

Cirneco Dell'Etna



The Cirneco Dell'Etna – pronounced 'Cheer-Nay-Co' is a native of Sicily where he was used for hunting rabbits, particularly in the area surrounding Mount Etna, where the landscape is formed by volcanic lava. In appearance, the Cirneco is very similar to the Pharaoh Hound, with whom he shares some of the same origins. The elegant outline, sculpted head and mobile ears give the breed a very distinctive silhouette, but in a smaller mould than the Pharaoh.

The breed has altered very little over the centuries and remains the primitive sighthound, retaining his natural hunting instincts. The Cirneco does, however, adapt well to family life and loves the comforts of home. A very clean breed, with fine coat and skin that needs very little grooming, they appreciate also the opportunity for free galloping and plenty of exercise.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the Cirneco Dell'Etna?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Accredited Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.