

The Azawakh

By: Hallie Newman

The Azawakh is not a very well known breed. In fact, I did not know about it until I stumbled across it on the American Kennel club's website. I chose this breed to highlight because I had never heard about it before and wanted to learn more about it including where it originated, what its personality is like, and what some of its characteristics are.

The Azawakh originated in North-western Africa. Mostly living in Mali, Burkina-Faso, and Niger, it was named after the Azawakh Valley. Azawakh means, "land of the North". They served as guard dog and hunters for the tribes of the Southern Sahel. The Azawakh was brought to Yugoslavia by a diplomat named Dr. Pecar, in the 1970s. The breed was then brought to North America by Gisla Cook-Schmidt. This may be because of the hunting spirit of the Azawakh.

The Azawakh is a highly driven hunter whose personality ranges from friendly to aggressive. They are not great family dogs, but are a good breed to have as a companion. They are sometimes used as therapy dogs in nursing homes and other places in need.

The colors of the Azawakh range from dark to light. Some of these colors are brindle, red, and all shades of brown. The size of a male Azawakh is about 25 to 29 inches in height and 44 to 55 pounds. The female Azawakh is about 24 to 27 inches tall and 33 to 44 pounds. The life expectancy of an Azawakh 12 to 14 years. The most common health issues in this breed are seizures, hypothyroidism, and demodectic mange.

The Azawakh is not a breed that you will find just anywhere, so you have to look in specific places, like specialized breeders or pure breed rescues. In the process of researching this breed, I learned that the Azawakh is a wonderful breed and has a shining personality.