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## HISTORY

*The FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale), the World Canine Organization, includes 86 member countries and contract partners (one member per country). Each issues its own pedigrees and trains its own judges. The FCI ensures that the pedigrees and judges are mutually recognized by all FCI members.*

*Recognition of a breed by the FCI means that in almost every European country, that breed can be awarded FCI championship prizes. One of the newly recognized breeds is the Thai Bangkaew Dog.*

Thailand's Thai Bangkaew Dog is classified by

lation. A Buddhist abbot played an important role in the history of the Thai Bangkaew Dog.

There are 76 individual living languages in Thailand. The official language is Thai, a so-called tone language. In Thai, every syllable is pronounced in one of five tones: low, mid, high, falling or rising. The Thai written language is essentially alphabetic, but notoriously difficult to read.

### ANCIENT RELATION

From the 10th century onward, Tai people (of which the Thai are a subgroup) travelled from south China to settle in what is now Thailand, where they

# NEW DOG BREEDS RECOGNIZED BY THE FCI THAI BANGKAEW DOG

text and illustrations by RIA HÖRTER

Photos Courtesy Of Mr. Jetsada Sangjan

the FCI in Group 5, Spitz and primitive type; Section 5, Asian Spitzes and related breeds. The official standard was published in April, 2013.

### COURTEOUS PEOPLE

The Kingdom of Thailand (formerly Siam), located in the centre of the Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia, is one of the few countries in that part of the world with no colonial past. Thailand is a constitutional monarchy headed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, crowned in 1950 as Rama IX. He is the world's longest-serving current head of state, and the longest-reigning monarch in Thai history.

Thailand is a large country of approximately 198,000 square miles, with a population of around 64 million people, of whom about 75 percent are ethnically Thai, 14 percent are of Chinese origin and three percent are ethnically Malay. The rest belong to minority groups and various hill tribes.


The primary religion is Theravada, a form of Buddhism practiced by around 95 percent of the popu-

merged with local tribes, such as the Khmers and Mons. No doubt their dogs accompanied them in the migration. From the 13th century, the Thai culture was dominant in Thailand.


In neighboring Cambodia, the Razorback Dog is a Spitz type with a ridge on its back, a wedge-shaped head, erect ears and a curly tail. The Japanese Hokkaido and Shiba Inu, and the Korean Jindo, resemble the Thai Bangkaew Dog. Karelian Bear Dog and Thai Bangkaew puppies differ only slightly in appearance. The similarities among Spitz breeds in the north of the Western Hemisphere and those in Southeast Asia suggest an ancient relation.

### AN ADAM AND EVE STORY

The breed's name is easy to explain. Bangkaew is a village in the Bang-rakam (or Bangrakam) district, not far from Phitsanulok, in central Thailand. There is a Wat (temple or monastery) close by the village and Yom River. The third Abbot, Luang Puh Mak Metharee, was known for his love for animals.



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The story goes that Tah Nim, an old inhabitant of the village, gave the Abbot a local bitch with a long black-and-white coat. When she proved to be in whelp, people assumed that a dhole (an Asian wild dog) was the sire. The four resulting bitch puppies, all with a long black and dark-brown coat, remained in the neighborhood of the temple.

Mr. Jetsada Sangjan, an important promoter of the breed in Thailand, wrote to me that, “[the Abbot’s bitch] had exactly the same appearance as the present Thai Bangkaew Dog.”

## PUREBRED

Members of the Song community set-



*The people from the ChumSangSongKram Kennel*

tled in the village of Huay Chan, situated about a mile from Bangkaew, bringing their cattle-herding dogs. Trade contacts soon developed between the villages, but not only among the inhabitants. The temple dogs mixed with the dogs of Huay Chan and their offspring were sold to people living on houseboats in the Yom River.

Because the temple bitches often came into season during the rainy season when the rivers overflowed their banks, and males from other villages were unable to reach Bangkaew due to flooding, the temple dogs bred with the Huay Chan dogs exclusively. Therefore, the first Thai Bangkaew Dogs were considered purebred.

Again a marvelous story, but difficult to verify. However, the fact is that the Thai Bangkaew Dog became known in and around Phitsanulok. In 1957, selective breeding produced the generations seen today. The dogs were uniform in type, and were loved in this part of Thailand because of their loyalty, attractive appearance and watchfulness.

## CHUMSANGSONGKRAM

By 1983, the breed was almost extinct as a result of continuing inbreeding. Dr. Nisit Tangtrakarnpong, a veterinarian in the province of Phitsanulok, sought help from the Bangkaew villagers in order to save the breed. He was unsuccessful, but residents of the Bang-rakam district wanted to help and, with their support, Dr. Tangtrakarnpong started the project *Bangkaew Khuen Thin* (The Bangkaew Dog goes home) and found enough purebred Bangkaew Dogs for his breeding program.



*Thailand International Dog Show 2010  
Best Puppy in Show*

“The road to recognition by the FCI was a long one,” wrote Jetsada Sangjan. He is heavily involved with the national breed, as well as the ChumSangSongKram Kennel, named after the district where Dr. Tangtrakarnpong started his project.

The ChumSangSongKram Kennel, owned by Khun Prathadee Kongjareon and situated in the heart of the area where the Thai Bangkaew originated, is the oldest kennel for the breed. They own about 20 dogs, all registered

with the Kennel Club of Thailand ([www.kcthailand.org](http://www.kcthailand.org)). The dogs were frequently exhibited, even in Japan. In 2008, before breed recognition by the kennel club, 31 Thai Bangkaew Dogs were exhibited at a specialty in Bangkok.

## A PIECE OF CULTURAL HISTORY

The Thai Bangkaew Dog is considered a valuable piece of cultural history in Phitsanulok and has become known all over Thailand.

The Thai Bangkaew is foremost a companion dog, but its talents as a watchdog and hunting dog have not disappeared. Sometimes, the breed’s temperament leaves much to be desired. In 2008, Dr. Nick Branson, an Australian veterinarian attached



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*Thai Bangkaew Dog puppies sometimes resemble Karelian Bear Dog puppies.*

to the University of Pennsylvania, analyzed blood samples of 200 Thai Bangkaew Dogs. The breed could be aggressive toward people and Dr. Branson hoped to find a DNA marker for this behavior. Judges reported unacceptable behavior, but recently, there seems to be improvement.

## TOWARD RECOGNITION

Today, there are two breed clubs in Thailand. Some dogs were exported to the U.S. and The Thai Bangkaew Dog Club of America was founded.

In October 2010, at the four-day FCI Asian and Pacific Section Dog Show held at the Exhibition and Convention Centre in Muang Thong Thani, a suburb of Bangkok, the FCI was invited to evaluate a group of Thai Bangkaew Dogs. The King of Thailand donated three trophies, including one for the best Thai Bangkaew Dog. The organization had a message: "The time has come to tell the world that our national breed from Phitsanulok is of top quality."

*The valid breed standard dates from April 2, 2013.*

## NEVER LOW ON LEGS

The Thai Bangkaew Dog is square-built but never low on leg, and has a fairly wide and deep chest. The double coat forms a ruff around the neck and shoulders. The plumed tail is more pronounced in males than in females.

The wedge-shaped skull should be strong, fairly broad but never coarse, and in proportion to the body. The clearly defined stop is moderate. The muzzle is of medium length, broad at the base and tapering toward the tip. The upper and lower jaws are strong, with full dentition. A scissor bite is required, but a pincer bite is tolerated.

The Thai Bangkaew Dog's nose is black; the medium-sized eyes are almond shaped and should be black or dark brown. The small, triangular ears are in proportion to the head, set on rather high, but not too close together. Tips are slightly pointed, erect and point forward. The neck is strong and muscular, blending smoothly into the shoulders.

Viewed in profile, the back is straight and level, the loins strong and broad. The chest is fairly wide, deep, well let down between the forelegs and extending to the elbows. The ribs are well sprung, but should never be barrel shaped. The belly is only slightly tucked up.

The tail is moderately long and well feathered, thick toward the base, well set on and carried with a moderate upward curve over the back.

The shoulders are moderately laid back, and well muscled; the forearms are straight and strong, and parallel when viewed from the front. The well-angulated rear is in balance with the forequarters, the thighs strongly muscled and the hocks well let down. The Thai Bangkaew Dog has rounded forefeet and hind feet, arched and tightly knit.

## NEVER EXAGGERATED

Movement is flexible and strong, with good reach and drive without exaggeration. When moving, the dog maintains a level topline and proud head and tail carriage. The front and hind legs move parallel but tend to single-track with increased speed.

The Thai Bangkaew Dog has a straight, coarse double coat with a soft, dense undercoat. The hair is moderately long on the body, forming a ruff around the neck and shoulders that is more pronounced in males than in females. Coat length should never be so exaggerated as to obscure the body shape. The backs of the forelegs and hind legs are feathered.

The Thai Bangkaew Dog is always white with well-defined patches in any shade of lemon, red, fawn, tan or gray – with or without more-or-less-blackened hair tips, even to the extent of looking tri-colored – as well as white with solid black patches.

Any shape or distribution of patches is acceptable, but symmetrical markings on the head covering the eyes and ears are preferred, with or without a dark mask, and preferably with a white marking around the muzzle. Slight ticking in the white is permissible in an otherwise excellent specimen.

The ideal height at the withers for males is 18 to 22 inches (46 to 55 centimeters); females are 16 to 20 inches (41 to 50 centimeters).

Too broad in muzzle, large round or light eyes, a roach back, lack of ruff or feathering, and a paddling or weaving movement are some faults. Missing more than three teeth, and an all-white coat color or with just some ticking, are severe faults.

An aggressive or overly shy dog or a dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified. Drop ears, a curled or kinked tail, short or smooth coat, overshot or undershot bite, natural stub tail and a solid coat color with only slight white markings are also disqualifications.

The average lifespan is 10 to 14 years. Apart from various eye problems (eye testing before breeding is recommended), there are no serious abnormalities in the breed.

The breed is alert, intelligent, loyal, watchful, obedient and easy to train. It can be slightly aloof toward strangers. The Thai Bangkaew Dog is a good swimmer and loves to dig holes.



*A ChumSangSongKram Kennel worker swimming with a dog in the River Yom. The Thai Bangkaew Dog is a good swimmer.*