

Galgos, Lurchers, Staghounds and Mixes

Galgo Rescue International Network

www.galgorescue.org

The Spanish Galgo

The Spanish Galgo is a sightound mix, possibly Irish greyhound and sloughi or deerhound. Originally brought to Spain by noblepersons, the galgo was held in high esteem. After decades of theft and indiscriminant breeding by the lower classes, the galgo lost its favor and was - and still is - viewed as a "trash dog", owned only by the lower classes.

The galgo was bred for hunting and coursing and is an elegant sighthound. The unscrupulous breeding brought with it beautiful variations in color, coat and size. The coats range from short hair (like that of a greyhound), to varying degrees of long and wirehair coats, as seen in the Scottish deerhound and other sightounds.

Sadly, the galgo's native land still views it as a second-class animal and few Spaniards will own them as pets. They are bred carelessly and used for hunting by galgueros. At the end of the hunting season in Spain, the galgos deemed worthless or too costly to maintain are destroyed in a variety of inhumane ways - including being hung, dumped into abandoned wells, shot, and even burned to death.

There are a handful of Spanish shelters dedicated to saving the galgos and other unwanted animals of Spain. More galgueros are willing to give their unwanted dogs to the shelters. Unfortunately, though, the abuse and torture of galgos is far from being a past-time.

Organizations like Galgo Rescue International Network are dedicated to the welfare of the Spanish Galgo and sightounds worldwide, and assist the Spanish shelters with adoption, veterinary care, and fundraising.



Lurcher



American Staghound

The Lurcher and the American Staghound

The Lurcher was originally bred in Ireland and England and used for hunting. It is a mix of breeds, typically a greyhound or other sightound mixed with a terrier or a herding dog, giving it greater stamina.

The original lurchers in the UK were bred out of necessity. For centuries it was illegal for a commoner to own a purebred sighthound. Hunters who wanted the skill of the sighthound bred them to other breeds to obtain the fast, agile, and strong dogs - while diminishing the sighthound appearance just enough to legally own them.

The lurcher is a very smart, obedient and loving dog, still used for hunting and sometimes bred in the US for coyote hunting. They are more energetic than greyhounds, but yet have many of the endearing characteristics greyhound lovers adore.

The American Staghound is similar to the lurcher but has its roots in American history. Bred as a cross of greyhound, deerhound, and other sightounds, the staghound is bred for its ability to hunt.

Unlike the European dogs, the staghound's past is not as dark. General Custer and Theodore Roosevelt both owned and loved staghounds, using them for hunting and companionship.

The staghound is not an AKC recognized breed, but enthusiasts care little about pedigree as the ability to hunt is their primary concern.

The staghound, like the lurcher and galgo, can come in a variety of coats and colors. They are much like the greyhound in energy level, though they are not quite as fast but have greater endurance.

Like most sightounds, the staghound is a lovely dog, both in appearance and personality.

Greyhound and Sighthound Mixes

What, you might ask, is the difference between a galgo, lurcher, staghound, and a greyhound mix? To a certain degree it boils down to semantics. All three breeds discussed on the other side are, in fact, sighthound mixes. But their origin and purpose, as well as the type of mix, dictates how they are categorized.



Sadly, the true mixes - greyhounds and other sighthounds mixed with labs, pit bulls, hounds, etc. are often left behind. Just as with any breed rescue there are indiscriminant litters born, and because they are not "purebred" they are left by the wayside, often euthanized before they ever have a chance at life.

These dogs are just as deserving as their purebred cousins and they desperately need our help. Please don't turn a blind eye to them just because they aren't given a name.

These wonderful "mutts" deserve a chance at a loving home. Dog lovers all over the world fall in love with a certain "type" of dog, and the mixes greatly resemble in personality the type that sighthound enthusiasts love.

It is fortunate that greyhound mixes are not seen in the great abundance that other mixes are. Due to the segregation of greyhounds in racing and the vigilance of greyhound rescue groups, there is a much smaller population of unaltered greyhounds at large. But there are unscrupulous individuals who refuse to alter their animals and, as with any breed, the indiscriminant breeding of greyhounds does occur.

The Galgo Rescue International Network is Dedicated to the Welfare of the Spanish Galgo and to Sighthounds Worldwide.

For information on how to help, please contact us by email at

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Galgo Rescue International Network
Dedicated to the Welfare of the Spanish Galgo



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They Need Your Help!
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