

Breed Questionnaire

Name of breed: Azawakh

Other names (native name): Idi 'n Illeli (Sighthound of the Free People) in its native countries. Also known as the Tuareg sighthound

Countries of origin: Mali, Niger & Burkina Faso

Group: Sighthound

History:

The Azawakh is from the endless arid regions of the south Sahara and the Sahel. Today, as in countless days before; they are the guardians, hunters and companions of the Tuareg and other ethnic tribes of the region. Because they evolved in cultures that have kept no written records, little is known about their origin.

Outside of their native Africa, the Azawakh participates in a wide spectrum of activities to include conformation, obedience, lure coursing, agility, freestyle, and therapy dog work.

Physical description:

Azawakhs are tall, slender dogs of proud bearing. Their height ranges between 23 ½ and 29 inches and weigh between 35 and 55lbs. Their legs are longer than their bodies and their hips are higher than their shoulders, giving them a distinct and unique appearance. They have narrow head with pendant ears and dark almond shaped eyes. The coat is short and fine. They have a very deep chest, which rises abruptly to an extremely tucked up and muscular belly. The back is short and flat or may have a slight rise over the loin.

Their movement is spectacular, supple and elastic.

The American Azawakh Association recognizes all colors found in the countries of origin to include, sand to dark red, brindled, white, black, gray, blue grizzle, parti-colored and all shades of brown, to include chocolate. White stockings, bib and tip of tail are some common markings. A dark mask may also be present.

Temperament:

At home the Azawakh is gentle, affectionate and playful with those they accept. Often friendly, they may also be distant and reserved with strangers and some can be fearful or aggressive. They bond closely with their people and cannot be kept as kennel dogs. They have the intelligence and heart to protect.

Unusual Characteristics:

The combination of their intelligence, exotic appearance, stunning movement and extreme loyalty set them apart from other breeds.

Activity Level:

With adequate daily exercise, this is a very calm housedog.

Best Owner:

The best owner is someone with a firm, but fair hand that enjoys the companionship of an intelligent dog of incredible beauty.

Special needs/concerns:

The breed is known to have seizures, spondylosis, and several immune-mediated diseases, including hypothyroidism. Cardiac problems, hip dysplasia and bloat are rare. Eye diseases are not known to exist in this breed.

Breed club contact

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<http://azawakhs.org/aaa.htm>

The club publishes a quarterly newsletter which is available by subscription to interested persons. Current rates are \$15/year domestic, \$25/year foreign.

Breed Resources:

Dog's Best Friend: Journey to the Roots of an Ancient Partnership. Ursula Birr, Gerald Krakauer, Daniel Osterlander

Der Azawakh: Windhund der Nomades in Mali (in German) H.J. Strassner, E. Eiles