

Mapuche Shepeherd

INTRODUCTION-

The Mapuche Shepherd began as one of the first Latin American breeds of dogs. It is believed that the Peruvian Hairless Dog is a descendent of the Mapuche Shepherd. The first signs and records of the Mapuche Shepherd indicate that the breed originated during the Pre-Incan Empire as seen in pre-historic cave paintings, in the Southern Atacama Region of Chile. The arrival of Spanish Conquistadores caused the migration of Native Americans towards Southern Chile which, in turn, provided the environmental characteristics that gave the Mapuche Shepherd its distinct properties.



PROPERTIES-

Although the Mapuche Shepherd is often thought to be a descendant of the Labrador Retriever, the properties of the Mapuche Shepherd are distinct and a result of the environment in which they were bred. The average adult Mapuche Shepherd has an approximate height of 75cm with a nose to tail length of 105cm. Commonly, Mapuche Shepherds have a black coat, however some attain a brownish red colour. Nonetheless, it is believed that the black coat resembles better health and is considered more elegant as it shines and gives a more distinct appearance. One of the most characteristic features of the Mapuche Shepherd is the ability to lift a single ear, as oppose to both, at the same time. Although it is unknown why the Mapuche Shepherd chooses to lift one ear at a time, it is believed to be an indication that the dog is a more direct descendant of the first Mapuche Shepherds. This is believed because the Mapuche Shepherds in Incan Cave Paintings are never shown with both ears lifted. The Mapuche Shepherd is also known for having a unique and strong sense of orientation.

TEMPERAMENT-

The Mapuche Shepherd was used by the native Chilean Mapuche's to establish fear in intruders, since the breed has a recognizably loud bark. In

fact, it is believed that the Chilean Mapuche's would have been conquered by the Spaniards, had it not been for the Conquistadores's fear towards the Mapuche Shepherd. Although the Mapuche Shepherds have a strong bark and are protective, they are a very peaceful and friendly breed of dogs. The Native Chilean Mapuche's always remained close to Mapuche Shepherds which led the Mapuche Shepherd to have a deep desire for constant affection.

PROPER CARE-

The most common illnesses a Mapuche Shepherd can encounter are bladder control issues, gastrointestinal issues, and depression as a result of solitude. Nonetheless, these diseases can be easily avoided if the owner has the proper knowledge and will to care for the dog. It is always recommended that the Mapuche Shepherd be feed with premium food. If feed otherwise, the dogs coat will quickly reflect the poor quality of what the dog is being feed.