

### Start of white shepherds in the Czech Republic

White Swiss shepherd's breeding spread quickly almost all over the Europe. Mrs. V. Hes from Libne brought the first white shepherd - Banja von Wolfsgehege from the bann of breeding the white shepherd in the SV (German Shepherd Kennel Club) to Czech Republic. Then Banja was sold to the Slovak territory, where she got lost. The first white shepherds for the breeding came to the Czech Republic in 1991. The paradox was that the first white shepherd puppies born in Czech Republic has been registered on Hungarian kennel, and thus also had Hungarian pedigrees. It was for this reason that none of the Czech owners / breeders of white shepherd was organized in any canine office. There was mainly the kennel resting CS (later Resting Nivalis) Polak's couple. These breeders also lent two brood females from abroad - from the kennel Savaria from Croatia, and thus they care of rapid development of white shepherd in the Czech Republic. The first litter of pups (five males and three females) "with the Czech firm" was born from the merger of female named Anna von Hainal and dog Alf von Tiroler Land in the kennel "ACABO CS" (now Czech ACABO) of Mrs. Vera Pecko.

In April 24, 1993 Club AKBO (American-Canadian White Shepherd) was founded at the instigation of Polak's couple and with the support of Mrs. Libuse Ubr . Relatively strict criterion for breeding was introduced from the start whether it was a full dentition, hip dysplasia, but also a good character, etc.

Despite the existence of myths type, that it is a breed that originated from the Canadian wolf, or even that it is a breed not recognized and must not participate in any exhibition, White Swiss Shepherd found in a relatively short time a large numbers of fans, owners and breeders. Since 1995 the annual number of registered puppies is around 100 individuals. Club Show in September 12, 1999 was marked by the beginning of the assessment of long-and short-haired White Swiss Shepherd separately. This step rendered many advantages.

For many breeders has been a huge surprise when in January 1, in 2003 was an internationally recognized pre-FCI American-Canadian White Shepherd as "White Swiss Shepherd." It's name on an interim basis, that is why they left him in Czech Republic a acronym ACO. White Swiss Shepherd is already not a "national race", but the FCI group I, Section 1 - Shepherds, with the subtitle: two varieties of coat, without working trial. This report, on one hand , pleased breeders and owners of these white dogs, on the other hand , brought some disappointment. For Czech "Canadians", respectively, for the Czech white shepherd owner, this meant a step back. White Swiss Shepherd will again be assessed again without a breakdown by length of hair (except for special exhibitions and club) and also at international dog shows the working class will be not open for this breed . Which is absolutely a pity.

In April 6, 2003 the Club of the American-Canadian White Shepherd Club was renamed The white shepherd club, in whose ranks there are still about 280 members. Every year it holds not only for members but for all owners and fans of white shepherd two young leads, and two breeding, club weekend , training camp at Rýzmburk, family camp, the unofficial championship in performance, trips, a special club show - last year 113 individuals were registered on the tenth club show.

### **The nature of the white shepherd**

It is very difficult to capture the true nature of white shepherd. It is one of the few breeds where you can see both spirited and exceedingly calm individuals, as timid, so confident, friendly and distrustful, easily leashing and with several trials and typical "Companion dogs" ... So creating a concise picture of the nature of this breed is really difficult.

He is very calm in the walks, and you can manage him very well. It is a very perceptive and teachable dog. But sometimes he is so cunning. He is not aggressive and dominance of white shepherd is downright exceptional phenomenon. He usually behaves friendly to the pets and other dogs if the puppy is in contact with them at least occasionally. Some individuals may be too sensitive and suspicious, but mostly this is due to the limited socialization. In any case, a breed is very easy-going after sufficient of socializing.

### **His socialization is necessary**

His typically nice and balanced behavior can thus be only under the proper daily socialization in puppy age. His sensitivity and sensibility makes him at a young age rather problematic puppy. Often the young male is hiding or running away as all that is unknown to him (whether sounds and things). It is important to focus on different sounds, urban tourism, unusual situations and objects, touching human hands.

The breeder should pay close attention to the phase of imprinting or early stage of socialization and owner should continuously build on it. Proper socialization can not be a matter of days, not even weeks. Certainly it is necessary to devote fully to this so that the absence of these suggestions will not reflect negatively on the character in his adulthood. I stress that positive experience is necessary, because any negative experience even it may seem trifling, can leave the puppy with dire consequences for the rest of his life. Walking is in busy places fundamentally on a leash. It must not happen that the dog escapes from something uncontrollably! Patience, consistency and fairness is required in the education and training of

white shepherd.

### **White Shepherd in the family**

He is very kind and he will do anything for his family. It is an ideal family dog, great friend for kids. He will be also a pleasant companion to seniors who are looking for a large dog and have enough vitality to educate him and go with him for walks. White Shepherd is very devoted to all family members and we could say in good conscience that he is uncomplicated in the family. He tries to move to the end of family hierarchy and does not tend to conform to any member of his family. His good nature, however, appear only if he lives in close contact with his people.

### **Training**

Swiss White Shepherd usually likes to play and cooperate with his master. He is very dedicated and tries to fulfill every wish. This makes him ideal for easy training in obedience. White shepherd obedience training usually does not make any smallest problems. The same could be said of smell works. White Shepherds are usually very careful, therefore rashness marred the results only rarely. Training must be fundamentally playful and with calm repetition. But the stereotype does not make them fun .

White Shepherd desperately needs praise for practice. As mentioned earlier, he learns quickly, so obedience training and training on the tracks is good and easy-going with good handler and the results will come relatively soon. In any case it does not fit into the hands of "harder" handler, which is disconcerted with every little thing.

Also, this dog is not suitable for a man with too big ambitions as defensive works are often stumbling block . White shepherds are mostly no aggressive defender. Grips on the sleeve are not generally fixed and infrequently happens that grab the sleeve. On the contrary, letting on the command for them is no problem. In defense they need help rather than tame. It is better to learn through play, using a hunting instinct, not to aggressive stimulation. Training should not rush and you must keep the time to the dog - let him decide alone when to begin work with helper. In no event helper should not pull him behind the ear or other similar rip off balance, "to evoke a defensive reflex." The dog would withdraw into himself and probably never would have learned to bite the sleeve. It is very necessary for white shepherd to select carefully an experienced, balanced and calm heart helper, who will be well acquainted with the nature of this breed and will patiently and calmly trail path to his sensitive soul.

But why white shepherd does not excel his fearlessness and quality grips as many German shepherds, if this is actually the same breed? The explanation is simple. When, decades ago, breeders and clubs gave up white colored German Shepherd, they were taken mostly by people without breeding and training ambitions. Thus, they were kept only as a purely family dogs, whose gentle nature and maximum maneuverability was required. Efforts to versatile training began fairly recently, but work is not significant yet.

Up to now in our country white shepherds are rarely trained. It's a pity, because some individuals with good leadership have a great chance to succeed in training. It should be noted that training of white shepherd abroad is relatively common and we can see them also considerably more often at the performance of tests and various competitions. For example, in Austria there is no exception seeing White Swiss Shepherds with an examination SchH3. Even in our country we can find several individuals with composite tests, even in versatility. You can also find an individual with such a demanding test, as is recognized ZVV3.

The White Shepherd Club organizes holiday training camps that can be finished with the exam ZOP or ZPU1-2. Club definitely counts with leadership of the white wards and is looking forward to the event that a relatively new project which is the unofficial championship, will take over and will still have greater participation and excellent spot results. It is encouraging that the number of successfully passed exams of dogs of this breed is still increasing.

### **White Swiss Shepherd and his use**

He is very popular for canine therapy, in which he really excels. Not only nature but also his color is ideal for this difficult task. By the way, it is shown that disabled people accept better light color dog than dark color. White Shepherd, however, thanks to his maneuverability and good sense of smell can excel in the rescue work of all kinds. He proved as a helper for disabled people in different ways. His white color is suitable for people with the rest of the eye. It is interesting that the first white shepherd trained for a blind man was trained in the Czech Republic and was handed over to Mimon in 1996. Even, though rather rarely, he is used in sledge sports, bikejoring, etc. Agility is not excluded. But he is not fast enough (temperament), in the track compared for example to collie border. Therefore, agility yes, but rather for more variety and joy of movement.

### **Is he suitable as a guard?**

White Swiss Shepherd does not hesitate to bark at anything suspicious, which makes him an excellent guardian. However, he does not bark unnecessarily, he is not too noisy. But also he is not large "ripper" and therefore there is no need to fear that someone would be accidentally

bitten. He is mostly reserved to the strangers or he overlooks them. Rarely he is downright friendly.

### **Caring for a white shepherd**

It should be noted that his hair is white, so keep it completely clear in chilly or rainy weather is quite impossible. On the other hand, it is almost unbelievable that in a good weather, even without taking a bath, his hair will be pretty white again. There is no need to bathe him often. Frequent shampooing is definitely not recommended. If the dog does not roll in something really not very fragrant, he does not swim in the green pond or play in a swamp, bathing with using shampoo is sufficient only 1 - 3 times a year.

White Shepherd needs only routine care like other shorthaired breeds. Occasionally he needs to brush or comb the hair (during molting more often), keep ear canals clean and short claws. So, certainly this is not a demanding breed.

### **A few words in conclusion...**

Leaving out white color, we can see in Swiss shepherd an "old type" of German Shepherd. He boasts the straight back, only slightly sloping stern, adequate leg angle and good pigmentation.

Therefore it is quite possible that who misses German shepherd of the past, finally finds pleasure in this breed. White Swiss Shepherd is definitely worth noticing..