

**GPAC**

**SPANISH DOG**

**ADOPTION**

**HANDBOOK**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>The Galgo .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Podenco .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Choosing the Right Dog .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Living in a Home .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Getting Ready for the Big Day .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Safety Equipment .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Exercise .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Feeding Your Dog .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Medical Care .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Your New Dog and Other Pets .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Dogs .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Cats .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Dogs and Kids .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Training Your New Dog .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Housebreaking Hints .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Consultation .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>GPAC HoundMart .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## **The Galgo:**

The galgo is often referred to as a Spanish greyhound due to their physical similarities to today's greyhounds as well as their greyhound mix lineage. They are an ancient type of sight hound, bred to hunt rabbits. At one time they were primarily owned by aristocrats and anyone who stole or killed one faced harsh punishment. Fast forward to more modern times and changes to the political climate, social equality and a decreased dependency on hunting for survival have all led to the galgo being thought of more as a 'tool', to be overbred, overworked, inhumanely treated and then either discarded or killed. At first glance they look like a smaller greyhound but there are subtle differences. They are usually short coated, occasionally rough coated, have a sturdier build with a deeper chest, larger feet and longer tails in relation to their size. They enjoy a short run, can be great jumpers and are very agile. Generally speaking galgos are a low to medium energy dog, affectionate, cuddly, intelligent, slightly stubborn but wanting to please. Typical lifespan is about 14 years. An excellent resource is "*From Heaven to Hell, The Story of the Galgo Espanol*" by Beryl Brennan.

## **The Podenco:**

The word podenco means 'hound' in Spanish and each variety is named for the area where they are found. The podenco is an elegant but sturdy and hardy breed. Like the galgo, podencos are also an ancient dog bred to hunt rabbits. And like the galgo, podencos are overbred, overworked, inhumanely treated and then discarded or killed. There are smaller breeds such as the Podenco Andaluz as well as some larger varieties such as the Podenco Ibicenco and Podenco Canario. Podencos can be rough or smooth coated and most are red or red and white. All have distinctive large, upright ears and most have a pink nose and amber colored eyes. They too enjoy a good run and are expert jumpers. Generally speaking podencos are energetic, very intelligent, engaging, loving and slightly stubborn. Typical lifespan is about 14 years. An excellent resource is "*From Pyramid to Perrera*" by Beryl Brennan.

## **Choosing the Right Dog:**

The needs of both these breeds will vary depending on the quality of life already experienced in Spain and often a dog's past history is unknown. The rescues do their best to evaluate the character and personality of each dog in their care so that their new families are as well informed as possible. If you feel one of these breeds is right for your family, GPAC partners with the Spanish rescues to assist you in choosing one to best suit your situation.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Do galgos and podencos make good family pets?**

Yes! Most have never lived in a home before so you can expect a settling in period as they adapt to your lifestyle and schedule. Staying with the same schedule every day, especially during the first few months, will help with this process. Depending on what their former life was like, some will be timid at first but will become affectionate and cuddly over time. Many Spanish rescue dogs have not had the most positive interactions with men, as most of the hunters are male and so male adopters should be aware that they may need to be patient and work longer to gain the trust and affection of their canine friend. Some are cat and small dog safe, some are not. But all will happily claim your sofa!

### **Do they do well as an only pet?**

Some do, many do not. They have usually lived as part of a pack all their lives and enjoy the company of other dogs. We highly recommend that Spanish rescues go into homes where there are other dogs for companionship. Although a few of these dogs will do alright as an only pet, they will not do well when everyone goes to work and school and they are left all alone, especially during the settling in period. This

means adopters must be committed to arranging for a doggy day care or another family member or dog walker to spend quality time with a new dog while you're away from home.

### **Are these dogs kid safe?**

Let's also flip this question to: is your child dog safe? Children and dogs can be best friends, but supervision and teaching is needed in order for a mutual respect to develop between them. A dog needs to understand that kids are little people and children also must understand that a dog is a living, breathing, feeling animal and pinching, pushing, pulling and face-to-face interactions are never a good idea. Any dog, regardless of breed, can reach their limit of patience.

### **Is the adoption fee the same as for the greyhounds?**

No, the total fee for adoption is higher. There will be a small adoption fee to the rescue in Spain, crate purchase for the flight home and all the costs associated with transportation to their new home in Atlantic Canada. If you're adopting a puppy too young to be altered in Spain, you will be responsible for the cost of spaying or neutering once the dog reaches the appropriate age (about 6 months of age).

### **Are there health checks prior to coming to Canada?**

Every dog has been examined by a vet in Spain, is up-to-date on vaccinations and has tested negative for Mediterranean tick diseases, has been spayed or neutered (unless they are too young) and microchipped. They come to us with their own passport and health documentation. We have limited knowledge of the dog's medical history or genetics and previous environment. Therefore, we cannot make any guarantees or warranties regarding any future medical problems that may occur.

## **Living in a Home:**

Living in a home is a brand new experience for most of these dogs. Time, patience and training are required. You can expect a settling in period that typically takes 7 – 12 months. Your willingness to work with the dog during this time is critically important.

- They have very little body fat and need to live indoors. Give them soft beds to rest on.
- They are social and like to be where you are. They should not be separated from the family and will need to sleep in your bedroom. There are other advantages to doing this as well. If the dog needs to go out, you'll know. Restricting his access to the rest of the house will prevent your dog from getting into things he shouldn't.
- They may never have used stairs, seen glass doors or heard a vacuum cleaner.

## **Getting Ready for the Big Day:**

- Prepare your home for your new pet.
  - Move delicate knick knacks
  - Check the perimeter of your fencing for weak spots, holes and gaps along the bottom and obtain clips or locks for your gates.
  - Check the latches on your doors and mark large windows and glass doors with a band of colored tape for easy visibility.
  - Clear your kitchen counter of any food items and place your garbage in a container with a secure lid or place it in a cabinet.
  - Plan on your new friend sleeping in your bedroom. Decide where the dog bed will be placed.
  - Discuss pet rules with all family members, especially children, to help ensure the transition period will be as smooth as possible.

- Purchasing items such as a leash, food, food and water dishes, grooming items, dog beds and toys can be done ahead of time. Your dog will come with a martingale collar and you'll receive a GPAC ID tag with your adoption folder, but you'll also need a dog ID tag with the dog's name, your address and phone number. Items such as a harness, sweater or coat may have to wait until your new friend arrives, unless you already have the measurements. You should at least source out where you plan on purchasing those items.
- Have a plan and make arrangements for times when you won't be home.

## Safety Equipment:

### Martingale collar:

- The martingale is a safety collar that is adjustable, but when tension is applied, tightens on the neck so the dog won't slip out of it, yet is gentle enough not to choke the dog.
- The collar must be adjusted properly so the 2 sliders never touch. When tension is applied you should be able to put 2 - 3 fingers in the space between the sliders.
- Martingale collars must be used on the Spanish rescues. Never use choke or prong collars.
- Never place ID tags on the D ring as tags can snag.
- Remove the collar when the dog is left unattended.



### Leash:

- Any time you are outside of a fully enclosed fenced-in area your dog **must** be on a leash. Galgos and podencos are ancient breeds that are bred and conditioned to hunt. They have a naturally high chasing instinct that overrides a learned command.
- Never use a retractable leash.
- Never tie a dog outside or use a pulley or runner.

Coupling Leash



### Harness:

- It is recommended that you use a properly fitted body harness for your new friend to keep them safe. They can be strong pullers on leash until they learn manners and they may jump or lunge when their hunting instinct is triggered.
- We also recommend that the harness be coupled so it is attached to both the harness and the martingale collar for extra safety. If a coupling leash is not available, then 2 leashes can be used.

### Fencing:

- A fully enclosed fenced-in area provides a great opportunity for a dog to run, play and explore. We recommend a higher fence (6'), particularly for the larger galgos and podencos as they can be expert jumpers. They can dig under a fence or climb so they should never be left in the yard unattended.

- Ensure all gates have secure locks. Gate signs are a good way to remind people to make sure the gate is closed and locked when entering or leaving.
- Never use ‘invisible’ fencing.

### Exercise:

- Expect a dog with a higher energy level than a greyhound.
- If you don’t have a fenced-in yard then plan on 3 – 4 walks daily for elimination and exercise purposes.
- Galgos and podencos are bred to be working dogs and have great stamina. Once conditioned, they can be your running or jogging partner with the ability to do 3 – 5k runs. They are also very agile and do well with agility training. Playtime with games like treat hide ‘n seek, scent detection, puzzle balls and fetch are all helpful mental and physical activities.
- Heavy exercise should be avoided before or after eating since this could cause bloat - a stomach condition which can be fatal.



### Feeding Your Dog:

- Feed your dog twice a day. The amount you feed will depend on the age, size, energy level and condition of your new pet. You should be able to feel the ribs, but not see them. Overfeeding and over treating a dog can lead to obesity. Obesity can cause joint problems and strain on the heart and other organs, especially as they age.
- Select a good quality kibble. Remember: garbage in = garbage out. Your dog’s bowel movements should be firm. Feeding a more expensive, better quality food doesn’t usually mean it will cost you more as fewer fillers means smaller serving sizes.
- Labels can be confusing, but keep in the mind the following:
  - Because food is listed by weight, ingredients at the top of the list make up the bulk of substance. Listed first on the label are meats because they contain more than 50% water so they weigh more than the dry ingredients such as meat or poultry meals, grains, vitamins and minerals.
  - The Guaranteed Analysis indicates the maximum or minimum amount of nutrients such as protein, fat and fibre in the product, although it is not an indication of the actual nutrient content of that food. For instance if the minimum fat guarantee is 8% it may legally contain more; if the maximum guarantee of fibre is 5%, it may only contain 2%.
  - The Nutritional Adequacy Statement verifies that the food provides complete and balanced nutrition for different life stages or all life stages. Be careful with labels that state ‘for all life stages’ as they may contain excessive levels of some nutrients for adult or senior dogs.
- Feeding grain free is not necessary unless there is an allergy to grains.

The following are 2 examples of dog food labels. The first one is a better choice than the second one.

1. **INGREDIENTS:** Lamb meat meal (23%), steel-cut oats (22%), fresh angus beef (5%), fresh yorkshire pork (5%), lamb fat (5%), whole red lentils, whole green peas, whole green lentils, raw grass-fed lamb (4%), whole oats, fresh beef liver (2%), pork meat meal (2%), herring oil (2%), fresh pork liver (2%), whole garbanzo beans, whole yellow peas, sun-cured alfalfa, lentil fiber, fresh beef tripe (1%), dried brown kelp, fresh pumpkin, fresh butternut squash, fresh parsnips, fresh green kale, fresh spinach, fresh carrots, fresh red delicious apples, fresh bartlett pears, freeze-dried beef liver (0.1%), fresh cranberries, fresh blueberries, chicory root, turmeric root, milk thistle, burdock root, lavender, marshmallow root, rosehips. Additives: Vitamin D3, E, B5, Choline, Zinc. Naturally preserved with Vitamin E.

ANALYSIS: Crude protein (min.) 29 % Fat Content (min.) 17 % Crude ash (max.) 7.5 % Crude fibers (max.) 5 % Moisture 12 % Calcium / Phosphorus (min.) 1.5 % / 1.1 % Omega-6 / Omega-3 (min.) 2.5 % / 0.8 % DHA / EPA (min.) 0.15 % / 0.15 % Glucosamine (min.) 600 mg/kg Chondroitin sulfate (min.) 800 mg/kg

2. **INGREDIENTS:** ground yellow corn, chicken by-product meal, corn gluten meal, whole wheat flour, animal fat preserved with mixed tocopherols (form of vitamin E), salmon, rice flour, soy flour, meat and bone meal, water, propylene glycol, sugar, animal digest, tricalcium phosphate, salt, phosphoric acid, potassium chloride, sorbic acid (a preservative), dried green beans, dried carrots, dicalcium phosphate, calcium propionate (a preservative), L-lysine monohydrochloride, choline chloride, vitamin E supplement, zinc sulphate, Red 40, Yellow 5, Yellow 6, Blue 2, DL-methionine, ferrous sulphate, manganese sulphate, niacin, vitamin A supplement, calcium carbonate, copper sulphate, vitamin B12 supplement, calcium pantothenate, thiamine mononitrate, garlic oil, pyridoxine hydrochloride, riboflavin supplement, vitamin D3 supplement, calcium iodate, menadione sodium bisulphite complex (source of vitamin K activity), folic acid, biotin and sodium selenite

ANALYSIS: Crude Protein (min) 25.0%, Crude Fat (min) 12.0%, Crude Fibre (max) 4.0%, Moisture (max) 14.0%, Linoleic Acid (min) 1.8%, Calcium (min) 1.1%, Iron (min) 175 mg/kg, Zinc (min) 135 mg/kg, Selenium (min) 0.3 mg/kg, Vitamin A (min) 15,000 IU/kg, Vitamin E (min) 100 IU/kg

- Feed your dog in a quiet area. This will allow your dog to relax and realize he doesn't have to bolt his food. If your dog tends to bolt food you can use a puzzle dish or cookie sheet. Many of these dogs had to forage for scraps in their previous lives so food guarding may be present. You can consult one of our trainers to help with resource guarding.
- Many of these dogs have never lived in a home before and don't understand house rules. They're very smart and curious with keen eyesight and a sense of smell to match. They are also expert jumpers. This means keeping your counters free of food. Remember: no reward = no interest. Discouraging them from counter surfing or jumping up on the counter will keep them safe from unhealthy and toxic foods and hot pots and stove elements. Keep them safe from garbage as well. Garbage cans with tight lids or stored in a separate cabinet works well.
- Foods that are toxic to dogs:
  - Grapes and raisins
  - Onions.
  - Macadamia nuts
  - Chocolate
  - Products containing Xylitol such as chewing gum or sugar free candy
  - Products containing red dyes
  - Caffeinated and alcoholic beverages
- Fresh water should always be available. When the dog will be left alone for longer periods of time (4 hours or more), you should control water consumption.

## Medical Care:

- Taking your new dog to the vet within the first 7 days following adoption is required. Take a fecal sample and the passport and other documentation with you. This gives your vet a chance to meet your new pet, set up a medical file and check for parasites. It's an opportunity to get your new dog's baseline weight and scan his microchip.
- Your new pet comes to you with all core vaccinations up-to-date. If you will be taking your dog to a doggy day care, bordetella (kennel cough) vaccination will be necessary, if not done already. Vaccination for Lyme disease should also be discussed with your vet as we live in an area where we have an abundance of blacklegged ticks and Lyme disease is endemic.

- The best medical care is preventative in nature. Discuss with your vet how best to protect your new pet from worms, including heart worm and fleas and ticks. If your dog has tartar build-up he'll need dental care as well. Plan on an annual examination, at the least.
- There are multiple ways to cover medical costs. Pet health insurance, a pet credit card or a savings account for medical costs are all viable options. Carefully consider which option works best for you as routine care and emergency treatment will need to be addressed during your dog's lifetime.

## Your New Dog and Other Pets:

### Dogs:

Introduce them on neutral ground. This means having each dog on a leash and allowing them to meet in an area your other dog doesn't "own" such as down the block from your house. After the initial sniffing, you should walk the dogs together for a short time and then bring them into the house at the same time, but your existing dog should always walk into the house first. This is almost like having your dog act as a host to the new dog.

Any sign of growling or aggression should be met with a quick jerk of the leash and a sharp "NO!" Although the Spanish dogs are used to sharing, your other dog may not be and may need a little extra attention. You should always respect hierarchy of your existing pack order. Your GPAC trainer will explain this further at your final information session.

The dogs should be fed separately and have some separation with their beds. Until you feel confident that both dogs are comfortable with the new arrangement, you should not let them out in the yard together. Once you feel that they have accepted each other, you'll be in for a treat as you watch the two of them play. If your other dog is older or overweight, make sure he doesn't overdo it trying to keep up with his new housemate. The settling-in process usually takes a few months before the dogs really establish themselves and become accustomed to each other. If your other pet is a very small breed, you should supervise play situations closely, especially at first. Remember, you're in charge.

### Cats:

If you are introducing your new dog to a cat, you should shut the cat in one room as the dog explores the house. After the initial exploration one adult should take the galgo or podenco on his leash while the other lets the cat out. Keep the dog on a short leash and gauge the reaction. Let your new dog drag its leash in the house.



You don't need to lead the dog, but you should follow him and be able to jerk and correct sharply if he tries to dart for the cat. Stepping on the leash will also provide a quick and respectful correction for the dog. You can continue to let the dog trail his leash until you feel confident. If your cat is older or very shy, the process could take several weeks. Likewise if your cat tends to run and is playful, your new dog may want to chase. Keep them separated when you're not at home. Always give your cat a way to escape from the dog and keep the cat food and litter box in an area where the dog can't get at it. Cat food has an irresistible smell to dogs and cat feces is a tempting 'treat'.

### Dogs and Kids:

Although they are everyone's favourite photographic subject, kids and dogs present special concerns for parents. Teaching your new dog his manners must go hand-in-hand with teaching the children their manners around the new pet. Please keep in mind that you are dealing with a live, adult animal with all the accompanying instincts and needs. The Spanish rescue dogs are usually mellow dog breeds, but they are nonetheless a dog. In order to



establish a loving relationship between dog and child, you should review the following ideas and discuss them with the family:

- The dog is not a toy. It deserves respect and responsible care.
- No living creature would enjoy being pounced on while sleeping. Call the dog's name before startling any sleeping dog. They often sleep with their eyes open, so it's easy to mistake them for being awake. If the dog is sleeping, he needs rest. When he's ready to play, he'll let you know. Your new dog needs a place of his own to rest undisturbed.
- Small children often want to express their affection for the dog by hugging or clinging to the dog. Teach your children that this can be "scary" for the dog and encourage gentle stroking of the neck and shoulders or brushing instead. Ears and tails are private things, not play things.
- It is important to reinforce to your dog the idea that children are part of the "human coaching team", not litter mates. Even though a child may be eye level, your dog must understand that the child is still a person and must respond accordingly. For this reason, we strongly recommend that your dog does not share your child's bed or bedroom. Not allowing the dog on your furniture, including the sofa, is a safe way to control interactions and avoid spatial resource guarding.
- Outdoor games with your dog should be closely supervised, especially initially and until both child and dog are fully trained. Instead of running and jumping with your new pet, have your child join you as you stand in place and happily encourage your dog to come to you, with each person taking a turn. This provides exercise for the dog and reminds him that all people are in control - large and small.
- Involving the children in basic clicker training exercises helps to establish a leadership role.
- Do not leave young children and dogs alone together.
- The main rule to keep in mind concerning children and dogs is easy - SAFETY FIRST.

An excellent book, "*Child-Proofing Your Dog*" by Brian Kilcommons is a valuable resource for parents.

The following is a great video you can watch with your kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZGOEYkfVwE>.



## Training Your New Dog:

The role as leader or coach of your new dog is a serious responsibility. The messages you send will shape your dog's idea of his new world. Outline ahead of time what is acceptable and not acceptable behaviour for your pet and make sure all family members abide by the rules. A family meeting should be held before the dog arrives to your home in order to set the expectations and limitations with all the family members, children included.

Be consistent. Don't allow him/her to do one thing one day and not the next. In most instances, a firm, sharp tone of voice will be enough to reprimand your dog. Once your dog knows the family rules, another effective way to reprimand him is to firmly scold and then totally ignore him for several minutes. Dogs crave attention and this approach will reinforce expectations.

Remember that your dog will respond to your reaction, not your words. If he seems afraid of something new, and you cuddle and coo over him, he will quickly get the idea that he should react timidly to any new situation. Reassure him by stroking his neck and then move on.

Always praise your dog when he has done something good.

Adults and children should participate in hand feeding the dog either treats or food on a regular basis. A hand that feeds is also a hand that is more likely to be trusted when taking things away.

We strongly recommend that you enroll your new dog in a manners/obedience class soon after arrival. If that isn't possible, then hire a trainer to come to your home. Whichever you do, ensure that the method of training offered is positive reinforcement only.

Why?

- The Spanish rescue dogs are very intelligent and enjoy learning. It is stimulating and fun for them.
- Classes are an excellent socialization opportunity in a controlled environment.
- Training will build up your confidence in handling the dog in various situations.
- Classes will build leadership skills.
- Classes promote bonding.

There are some fun clicker training exercises in the Greyhound Adoption Handbook, page 19, on our website ([www.gpac.ca](http://www.gpac.ca)).



## Housebreaking Hints:

Develop a schedule and stick as closely to it as you can, including on your days off work and vacations.

The basics to keep in mind are:

- Out first thing in the morning and at bedtime
- Out before and after meals
- Out after naps
- Out before you leave

It is important that you supervise your pet, especially at first. This gives you the opportunity to observe him for cues and to praise him for doing the right thing. If you see your dog attempting to urinate in the house or you

catch him while he is in the act of urinating, give him a sharp, verbal reprimand and then take him outside and give him high praise when he goes in the right place. Never hit your dog or rub his nose in the accident. This treatment is negative in nature and confusing for your dog. Dogs live in the moment and will not associate the reprimand with the accident after it has happened.

Your new dog may attempt to lift his leg or squat in a few places around the house to "mark" his territory, especially if you already have a dog. He is making the house his house, so he/she feels more at home. Watch them carefully as they walk or sniff around the house and try to catch them before they do it. If this should happen, it does not go on for long, so try to be patient. Accidents may be cleaned with 1 part water and 5 parts vinegar. Also, by allowing your dog to drag his leash in the house you can catch him in the act and take him outside.

Your dog may train faster if you go out in the yard with him. If you just shove your dog out the door, he'll spend more time worrying about where you are than on what he's supposed to be doing. If he doesn't go when you expect him to during the first few days, you should make an extra effort to keep him close to you so that you can prevent a mistake. If he looks antsy, take him out again.

It is important to differentiate between bathroom walks and exercise walks. The scheduled bathroom walks should be in a restricted area where the dog is taken to do his business. You should walk back and forth in this area or stand in one spot and let the dog walk around you. Do not distract him with talk. When he goes, praise him. The use of positive reward markers like the clicker or praise gives notice to a specific action so that the dog associates this behaviour with the reward.

### **Consultation:**

Contact us immediately if any problems arise so that we may help. Don't let a situation become unmanageable. We are always available 24 hours a day to assist with the adjustment between dog and family. In most areas, we have representatives that participate in a buddy program to help both you and your new dog through the transition period.

### **GPAC HoundMart:**

We have a store located at the kennel where all dog related supplies can be purchased. We carry items such as:

martingale collars	leashes	kongs	toys	large selection of treats
dog food	nail clippers	brushes	shampoo	dental products
sweaters	gate signs	Thera Paw boots	coats	first aid kits

and more!

We ship too! All proceeds from the store go directly back to caring for the dogs waiting for their forever homes. Visit us on Facebook.

