

## HISTORY

*In September 2005, the Barbado da Terceira was presented for the first time at a dog show in Portugal. The Barbado's home, Terceira, is an island in the Azores, an archipelago of nine volcanic islands in the Atlantic Ocean, 850 miles west of the Iberian peninsula. The archipelago is an autonomous region of Portugal. The capital is Ponto Delgada on the island of São Miguel.*

# Barbado da Terceira

## Versatile Sheepdog from the Portuguese Island of Terceira

text by RIA HÖRTER

courtesy ANDRE HEUZER

illustrations by ANDRE HEUZER, VOM SALAMANDERPARK,  
MAUREEN HEUZER-HULZEBOS AND RIA HÖRTER

### SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE DOGS

The Barbado da Terceira is easily confused with the Cão de Fila da Terceira, a medium-sized mastiff that's nearly extinct, as far as I know. Various similar types come from the Azores (Portugal) and the Balearic Islands (Spain): the Perro de Presa Mallorquín (Perro Dogo; Ca de Bou) from Mallorca, and the Podenco Ibicenco from the Balears; the Podenco Canario and Perro de Presa Canario (Dogo Canario) from the Canary Islands; and from the Azores, the Cão Fila de São Miguel from the island with the same name, and the Barbado da Terceira, named after the island of Terceira. All except the Barbado are recognized by the FCI.

In 2004, the Barbado was provisionally recognized by the Portuguese Kennel Club (*Clube Português de Canicultura*; CPC; cpc.pt). In 2013, a group of Barbado owners founded a breed club, the

*Clube Português do Barbado da Terceira* (CPBT; cpbt.pt) with the goal of writing the breed standard and seeking FCI recognition.

Two other obscure breeds in Portugal are the Cão do Barrocal Algarvio, a type of podengo (hunting dog) from the Algarve in southern Portugal, and the Cão de Gado Transmontano, a mastiff type in Trás-os-Montes, in remote northeast Portugal.



Three Barbados da Terceira imported and owned by Andre Heuzer and Maureen Swart, who promote the breed in The Netherlands.

Photo taken in Bordeira, Portugal

### HENRIQUE O NAVEGADOR

For ages, the Azores have been used as a stopping place between Europe and America. There is evidence of ancient settlements on the island long before the arrival of the Portuguese in the mid-1400s, when colonization was begun by order of the Portuguese King Henry O Navegador (Henry the Navigator, 1390-1460).

The first overseer, Diogo de Teive, named the island Jesus Cristo; later it was renamed Terceira.

*The Barbado could be a descendant of the old, medium-sized, long-haired herding dogs that were present all over Europe and accompanied colonists*

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Terceira's capital is Angra do Heroísmo, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

### SPECULATION

Several breeds from the Spanish and Portuguese islands in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean originate from the mainland of Europe. Paintings dating from the 17th and 18th centuries show types of dogs that indicate a close relation with the island breeds. This isn't surprising, since colonists took their own dogs to the islands where they mingled with the local dogs, resulting in new breeds.

But... it went slightly differently with the Barbado. I could find no examples in art of possible European ancestors.

Like some other breeds, their history has been built on assumptions. Because of the Barbado's appearance – medium-sized, bearded, long-haired – the large griffons and barbets are named as ancestors. Another theory is that the Barbado could be a descendant of the old, medium-sized, long-haired herding dogs that were present all over Europe and accompanied colonists to Terceira. Because the Barbado herds and drives cattle, another Portuguese breed seems to be related: the Cão da Serra de Aires, a guard dog and sheepdog. Their heads are similar. Two Spanish breeds, the Gos d'Atura Català (Perro de Pastor Catalán; Catalán Sheepdog) and the Pyrenean Sheepdog share some physical features with the Barbado. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Azores were under Spanish rule, so it's likely that Spanish dogs arrived in Terceira.

At first sight, the Barbado looks like the Flemish Bouvier, an old cattle driver. Some of Terceira's earliest settlers were from Flanders. Did they bring the Flemish cattle dog (Bouvier) to the island? An interesting theory...

### LOW BITING AND HIGH BITING

The Barbado da Terceira is a cattle driver, driving unwilling cattle by biting the hock (low biting). Wild cattle is bitten a bit higher on one of the hind legs. Apart from driving cattle, the Barbado was also used to herd and protect sheep and goats. Over the years, when working in the fields became less important, the Barbado became a guard dog and family dog. However, on the island of Terceira the Barbado is still used to herd cattle.

Today the breed is known in Portugal, Austria, Finland, France, the Ukraine, Sweden and the Netherlands. In the Low Countries there are now about 40 Barbados. In France, the breed is entered in the SCC's (*Société Centrale Canine*) *Livre d'Attente*, a kind of provisional stud book of the *Livre des Origines Français* (*Book of French Origins*).



*The island of Terceira in the Azores, an archipelago consisting of nine volcanic islands.*

### HOMOGENOUS

In September 2016, the Barbado da Terceira was officially presented at the Championship Show in Maastricht, the Netherlands. On Terceira and in Portugal, the breed is no longer rare; about 30 Barbados are being shown on the Portuguese mainland.

On Terceira and in Portugal, fanciers are preparing for FCI recognition. Scientists and delegates of the Portuguese Kennel Club (CPC) have played a role; reports and articles have been published. Sufficient homogeneity in the breed is required for FCI recognition. Different, unrelated bloodlines are necessary to create a healthy breed.

### RUSTIC DOG

The first impression of a Barbado is of a rustic dog with a muscled body that is slightly longer than tall. The height at the withers is 20-23 inches (52-58 centimeters) for dogs; for bitches it is 17-21 inches (48-54 centimeters). The coat is abundant, long and wavy. Coat colors are black, gray, beige and yellow, in different shades from dark to broken white. Brown and merle are not accepted. The tail is set on medium-high to low and is traditionally docked, in countries where that is still accepted. The ears are cropped where allowed. When the dog looks or listens attentively, the ears are set up and folded forward, giving the Barbado a somewhat comical appearance.

As already mentioned, the Barbado da Terceira is a versatile dog. He has a great will to please, learns quickly and has a good memory. The breed is not happy in a kennel and wants to be treated as a member of the family.



*Bruxa, 1 year old, has honey-colored eyes. Show judges prefer a somewhat darker eye. When of equal quality, a dog with a darker eye wins at shows.*



## HISTORY



Andre Heuzer and his three Barbados imported from Portugal. Left to right: Sininho - 2 years, Bruxa - 3 years and the little male Mago - 5 months. There is a difference between Sininho, bred from working lines, Mago, bred from "mainland" lines, and Bruxa, who is from the Azores line.

Photo: Maureen Heuzer-Hulzebos

These are positive qualities but still his upbringing must be absolutely consistent. Yesterday's No! is today's No! and tomorrow's No! The Barbado is not a dog for beginners; there is a contradiction in descriptions of its temperament: obedient and self-willed. Self-will is the dominant trait. The teddy bear-like appearance of these extremely powerful dogs is deceptive.

### MAD ABOUT PORTUGAL

Andre Heuzer and Maureen Heuzer-Hulzebos from Almere, Netherlands are "mad about Portugal." Looking for a Portuguese Water Dog, they came across a Barbado da Terceira. After viewing a number of Youtube videos, they contacted Kennel Estrela do Mar in Lagos (Portugal) and visited the breeders in November 2011.



The three coat colors of the Barbado: Amarello (yellow), Black and White

They decided to take Jubila Bruxa da Estrela do Mar. The second and third Barbados followed shortly after: Fada Sininho de Monte de Magos and Mago da Quinta dos Salgueiros, a bitch and a dog.

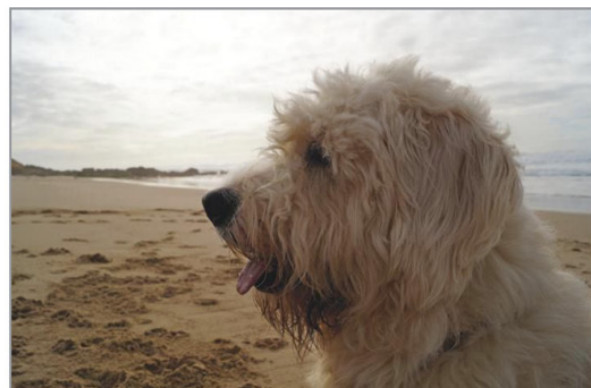
From their first litter – seven puppies in 2015 – they kept a bitch, Sonho de Deus – Dream of the Goddess. The Heuzers registered a kennel name (Floresta dos Sonhos) and got Portuguese pedigrees for their dogs.

The Portuguese Kennel Club (CPC) and the Dutch Kennel Club (DKC) made a special arrangement. The DKC chipped the seven puppies and took their DNA; the CPC took care of the pedigrees.

In 2014, the *Vereniging Portugese Rashonden NL* (Portuguese Dog Breeds Club; portugesserashonden.nl) was founded in the Netherlands with Andre Heuzer as chairman. The club plans to "strengthen the ties with the Dutch Kennel Club in order to get recognition."

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

*A retired bookseller and publisher, Ria Hörter is a dog writer from The Netherlands. She is the contributing editor of the leading Dutch National Dog Magazine Onze Hond (Our Dogs) and worked for the Dutch Kennel Club and the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of the Netherlands, of which she was one of the founders. She was nominated twice and a finalist in the 2009 Annual Writing Competition of the Dog Writers Association of America, for her articles in Dogs in Canada. On April 12, 2014, she was awarded the Dutch Cynology Gold Emblem of Honour, presented by the Dutch Kennel Club. For more information visit: riahorter.com*



Mago da Quinta dos Salgueiros, an adult Barbado belonging to the Heuzer family. A beautiful head but still not mature. In 2016, Mago scored high in Portugal, and is on his way to a Portuguese championship.