



FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1<sup>er</sup> B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

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FCI-Standard N° 94 / 30.03.2009 / GB

PORTUGUESE WARREN HOUND –  
PORTUGUESE PODENGO  
(Podengo Português)



**TRANSLATION** : Portuguese Kennel Club. Revised by Jennifer Mulholland and Renée Sporre-Willes

**ORIGIN** : Portugal.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD** : 04.11.2008.

**UTILIZATION** : Hunting dog, watch dog and companion dog

**F.C.I. CLASSIFICATION** : Group 5 Spitz and Primitive types.  
Section 7 Primitive type – Hunting  
Dogs.  
Without working trial.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY** : Primitive type dog, it probably originates from the ancient dogs brought by the Phoenicians and Romans to the Iberian Peninsula in the Classic Antiquity. It was subsequently influenced by the introduction of dogs accompanying the Moors in their invasions in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. It adapted to the Portuguese terrain and climate, to become what is nowadays known as the Portuguese Warren Hound. It evolved morphologically throughout the centuries due to its functionality, with the small variety being selected, from the 15<sup>th</sup> century on, as a ratter on the Caravels of the Portuguese navigators.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE** : Quadrangular pyramidal head, with erect ears, sickle shaped tail, well proportioned, with sound construction and well muscled; very lively and intelligent; sober and rustic. It exists in three sizes, with two varieties of coat: smooth and wire.

**IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS :**

Large and Medium-sized Podengo : Almost square (Sub-mediolinar) of large or medium substance respectively. Ratio of length of body to height at the withers: 11/10 and depth of chest to height at withers: 1/2.

Small Podengo : Body slightly longer than high (Sub-longilinear), of small stature. The length of the body is slightly more than the height at withers with a ratio – length of body/height at the withers: 6/5 and depth of chest /height at withers: 1/2.

In all varieties, the muzzle length is less than the skull length.

**BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT :**

Large Podengo : used for hunting big game.

Medium Podengo : also known as Warren Hound, its natural aptitude as a rabbit hunter is well used, hunting either in a pack or alone.

Small Podengo : used for searching rabbits in holes and rocks.

All varieties are also used as watch dogs and as companion dogs.

**HEAD** : Lean and of a quadrangular pyramid shape, with large base and definite pointed muzzle. The longitudinal superior cranium-facial axes are divergent.

**CRANIAL REGION :**

Skull : Flat; almost straight in profile; prominent superciliary arches; scarcely perceptible frontal furrow; the area between the ears is horizontal with prominent occipital protuberance.

Stop : Barely defined.

**FACIAL REGION :**

Nose : Tapered and obliquely truncated, prominent at the tip; of darker colour than the coat.

Muzzle : Pointed; curved seen from the front, with a straight profile; shorter than the skull; broader at the base than at the tip.

Lips : Close fitting, thin; firm, horizontally cut and well pigmented.

Jaws/Teeth : Normal with scissors bite, with solid, white teeth; normal occlusion of both jaws. Full dentition in the large variety.

Cheeks : Lean and obliquely set, seen from the front.

Eyes: Very lively expression; not prominent; they are small and slanted with the colour ranging from honey to brown, in accordance with the coat; lids darker than the coat colour.

Ears : Set on obliquely at the level of the eyes; straight, erect, with high mobility; vertical or tilting slightly forward, when attentive; pointed, wider at the base, triangular; thin, of considerable length, more than the width at the base.

**NECK** : In a harmonious transition from head to body; straight; long; well proportioned, strong and well muscled; without dewlap.

**BODY** :

Top line: Straight, level.

Withers : Only slightly visible in relation to the neck and back.

Back : Straight and long.

Loin : Straight; broad and well muscled.

Croup : Straight or slightly sloping; medium sized; broad and well muscled.

Chest : Down to the elbows; of moderate width; long, with the sternum rising back and up; ribs slightly sprung and inclined; forechest neither too apparent nor too muscled\_and of moderate width.

Underline and belly : Slightly tucked up; lean belly and flanks.

**TAIL** : Natural, set on rather higher than low; strong, thick and thinning to the tip, of medium length; at rest falls slightly curved between the buttocks down to the hocks, in action it rises horizontally either slightly curved or vertically in sickle shape, but never curled; fringed on the under side.

**LIMBS**

**FOREQUARTERS** : Upright when seen from front and sides; well muscled and lean.

**Shoulder** : Long; inclined; strong and well muscled; scapula-humerus angle, approximately 110°.

**Elbow** : Parallel to the main line of the body.

**Forearm** : Vertical; long and well muscled.

**Carpus (Pastern joint)** : Lean and not prominent.

**Metacarpus (Pastern)** : Short; strong; slightly inclined.

**Forefeet** : Rounded; long toes, strong, tight and arched; with strong and preferably dark nails, tough and firm pads.

**HINDQUARTERS** :

Upright when seen from back and sides; well muscled and lean; parallel to the main body line.

**Thigh** : Long; of medium width; well muscled.

**Stifle joint** : Femur-tibia angle approximately 135°.

**Second thigh** : Inclined; long; lean, strong, well muscled.

**Hock** : Of medium height; lean; strong; open hock angle, approximately 135°.

**Metatarsus (Rear Pastern)** : Strong; short; inclined; without dewclaws.

**Hind feet** : Rounded; long toes, strong, tight and arched; short and strong nails, preferably dark; tough and firm pads.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT** : Light trot, easy and agile movement.

**SKIN** : Thin and tight. Mucous membranes preferably dark pigmented or always darker than the coat.

**COAT**

**HAIR** : Two varieties: Either short and smooth or long and wire - both of medium thickness; without undercoat. The short coat is more dense than the wire coat. In the wire variety the hair on the muzzle is longer (bearded).

**COLOUR** : Yellow and fawn in all shades from light to dark, with or without white markings, or white with patches of these colours.

In the Small Podengo, the following colours are accepted but not preferred: black, brown, with or without white markings or white with patches of these colours.

**HEIGHT AND WEIGHT:****Height**

Small:	20 to 30 cm
Medium:	40 to 54 cm
Large:	55 to 70 cm

**Weight:**

Small:	4 to 6 Kg
Medium:	16 to 20 Kg
Large:	20 to 30 Kg

**FAULTS:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effects on the health and welfare of the dog.

- **Behaviour** : Signs of shyness.
- **Cranium/Muzzle** : Parallel longitudinal superior cranium-facial axes.
- **Jaws** : Incorrect occlusion or badly implanted teeth; pincer bite; incomplete dentition in the large variety.
- **Nose** : Partial lack of pigmentation.
- **Neck** : Arched.

- Body : Arched top line.
- Croup : Too sloping.
- Dewclaws : Their existence is not appreciated.
- Coat : Silky and/or with undercoat.

**SEVERE FAULTS** :

- Cranium/Muzzle : Convergent superior cranium-facial axes.
- Nose : Total lack of pigmentation.
- Ears : Rounded.
- Belly : Too tucked up.
- Tail : Curled.

**ELIMINATING FAULTS** :

- Behaviour : Aggressive or overly shy.
- General Appearance : Signs of crossbreeding to sighthounds, pointing breeds or any other crossbreeding.
- Jaws : Undershot or overshot.
- Eyes : Of different colours.
- Ears : Folded or hanging.
- Colour : Brindle; black and tan; tricolour and totally white.

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

**N.B.**: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.