



GROUP II: HOUNDS

VIRINGO (SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE)

RECOGNIZED: N/A

Effective: July 2024

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

ORIGIN & PURPOSE

The Viringo is a truly ancient breed with a rich and mysterious history. Depictions of these hairless dogs first appeared in the archaeological periods of Pre-Inca times, from 300 BC until 1460 AD. These dogs survived to see the rise and subsequent fall of the Inca Empire. They were a source of curiosity for the various cultures that have existed in Peru throughout the country's long history, mainly due to the genetic anomaly that causes a near complete lack of fur. These dogs were held in high esteem, in many cases replacing important cultural and religious figures such as the puma, snake or hawk on the ceramics and textiles of various Pre-Inca cultures; the Vicus, Mochica, Chancay, Tiahuanaco, Chimu and others. Also known as Perro Sin Pelo del Perú, which roughly translates to Peruvian Hairless Dog, the breed is a symbol of Peru and an important part of the country's culture and history. The first breed standard was written by Cynologist Ermanno Maniero who is credited with achieving FCI breed recognition in 1985 declaring the Viringo a breed indigenous to Peru. Despite being born in the same litters, the coated dogs were not initially recognized alongside their hairless counterparts. Their addition to the FCI show and breeding populations in 2013 improved the breed's vigour by expanding genetic variability. To preserve the breed's fundamental hairless characteristic, it is prohibited to pair two coated dogs; they may only be paired with a hairless dog.

The internal and external temperature of a hairless dog is identical to that of coated dogs. In coated dogs, body heat naturally vents through fur whereas the absence of fur leads to a direct emission of body heat. The warm skin led to the belief that arthritis pain could be relieved by placing the dog on the affected joints. Beyond these healing qualities, the Viringo was treasured by coastal farmers for their natural instincts and ability to exterminate rodents that posed a threat to the crops, which were relied upon for sustenance and survival. These elegant dogs share many of the qualities that sighthounds use to slay their prey efficiently and instinctively while remaining nearly silent; speed, strength, determination, intelligence and grace.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Viringo gives an overall impression of natural elegance; a slim dog that demonstrates a great harmony of speed and strength, without any trace of coarseness.

TEMPERAMENT

These intelligent dogs are loyal and affectionate towards members of their household, remaining wary of strangers. Often described as primitive, these lively dogs remain alert to their surroundings, making them a good watch dog. Prey drive is common; they have keen senses and explosive speed. These traits, along with an efficient double-suspension gallop, and methodical maneuvers, prove highly effective in stalking, chasing and catching small prey.

SIZE

The three size varieties are distinguished by their height at the withers. The varieties are unmistakably the same breed, identical in all aspects except size. The size varieties should be shown separately in conformation events but may interbred to expand genetic variability.

Small: The small variety ranges in size from 25 to 41 cm (9.75 to 16.25 in). The weight in relation to size is approximately 4 to 8 kg (8.75 to 17.75 lb). This variety is also referred to as Pequeño.

Medium: The medium variety ranges in size from 41 to 51 cm (16.25 to 20 in). The weight in relation to size is approximately 8 to 12 kg (17.75 to 26.5 lb). This variety is also referred to as Mediano.

Large: The large variety ranges in size from 51 to 65 cm (20 to 25.5 in). The weight in relation to size is approximately 12 to 30 kg (26.5 to 66.25 lb). This variety is also referred to as Grande.

COAT & COLOUR

There are two coat types; both are equally acceptable. The hairless is almost entirely hairless, and often has incomplete dentition, whereas the coated has a complete coat and complete dentition. Both should be displayed in a natural state; not shaven, nor scissored. Merle patterning or albinism are never permitted.

Hairless (*Sin Pelo*): Almost entirely hairless, only very few short hairs on the head, the extremities of the legs and on the tail. Sparse hair on the back is permitted. The hair can be any colour or combination of colours. The hair should never be long or flowing. The skin must be smooth and elastic all over but can form a few rounded almost concentric lines on the head, around the eyes and cheeks. The colour of the skin can range through all shades of black, greys (diluted black), bronze, copper, dark brown going to light blond. The skin can be uniform or show depigmented areas, preferably on the chest, legs or tail. Depigmentation should not cover more than 20% of the body and may not affect the nose. Solid colours are preferred if all else is equal; however, better overall conformation should prevail over colour. The colour of the skin will change with the seasons; it is darker in the spring and summer, becoming lighter in autumn and winter.

Coated (*Con Pelo*): Smooth, short and tight coat. The fur can be any colour or combination of colours.

HEAD

Should give the impression of a natural canid. **Skull:** Mesocephalic. The upper axes of the skull and muzzle are parallel; a slight divergence is accepted. Seen from above, the skull is broad and the head tapers toward the nose. The superciliary arches are moderately developed. The occipital protuberance is barely marked. **Stop:** Slightly marked (approximately 140°). **Nose:** Well pigmented, the colour of the nose must harmonize with the colour of the skin or the fur. **Muzzle:** Wedge. Seen in profile, the nasal bridge is straight. **Lips:** Clean and dry; must be as tight and close to the gums as possible. **Jaws/teeth:** Scissors bite. The absence of teeth is expected in hairless dogs. The coated must have complete dentition with teeth in a normal position. The jaws are refined and taper slightly towards the nose; they should be strong without appearing heavy. The mandible was originally described as “underdeveloped,” due to the receding lower jaw. **Cheeks:** Developed without exaggeration. **Eyes:** Alert with intelligent expression. The eyes are of medium size, slightly almond-shaped, neither deep-set nor prominent, normally and regularly placed – i.e. neither too close together nor too far apart. The colour can vary from black, going through all shades of brown to yellow, in harmony with the skin or fur colour. Both eyes must be the same colour. Eyelids should match the skin or fur colour; light or pink eyelids are permitted but not sought after. **Ears:** The highly expressive ears are of medium length; broad at the base tapering progressively towards an almost pointed tip. The ears are set high, starting on the upper part of the skull. When the dog is alert, the ears must be prick, they may repose at rest. The ears are extremely mobile and can move independently from one another. In the erect position, the axes of the ears may range from 50° to 90° from horizontal. Ear carriage might not completely stabilize until maturity; young dogs under nine months old should not be heavily penalized for a slightly feeble ear set.

NECK

Upper profile: Convexly curved. **Length:** Approximately the same length as the head. **Shape:** Similar to a truncated cone, supple, with good musculature. **Skin:** Fine, smooth, elastic and very close to the subcutaneous tissues. No dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs are long, the elbows are close to the body. Seen from the front they are perfectly upright; the elbows aren't turned out. The angle at the shoulder/upper arm varies between 100° and 120°. The angle formed by the pastern and the vertical is 15° to 20°. **Forefeet** are ideal for moving through sand; semi-long hare-feet with well-developed inter-digital membranes and strong, heat-resistant pads. Preferably the colour of the nails harmonizes with the colour of the dog, meaning dark dogs should have dark nails and lighter dogs should have lighter nails.

BODY

Mesomorphic. The ideal ratio of the height to the length, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks is 1:1. Bitches should retain a square appearance but may be slightly longer in the loin than males. **Topline:** Level, although some may show a dorsal-lumbar convexity, which disappears at croup level. **Withers:** Barely accentuated. **Back:** Straight, strong and powerful; with well-developed back muscles often forming a slight arch over the lumbar region. **Loin:** Strong and well muscled. Its length reaches approximately one-fifth of the height at the withers. **Croup:** The superior profile is slightly convex, slanting approximately 40° to the horizontal. Solid and well muscled. The croup should ensure a strong force of forward drive. **Chest:** Seen from the front, the chest perimeter must have good amplitude, but without excess; reaching almost to the elbow. The ribs must be slightly sprung, never flat. **Underline/belly:** The lower profile presents an elegant and well-marked line, which goes from the lower part of the chest and rises to the belly, which must be well tucked up, but without excess.

HINDQUARTERS

Long hind legs with rounded, elastic muscles. The curve of the buttocks is well marked. The coxo-femoral (upper thigh) angle varies between 120° to 130°. The femoro-tibial (lower thigh) angle must be 140°. Seen from behind the hindquarters are upright. **Hindfeet:** Same as forefeet. There should be a natural absence of rear dewclaws.

TAIL

Set on low, thick at the root tapering to the tip. When excited, the tail can be raised in a loose curve over the back. At rest it hangs with a slight upward curve at the tip. Sometimes the tail is tucked towards the abdomen. The tail should never appear rolled up, nor should it be docked or bobbed. In length it almost reaches the hock. Hair is permitted but should not be long or flowing.

GAIT

Due to the angulation of the limbs, some of these dogs move with a short, fast step. Others lift their legs high and display reach and drive, which is not overextended. In both cases the gait should appear effortless, cushioned and flexible with strong push from the rear. The limbs must move in an efficient single-track. These gaits allow the dog to efficiently move through sandy terrains. A Viringo should never move with long steps, nor have a Hackney gait.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points is considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog as well as the breed population. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be awarded or used for breeding.

- Level bite.
- Semi-erect ears, one or both.
- Absence of PM1 in a coated dog.
- Presence of dewclaws on the hindquarters.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

The judge shall disqualify a dog if in their opinion it displays any of the following traits:

- Albinism
- Dwarfism
- Wry mouth
- Merle pattern
- Overshot or undershot bite
- Aggressive and/or overly shy
- Tailless, bobbed tail or docked tail
- Hanging or cropped ear, one or both
- Totally or partially depigmented nose
- Cryptorchidism (unilateral or bilateral)
- Different colour eyes (heterochromatic)
- Any coated dog missing two or more teeth
- Height: Under 25 cm (9.75 in) or over 65 cm (25.5 in)
- Any hairless dog that is clearly more than 20% depigmented
- Any dog clearly showing physical and/or behavioural abnormalities
- Paralyzed tongue – i.e., tongue hanging out of the mouth while not panting
- The presence of hair on a hairless dog on parts of the body not indicated in the standard