

= Potcake dog =

The potcake dog is a mixed @-@ breed dog type found on several Caribbean islands . Its name comes from the congealed rice and pea mixture that local residents traditionally fed dogs . Although appearance varies , potcake dogs generally have smooth coats , cocked ears , and long faces .

= = History = =

Dogs on various Caribbean islands share a common ancestry ; many residents of Turks and Caicos were originally from nearby islands and took their dogs with them . Three types may have contributed to development : dogs the Arawak brought with them to the Bahamas ; terriers protecting supplies from rodents on ships that arrived in Eleuthera , New Providence , and the Abaco Islands ; and dogs from North Carolina that arrived with Loyalists during the American Revolutionary War period . It is also likely that the early Spanish settlers may have introduced their own dogs . As these could have included fighting dogs , the Arawak dogs may have been killed off . In addition , many breeds were imported in the 20th century which interbred with the local dogs , so making the mix of breeds in the potcake dynamic . DNA studies have shown no residue of early dog DNA in today 's potcakes . Any such remaining DNA has become inconsequential due to the constant imports of dogs with the arrival of colonizers .

The type 's name is derived from the term " potcake " , which refers to the congealed rice mixture at the bottom of the family cooking pot that Bahamians have traditionally fed dogs In Nassau alone , there are an estimated 5 @,@ 000 to 8 @,@ 000 stray potcakes . In the late 1970s , The Bahamas named the type the " Royal Bahamian Potcake " . As of February 2011 , the Bahamas Kennel Club lists it separately from the mixed @-@ breed dog within Group 9 ? Non @-@ Registered .

= = Description = =

= = = Appearance = = =

Although described as having a " shepherd @-@ mix " look , the potcake dog 's appearance varies by island . It may resemble a typical pariah dog or have hound , mastiff , spaniel , terrier , or retriever characteristics . The type typically has cocked ears , a long face , and a smooth coat without undercoat , or less commonly , a " shaggy " or rough coat . As a result of their mixed heritage , potcakes vary widely in terms of color , with many being brown , white , black , and far more with mixed coats . On average , a potcake dog will stand approximately 24 inches (61 cm) at the withers . Healthy dogs typically weigh from 45 to 50 pounds (20 to 23 kg) , while strays may weigh only 25 pounds (11 kg) .

According to Jane Parker @-@ Rauw , potcake dogs are intelligent , loyal , calm , and hardy . Unlike many dog breeds , potcakes are able to eat many foods that would be upsetting to most dogs . Their stomachs are incredibly hardy , . However , they tend to wander if not properly confined or supervised .

= = Overpopulation and rescue efforts = =

The number of stray potcake dogs on the Turks and Caicos Islands has apparently increased , despite spay @-@ and @-@ neuter programmes designed to minimise their numbers . Because the territory is dependent on tourism , officials consider the dogs nuisances , and police have shot and poisoned them . Strays have a median age of three years In the Bahamas , misconceptions about spaying and neutering dissuade residents from altering their pets . According to The Bahamas Advocates for Animal Rights group , there are 11 @,@ 000 unowned dogs in New Providence . Forty five percent of tourists report seeing roaming dogs , and two percent state they were " scared " by their presence .

Local organisations adopt out stray potcake dogs to alleviate the overpopulation problem . In 2005 , Turks and Caicos @-@ based rescue organisation Potcake Place became a registered charity . After running out of families to adopt to on Providenciales , volunteers connected with potential adopters through the rescue 's website www.potcakeplace.com and Facebook page . Puppies are vaccinated and sent on airlifts free of charge to adopters . Additionally , several no @-@ kill United States shelters accept potcake puppies . The Humane Society of Grand Bahama , located in Freeport , ships them to Florida on ferries .

Additional rescue programs exist in Puerto Rico and St. Croix .

= = Notable dogs = =

A potcake dog named Amigo is the mascot of the Humane Society of Grand Bahama and the BEKIND Campaign , a collaboration with the HSUS to bring greater attention to animal welfare issues . He was also an Ambassador of Hope for homeless animals until his death due to cancer in 2007 . Amigo has appeared on MSNBC , Fox News , and CNN , and received the Ambassador of Goodwill and Hollywood Life Breakthrough of the Year 2007 awards . In 2009 , he was one of four potcake dogs honoured in a series of commemorative stamps .

Potcake dogs Daisy and Dusty , born in Providenciales and owned by Andy LoCascio , are trained to locate fish through scent on the water and distant cries of feeding sea birds . They have been featured on television and in magazines , including Northeast Boating Magazine .