

Breeding of Italian Spinone in Germany:

The first litter of Italian Spinone in Germany was recorded in the

VDH's (the German Kennel Club) studbook in the 90s.

Nowadays we have 13 Italian Spinoni breeding centres in Germany.

Twelve of these breeding centres are under the Association called

Spinone Italiano-Club Deutschland, which was founded in 2008.

The number of puppies has increased from 36 in 2008 up to a

maximum of 79 in 2013. After 70 puppies in 2014, the number

has decreased to 42 in 2015 and to 44 in 2016. This was due to the

fact that some bitches were unable to reproduce in the last two

years.

We don't have precise data, but we speculate that we have approximately 500 Spinoni in Germany.

Why do we have Italian Spinoni breeding centres in Germany?

In a few words I would dare say for the passion for this wonderful breed.

Every breeder has his own personal history. Someone already bred

other hunting dogs and then discovered the Spinone as an excellent auxiliary; or other people, like us discovered the breed

and thanks to the Spinone they became hunters and began to breed

as well.

At this point I'd like to open a small parenthesis:

Breeding pure dogs in Germany is not easy. The rules are really precise.

First of all you need to own a foundation dam which corresponds to the original breed standard and which has been granted permission to reproduce.

The VDH (German Kennel Club) establishes minimum requirements for getting the breeding permission; even the Club

can establish these requirements if it's recognized by the VDH as a Breeding Club.

So if you have a foundation dam you can require the permission to the FCI through the VDH.

Contrary to what happens in Italy, the FCI permission is the crucial prerequisite to obtain an FCI pedigree for the German-born puppies.

Before requiring the FCI permission the VDH or the Breed Club

must inspect the breeding centre concerned and in particular: the place where puppies are supposed to be born and grow up, the

verification of the dogs' conditions and the ability and the skills of the farm's owners.

Once you have the FCI authorization you can start to breed.

The use of the Italian Spinone in Germany:

From 2008 the aim of the Spinone Italiano- Club Deutschland has

been the protection of the breed, the increase and care of the

hunting skills, the conservation of the original nature and the use

of the Spinone as hunting dog.

Even then some breeder tended to turn the Spinone into an excellent family companion as well as a so-called “couch potato”.

At first the Club was a simple community based on shared interests, and we worked really hard in order to be recognized by

VDH as a Breed Club in 2014.

Thanks to this approval as Breed Club we succeeded in increasing

the minimum requests for the dogs used for reproduction: this fact

provides a greater protection of the breed as hunting auxiliary but

also for rescue (Mantrailing or Pettrailing).

The minimum requirements concern the morphology and the

health, at least one result in a dog show, HD (Hip Dysplasia), ED

(Elbows Dysplasia), OCD (Osteochondritis Dissecans) and CA

(Cerebellar Ataxia) testing and the passing of a test of hunting

skills or a Mantrailing or Obedience test. In these last two cases

we should add a shooting test.

All these requirements should ensure that the Spinoni used for

reproduction in Germany should respect the original breed concerning the behavior, the look, the health and the efficiency.

Certainly the purpose of most breeders is to sell their puppies to

hunters or people who will make their Spinoni work.

9 out of the 12 breeding centres in Germany registered to our

Breed Club have a hunting “background”, and 2 centres work on mantrailing.

The Spinone Italiano- Club Deutschland now has 112 members of which 60% have got hunting license.

Unfortunately this percentage doesn't reflect the reality, because a lot of people who own a Spinone as family dog aren't Club members.

We don't have precise data, but we speculate that in Germany 25% of Spinoni are used for hunting and approximately 20% for the rescue.

About the use of the Spinone as a gundog we had an increase compared to some years ago. This reflects the fact that the modern hunter often wants a docile and gentle hunting dog like the Spinone, which can also live in the house as a family dog. Besides there is an increasing use of the Spinone as tracking dogs since game is significantly diminished due to industrial farming.

The Spinone is also loved in tracking because of his great nose and his quite peaceful nature.

German hunters prefer dogs with roan brown coat because it's more similar to the color of the classic hunting dog usually used in Germany.

ABOUT TAIL DOCKING:

From 1998 the Animal Welfare act has prohibited the general tail

docking.

However there are two exceptions. The first concerns a medical

indication, the second the hunting use of the dog.

In this last case the docking must be carried out in the first 3 days

of the puppy's life and always performed by a vet.

About health problems we notice, like other countries do, some

case of seizures, hip and elbows dysplasia, OCD, bloat, cancer,

allergies ecc

In this regard I'd like to point out that in Germany every litter is

controlled twice by the VDH or the Breed Association.

The first inspection is done within the first two weeks after the

birth of the litter to check the health of the mother and the puppies. At the eighth week, before the departure of the puppies,

the second inspection takes place, in which each puppy is controlled individually.

This inspection is to check if any deficiencies are present in the

eyes, teeth, tails, testicles, belly button ecc. Any anomalies are

registered in the pedigree.

Thanks to the Italian Club, I hope I have made the breeding of

Spinone in Germany more clear.

Thank you for your attention.

Susanne Pankalla ©