

The FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale), the World Canine Organization, includes 87 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. The Terrier Brasileiro was provisionally recognized in 1994, and fully recognized in May 2007.

#### COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Although Brazil is the largest country in Latin America and fifth-largest in the world, with more than 201 million people living on 8.5 million square kilometers, it has only six national dog breeds, two of them fully recognized by the FCI: the Fila Brasileiro and the Terrier Brasileiro. Brazil's kennel club is the Confederação Brasileira de Cinofilia (CBKC; cbkc.org).

For more than 500 years – since its discovery by Portuguese explorer Pedro Álvares Cabral in 1500 – Brazil's

# TERRIER BRASILEIRO

## (Brazilian Terrier)



*The history of the Terrier Brasileiro is only 100 years old. A beautiful male from the kennel Tropical Beauty in Brazil.*

Terrier Brasileiro is not recorded in the AKC Foundation Stock Service®.

#### **Terrier Brasileiro (Fox Paulistinha, Brazilian Terrier)**

The breed is classified by the FCI in Group 3, Terriers – Section 1: Large and medium-sized Terriers. In Brazil, its country of origin, the breed was used for hunting small game, and as a guard dog and companion. At this time, the

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history has been impacted by its European conquerors, most of them from Portugal. Immigrants played a large role in the history of this country, as well as the development of its dog breeds. However, the early history of most Brazilian dog breeds took place in Europe.

#### **OTHER BRAZILIAN BREEDS**

The Terrier Brasileiro is the second Brazilian breed to be recognized by the FCI; the first was the Fila Brasileiro. The other four Brazilian breeds are the Buldogue Campeiro, Dogue Brasileiro, Ovelheiro Gaúcho, and the Veadeiro Brasileiro or Veadeiro Paumpeiro. They are recognized nationally by the Brazilian Kennel Club.

Reading about the history of the Terrier Brasileiro, I came across another Brazilian breed, the Rastreador Brasileiro (another name is Brazilian Coonhound), a native hunting

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## DOG BREEDS RECOGNIZED BY THE FCI

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dog developed in the 1950s by Oswaldo Aranha Filho. It became the first Brazilian dog breed to gain recognition from various kennel clubs, but after the outbreak of a deadly disease, the FCI declared the breed extinct in 1973.

### BRAZILIAN STUDENTS

The history of the Terrier Brasileiro is only about 100 years old. The breed's roots lie in Europe but, unlike Fila Brasileiro ancestors that arrived in 16th- and 17th-century Brazil with the conquistadors, the ancestors of the Terrier Brasileiro were imported in the 19th and beginning of the 20th century by young Brazilian students who had studied at European universities, especially in England and France, and brought a small terrier-type of dog home with them. These terriers resembling the Jack Russell Terrier mixed with local dogs in the Brazilian countryside. With urbanization, families and their terriers moved to the cities, small dogs being more suited to urban life than large bulldogs or Filas. Or so the story goes.

Is this story true? Well, maybe this happened occasionally. We know that the Terrier Brasileiro could have developed thanks to Jack Russell Terriers that arrived in Brazil in the 19th century. With or without the help of students doesn't seem to be that important.

It is said that in the early years, small Pinschers and larger Chihuahuas were also involved in the breed's development. The Junqueira family in Brazil was of great importance in selecting the right types and temperaments in the development of this breed.

### FOX PAULISTINHA

Another name of the breed is Fox Paulistinha, meaning "small terrier-like dog from São Paulo," the city that played a role in the breed's history.



The first breed standard was published in 1964 and there were some attempts to gain official recognition. In 1973, however, the CBKC suspended the issue of pedigrees. In 1981, some breeders who were dissatisfied with the situation founded the Clube do Fox Paulistinha. They were operating outside the dog-breeding establishment, but kept a stud book. One of the founders of this club, Marina Lerario, wrote an article for a major newspaper in São Paulo (*O Estado de São Paulo*) in which she ex-



*The rather-large, round eyes are set well apart, their color as dark as possible. A Terrier Brasileiro from the kennel Tropical Beauty in Brazil.*

plained the situation in the breed and invited fanciers to attend a club meeting. Her approach was successful. The CBKC resumed the breed's registration in 1985, and recognized the club in 1992.

### HOMOGENOUS ANIMALS

Before a breed can achieve FCI recognition, the FCI requires a breed standard, a population of 1,000 homogenous animals from a minimum of eight independent lines, and validated information about the breed's health status. At an FCI meeting in Switzerland in 1994, recognition of the Terrier Brasileiro

was to be held over, but after examining pictures and videos, the committee was convinced of the breed's viability and provisionally recognized it for a period of 10 years. The Terrier Brasileiro was fully recognized in 2007.

In Brazil, Marina Vicari Lerario (Kennel Taboão) from São Paulo has been one of the best-known breeders since 1977. Marcos Hotz, a breed judge whose family has been involved with the breed for a long time, has exported Terriers Brasileiro to the United States and Portugal.

Angelika Purkhauser (vom Stall Brasil) in Austria, and Marco Nurminen (Higienopolis) in Finland, are well-known breeders in Europe. Nurminen is breeding from old Brazilian stock.

### SUFFICIENT EXERCISE

From the beginning, the Terrier Brasileiro has been used for hunting small game, especially vermin. Their hunting technique of working alone or in packs to chase the prey until it is exhausted is simple yet effective.

The Terrier Brasileiro is a squarely built, well-balanced, medium-sized dog, high on leg, with a narrow chest and light bone. Its curved lines distinguish the breed from the Smooth Fox Terrier. The white coat is short, fine and smooth with tan as well as black, blue or brown markings. Height at the withers is 14 to 16 inches (35 to 40 centimeters) for males, and 13 to 15 inches (33 to 38 centimeters) for females.

The breed has a real terrier temperament: spirited, alert, active, friendly, but a little suspicious of strangers. Generally speaking, the Brazilian Terrier has more hunting instinct than the average terrier.

Considered a fine companion dog, given sufficient exercise, the Terrier Brasileiro loves obedience and agility and is no longer rare in the Brazilian show ring.

*We have tried to find the names of all photographers. Unfortunately, we did not always succeed. Please send a message to the author ([www.riahorter.com](http://www.riahorter.com)) if you think you are the owner of copyright.*