
HISTORY

A CAREFUL RECONSTRUCTION

Being a rare breed in its own country, the Dutch Smoushond is certainly unknown in the rest of the world. Is it an old breed? Yes and no. The breed was known from about 1850 and was registered and exhibited at dog shows from the first quarter of the 20th century. However, during the Second World War, it became extinct and by 1947 there were no pure Smoushond left. In 1973, two Dutch ladies began to rebuild the breed, but without having any living examples of the old Smoushond available, the

Nobody has been able to find out where Abraas got the dogs he sold. We do know that he wasn't a breeder himself and that most of his dogs came from Rotterdam. Some historians think his dogs arrived by boat from England. Others are convinced that Abraas's dogs were of German origin and closely related to the German Pinscher, albeit yellow-colored. Rhine barges still sail from Germany into the harbor of Rotterdam. My personal view is that there is certainly a relation between Abraas's dogs and the wire-haired German Pinscher. Just have a look at the pictures, dating from the same time.

HOLLANDSE SMOUSHOND

Dutch Smoushond - From Stable Dog to Family Dog

text and illustrations by RIA HÖRTER

present breed, not even 50 years old, is a careful reconstruction of an extinct one.

GENTLEMEN'S STABLE-DOGS

It is absolutely certain that this breed has its roots in the Netherlands. About 1850 - so the story goes - the Smoushond was owned mostly by Jews living in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. "Smous" was (and is) a term of abuse for Jews; it could be an explanation of the breed's name. Others believe that the word Smous has derived from the dog's moustache and beard - in Dutch "Smousbaard".

Mr. Pulzer owned a pub in the old city centre of Amsterdam. Being a dog fancier, Pulzer had no objections to dogs going into his pub, so a small group of regular customers took their dogs with them to this establishment. These dogs looked very much alike and were obviously related. Most of them had been purchased from a certain C.J. Abraas who, in his stall situated not far from the pub, sold these small hairy creatures. The name he gave his 'breed' was Heeren Stalhonden (Gentlemen's Stable-Dogs). Other names were Stable Pinscher or Dutch Schnauzer.

NOT A LADIES' PET

A century ago, the Smoushond is not an obscure breed - quite the contrary. In the famous Dutch dog book *Hondenrassen* (edition 1904), by Count Henri van Bylandt, the Smous is very well-represented as Hollandse Smoushond or "Wire-haired Dutch Terrier". This book has several illustrations of the breed, and its standard, which states: He is a stable dog, not a ladies' pet; good ratter and very gay companion." At that time, the height at the shoulder was between 14 and 17½ inches. By 1905, the Smoushond was not only a well-known dog in its home country, but also in Germany and Belgium.

In 1912, another Dutch author, L. Seegers, wrote that the breed resembled an Irish Terrier - not because the Irish Terrier was an ancestor, but because some Smoushonden were crossed with Irish Terriers.

Both authors, Van Bylandt and Seegers, were not only the first breed judges, they were also committee members of the breed club and writers of the breed standard (1905).

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'Flip', a Smous male, pictured before 1912, and owned by Mr. D. Jurriaanse from Leiden

tive of the breed". In 1874, 20 Smoushonden were entered in a Dutch Agriculture Show, and in 1890 at the first dog show organised by the Dutch KC 'Cynophilia', Stinstra judged two classes of Smoushonden. His criteria for a good Smoushond are clear: Forty years ago, the Smoushond was quite popular, especially in Amsterdam. The colors were light and dark yellow, brownish, black and white. Whites and blacks were rare, most of them were yellow. Their body was not long and they were a little high on leg. A Smoushond must be able to see clearly, without being bothered by too much hair. His head is somewhat round with a puggy nose which is black-colored. The ears are cropped, not pointed but round. His eyes are big and dark with a lively expression. The body is rather short and the coat is sturdy. The tail is also docked and the Smoushond has strong fore- and hindquarters with round feet.

In his critiques, Stinstra told exhibitors that a flesh-colored nose, being too high or too low on legs, light eyes, too much white and a curly coat were most objectionable. In 1890 and 1891, only four Smoushonden were entered in the shows of the KC 'Cynophilia'.

'SAMOS'

It seems the breed gradually declined after Stinstra's death. People were still interested in the dog, but began breeding their own types. Some of them resembled big Brussels Griffons, others incorrect Affenpinschers. In 1905, the first re-evaluation

MR. STINSTRA AND HIS 'TOMMY'

A certain Mr. Stinstra played a key role in the breed's early history. Around 1890, he was very interested in the breed and owned a Smoushond, 'Tommy' (born circa 1892), pictured in magazines in and outside the Netherlands as the "one and only good representa-

begin with the founding of a breed club. In 1919, this club had 91 members throughout the Netherlands, but for some reason, the breed never became popular. 'Samos', who was considered one of the best Smoushonden ever, was born in August 1915.

The first breed club had disappeared by 1925. That same year, a dog fancier drew up an inventory resulting in a second breed club. During the Second World War, breeding dogs was difficult; in the years after the war only four litters were registered, born in 1946, '47 and '49. The Dutch KC withdrew recognition of the breed club after 1949 since no Smoushond had been entered in the stud book and there was no longer contact with the club. Was this the end of the story?

TWO AMBITIOUS LADIES

In 1973, two Dutch ladies launched an ambitious plan. They wanted to recreate the Dutch Smoushond, but the only dogs they could find were merely look-alikes whose owners were persuaded to cooperate in a careful breeding program. Those two ladies, Mrs. Mia van Woerden and Mrs. Riek Barkman-van Weel were not only very determined, but also aware of the importance of good PR. Riek Barkman travelled around the country looking for good examples and every year she reported about their progress in the



This portrait of a Smoushond was on the wall in Mrs. Barkman's house, 1995. It's 'Samos', depicted in 1934. (Photo: Marinus Nijhoff)



In 1995, Mrs. Riek Barkman was interviewed by Ria Hörter (right). A portrait of Mrs. Barkman and her dogs was published in 'De Hondenwereld', October 1995. (Photo: Marinus Nijhoff)

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Dutch dog magazine, **De Hondenwereld**. She kept her own stud book and data and collected hundreds of photographs, knowing that some day the breed would be recognized again. Many dog fanciers in the Netherlands were aware of the re-creation of this breed, and they followed the breeding program with great interest.

The first litter of a new Smoushond generation was born in 1972. The father of this litter was discovered in an animal shelter and the mother came from the province of Groningen. Mrs. Barkman

found her thanks to an advertisement in a local newspaper. Between October 1974 and October 1975, 73 puppies were born. Of course, there were disappointments; it seemed to be extremely difficult to get the



The general appearance of a Smoushond is of a rough-coated, lively, active, strong, squarely built dog. (Photo: Alice van Kempen)



The present breed, not even 50 years old, is a careful reconstruction of an extinct one. (Photo: Alice van Kempen)

Smoushond; in early years Border Terriers were used to improve the coat texture.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

In 1978, the third breed club was founded and by 1979, 544 Smoushonden were registered in Mrs. Barkman's stud book. Breeding, health and temperament have always had priority; beauty comes third. If you live outside the Netherlands, it is very difficult or even impossible to acquire a puppy; the breed club wants to follow every dog during its entire life. In the Netherlands, purchasing a Smoushond means waiting for about 2 years. The influence of the breed club goes even further; when a dog or bitch is healthy

and good tempered, the owner is obliged to make the dog available for breeding one time.

This breed is still 'under construction'. Every puppy is seen and described at the age of seven weeks. At the same time, there is a puppy test to ensure that the right dog goes to the right owner. At the age of 1½ years, the dogs are described again during a so-called 'Day of Inventory'. It's obvious that the present breed club leaves nothing to chance.

The old name 'Dutch Terrier' is more or less wrong; the true name should be 'Dutch Pinscher'. The Smoushond is recognized by the FCI (group 2, section 1); the valid breed standard dates from 2001.

Origin: 19th-century Holland (the Netherlands)

Original Purpose: Stable-dog, ratter; now companion dog.

Description: The present breed standard says that the head is one of the most typical characteristics of the Smoushond; seen from above it is broad and short. Today, Stinstra's description is still valid. The general appearance of a Smoushond is of a rough-coated, lively, active, strong, squarely-built dog. They must have the stamina to follow a horse and carriage and the energy to catch rats in the stable. This dog is not ponderous or coarse. The head is one of the most typical features; seen from above it is broad and short. The skull is slightly domed and the forehead slightly rounded. The stop is distinct. An underbite or an even bite are permitted, but a scissors bite is desirable. The lips are thin and tight with black rims. The high-set ears, dropping with the front edge close to the cheeks, are small, thin and triangular with slightly rounded tips. They are very typical for the breed.

The body must give an impression of sturdiness, and the back is broad, muscular and straight. The neck is on the short side and muscular. The chest is broad, not unduly deep, with well-sprung ribs. The loin is slightly arched and the croup is well-muscled. The forequarters are straight with strong, oval bone; hindquarters are moderately angulated, strong and muscular with well let down hocks. The undocked tail should be rather short, carried gaily, but not curled above the back.

The coat is still an important aspect of the breed and is minutely described in the standard: coarse, rugged, hard, straight and never curly, wavy or woolly. There must be sufficient undercoat and a parting on the back is a serious fault.

The color of the coat should be solid yellow in different shades, but preferably dark straw yellow. Today, the Smoushond is a pleasant and easy family dog.

Height/Weight: Approximately 14.5 to 16.5 inches for dogs; approximately 13.75 to 15.75 inches for bitches. Weight about 20 to 22 pounds.

Information: www.smoushond.nl (Dutch breed club) and www.kennelclub.nl (Dutch Kennel Club). Both websites are in Dutch.