. He is best left alone by the non-fisherfolk, because he has, for centuries, been accustomed to the rough environment of the fish hunters, and in consequence intensely dislikes the "coddling" of people employed in less hardy vocations.

For thousands of years, the Portuguese water dog has been the ally of the native fisherman, and at one time was common to the complete length of the Portuguese coast, but through modifications to the fishing systems used, he has become restricted to the southern shores of the Algarve.

The hard-working fisherfolk utilise him in several ways. Should one of their nets break, the dog will jump overboard, and, swimming strongly, will quickly retrieve the broken part. If a fish worth "saving" happens successfully to slip the net or hook, the dog, voluntarily, dives for it, seldom missing his piscine quarry. Again, in the event of a piece of the fishing tackle or rope end being lost, the dog proves a useful retriever.

LIKE all fishermen, the Portuguese have their means of communicating by signalling, but under circumstances where the means usually employed are not satisfactory, they attach their messages to dogs of the Cao d'Agua breed and these canine couriers make the necessary contacts from one craft to another, or from the boat to the mainland or vice versa.

No wonder then that this unique dog, whose picture may be seen at the bottom of the second page of my story,



Here is a well-fed dog of the Philippine Islands. There was a time when the native tribes of Luzon considered its flesh a great delicacy

is the inseparable companion of the humble fishers. Moreover, to further prove his use, this dog takes over the guarding of boats and other of his

exhibited at the Portuguese dog shows. The Club dos Cacadores Portugueses, a society which is the equivalent of The American Kennel Club,



Created from the Australian, Yorkshire, and the black-and-tan miniature terriers, the Sidney silkie is still a rare breed. He ought to be better known in lands other than his native Australia and New Zealand

master's property when he is ashore.

Naturally, the Portuguese water dog is an expert swimmer and diver, and because of his heavy duties, his muscular body is always in good condition. Although he has no second, or under-coat, beneath his shaggy hair, he seldom suffers from chills due to the constant immersion in the sea. Probably this



Roumanian sheepdogs are a rare breed, jealously guarded from exportation. Peasants tether them by suspending heavy bits of wood to the collars of the dogs

is because the hair which covers the more vulnerable regions—the loins, stifle and hindquarters—is clipped short so that the merest of shakes will suffice to prevent the dog being entirely saturated.

THIS breed has two varieties. One type, not so commonly seen, has a coat of tight and extremely dense curls—reminding one of another rare old water-dog—the Irish water spaniel. This variety is clipped too, in the fashion described, and with his more popular cousin, the long-coated variety, is often

takes a keen interest in this fine old breed; encouraging the breeding of these native canines up to the desired standard compiled by this Club.

As yet there are no Portuguese water dogs in England, but when each year the famous Cruft's dog show brings us so many of the little-known exotic races, who knows when we may not meet some of these queer doggie fisherfolk in the near future.

(Turn to page 187)