

About the Shikoku

The original Shikoku, or Kochi-ken, existed in the mountain ranges of Kochi Prefecture on the Island of Shikoku. They were highly valued by the Matagi (Japanese hunters) as a tracker of game, particularly wild boar. He is a medium-sized dog with well-balanced and well-developed, clean-cut muscles. He has pricked ears and a curled or sickle tail. His conformation is strong, well-boned and compact. His outer coat is rather harsh and straight and his undercoat is soft and dense. The hair on his tail is long. His coat can be red, black and tan, or sesame, which is a well-mixed color of black, red, and white hairs.



History

The Shikoku dates back to the medium-sized dogs that existed in Japan in ancient times. He was bred as a hunting dog, mainly for hunting boar in the mountainous districts of Kochi Prefecture. He is also sometimes called Kochi-ken (ken = dog). There were three varieties of this breed, Awa, Hongawa and Hata, all named after the area where they were bred. Among them, the Hongawa maintained the highest degree of purity because the breeding area was not easily accessible.

These dogs are tough and sufficiently agile to run through a mountainous region. They are characterized by their sesame colored coats. The breed took on the name of the region and was designated as a Natural Monument in 1937.

