

THE ARGENTINIAN BOARHUNTER

(ARGENTINIAN DOGO)

by

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translated by

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A NEW AMERICAN BREED

Dr. Alfredo Sachetti, Professor of Anthropology, Ethnology, and Genetics of the National University of Turin, Italy, in his treatise on Problems of Systematic Biology¹, refers to a new American breed of dogs -the Argentinian Boarhunter or Dogo Argentino. While teaching at the University of Cordoba in Argentina, he made detailed ancestral studies of the Dogo. Scientifically selecting animals of different litters from among the ten breeds composing the Dogo, and as a corollary to his personal observations, he described his studies in the Review of the School of Philosophy and Humanities.² In addition, in his publication, Species and Breeds in Biological Order³, (in which are included a comprehensive series of diagrams, drawings, and photographs of the different breeds which were used to produce the present Argentinian Dogo) he affirmed: "But all this does not mean that to arrive at an interesting and useful breed, one always has to deform nature or to select a new balance on the basis of a biological imbalance. In some cases, it is possible to form new stable breeds based on a natural harmony of character selection. With a great deal of satisfaction in this regard, I can cite the brilliant example of a new dog breed created in Argentina which

combines two basic qualities: biotype stability
and genetic strength. This accomplishment is the
work of Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez."

PROLOGUE

Since the official recognition of the Argentinian Dogo as a new breed by the Dog Federation of Argentina and the Rural Society of Argentina, I planned to prepare a small pamphlet on the history of the Dogos, the first, and until now, the only dog breed created in Argentina.

I decided to do so not only because of the continual insistence of friends and breeders of our noble Dogo, who wanted to know why, how, and when the animal was developed and what breeds were included in its make-up, but also to make perfectly clear its genetic origin and to avoid sterile discussions in the future.

Dog lovers seem never to be in agreement about the origins of various breeds and are continually searching the records for further information. For example, take the case of the Irish Wolfhound. Does it have Deerhound blood, as Edward C. Ash affirms in The Practical Dog Book? His opinion is shared by Theo Marples in Show Dogs. Or rather are D. Garden in The Book of the Dog and Le Von de Vaux in his old text, Our Friend the Dog (Notre ami le Chien), correct in saying that both hounds have a common root, differing solely in size. Or is it as in The Hunting Dog, edited by Saint Etienne de Loire (France), that in 1862, Captain G.A. Graham reconstructed the breed as

based on the Great Dane with some elements of Irish Wolfhound. Or is it as Croxton Smith wrote in Sporting Dogs and British Dogs and Freeman Lloyd in Hark to the Hounds, that two breeds, Great Dane and Deerhound, intervened in the reconstruction of the giant Irish hound. Or are Clifford L.B. Hubbard in his books, The Observer Book of Dogs and Dogs in Britain, and Robert Brigg Logan in The Red Book of the Dogs, correct when both noted that the Irish hound has the blood of Great Dane, Deerhound, Borzoi, and Mastiff. Or finally, do we accept what the Jesuit priest, Father Edmund Hogan, in his book, The Irish Wolf Dog (in which he made an exhaustive study of the breed) and Hutchinson, in his Dog Encyclopedia maintained, that the giant Irish hound does not have any mixture. This latter opinion is shared by the Irish Wolfhound Club of America, and is sustained in its official publication, Harp and Hound, and in the chapter about the Irish hound in The Complete Book of Dogs. Confirmed, therefore, is what Captain Graham, the reconstructor of the breed, maintained when he said in his publication in 1862: "I found sufficient pure examples of this breed in Ireland to be able to reconstruct it with no foreign mixture."

The same eternal discussions and lack of resolution can be found in the history of other breeds. The matter

becomes even more complicated consulting additional bibliography and checking more sources to try to ascertain the genetics of some breeds. To end this discussion, note what Clifford Hubbard says in The Book of the Dog¹ in reference to the Rhodesian Ridgeback: "Continuous searching for the antecedents of the Rhodesian Ridgeback reveal many theories and flagrant contradictions, since a dozen different breeds claim ancestry while the true origin remains unknown."

Helping me decide to produce this publication were some articles which appeared in American and European magazines, which said, for example, that among the breeds which contributed to the formation of the Argentinian Dogo was the Peruvian Mountain Dog.² The error is due to a most curious circumstance. In the early 1960's, Jack Parry, a newspaperman and hunter from the United States, came to Rio Negro, Argentina, to hunt jaguar. He used the Dogos of a noted Argentine hunter, Amadeo Bilo. Ending his stay in Argentina and awaiting his return flight to the United States in the Neuquen airport, Mr. Parry asked me which breeds made up the Dogo. In the haste of the moment, I wrote in his notebook the names of the various breeds whose blood flows in the veins of the Argentinian Dogo, among which is the Great Pyrenees. As he did not know any Spanish we spoke in English, and

I wrote for him in my poor script: Pirinean Mountain Dog, as this breed is written in English. Apparently confusing Pirinean for Peruvian, the error arose and has since been reprinted.

I am pleased that in other foreign publications the true history of the Dogo has been recorded.³ In all these the history of the Dogo is told and complete information is given as to the use of the new breed as a hunting and working dog. The origin of the Dogo is fully explained: his creator, the difficult and time-consuming road to define and fix its physical and temperamental characteristics, and its official recognition as the first Argentinian breed of dogs. The standards were published and accompanied by numerous photographs of Dogos in action, at rest, and in full body and head only portraits, allowing one to appreciate the qualities of the breed. The authors had available the publication I prepared when I was the President of the Argentinian Dogo's Breeders Club to request official recognition of the breed by the Rural Society and the Dog Federation of Argentina. (Both officially recognized the breed in 1964). That piece with some additions forms the basis of this publication.

Furthermore, so as to avoid future errors regarding the origin and formation of the Argentinian Dogo, I have decided to publish this pamphlet. As my brother, Antonio,

the creator of the breed, who put into it not only his scientific and academic knowledge but also his great passion for dogs, is gone, the clarifying mission falls to me.

I likewise want to clarify another point that concerns me. In many publications the formation of the breed is attributed to me. The true creator and forger of the Argentinian Dogo was my older brother, Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez. He poured into it his enthusiasm, his love of dogs, his fervor for hunting, and a profound genetic and surgical knowledge developed during his years as professor at the National University of Cordoba, Ward Chief in national and provincial hospitals of Argentina, and Director of Traumatology of the Military Hospital of Cordoba. Two passions: medicine and the genetic formation of the new breed absorbed the useful years of his life.

To this, I have contributed my own passion for dogs. It is one that has absorbed me since I was a child and which is in our family blood, together with a passion for hunting, to which I have dedicated all the time compatible with my absorbing judicial career. This has been a constant factor in my life since the years when I was in the diplomatic service as Ambassador to Canada, and in academic life as Administrative Dean of the Law School of Buenos Aires and Interim Rector of the University.

These were more temporary activities, however, and far from my true vocation and career, the judiciary.

As my legal career did not provide me with the scientific, especially genetic, knowledge that is indispensable to develop a new breed, I have had to guide and inform myself by reading the publications of the creator of the breed and by what I learned from childhood at his side and that of my father, also a surgeon.

When we were very young, our passion for dogs led my brother and I to translate together, word by word, with a dictionary in hand, the old book, Our Friend the Dog, by Von de Vaux. This was a sort of dog lovers' bible which our father kept in his library. We simultaneously enriched our French vocabulary while we broadened our English vocabulary by translating, in the same rudimentary and simple manner, the canine dictionary of Hutchinson.

Now an adult, life has provided me with opportunities to travel extensively throughout America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. On these trips, I have met a great number of canine enthusiasts, visited hundreds of breeders, and repeatedly attended some of the largest dog shows such as those at Westminster, Madison Square Garden, and Croft, England. I learned a great deal just by observing atten-

tively the thousands of excellent dogs of all breeds on exhibition. The trips gave me the opportunity, likewise, to broaden my dog library with hundreds of volumes.

I have personally witnessed the sacrifices of my brother, Antonio, to form a new breed, his anxieties, his sorrows, his debilitation, and his hopes, until the culmination of his work. Thinking of him and seeing the fruit of his efforts, I have not wanted his dream made real, to disappear. Therefore, since his death twelve years ago, I have continued his work of selection. Upon his death the breed was perfectly defined, but obtaining official recognition, keeping a genealogical register, and trying to maintain the standards as they were fixed many years ago,⁴ has been my work of continuity.

Above all, my task has been one of stabilization, selecting breeding animals in field trials and competitions, and of promotion, in Argentina as well as abroad. The articles that continually appear in foreign magazines and newspapers about the Argentinian Dogo indicate the extent to which we have achieved our goal.

I have always held the firm conviction that exercise is indispensable to maintaining a breed's instinct. Large cities, for obvious reasons, make it very difficult to maintain the "habitat" where a Dogo can develop his qualities. Later on we will see how inheritance is joined with

exercise.

The Argentinian Dogo, in addition to being a hunting dog, is also an excellent guardian; not a "one-man dog", but a family dog. Many owners are training them for protective work and obedience trials, with good results. Personally, I have taught some very successfully, and they have performed in public at dog shows and at private meets. Some official agencies, such as the National Police of Argentina, are training them as K-9 or police dogs.

There is an unforeseen area in which our Dogos can be useful: to aid city dwellers. This is not a new function: other European breeds who originally were hunters, such as the Great Dane, Airedale Terrier, etc., already have been converted, over the course of the years, into guard and defense dogs.

In this regard, the creator of the breed says: "The quality of courage is also indispensable for a guard dog, which is the other facet of the Argentinian Dogo. It is commonly believed that a guard dog is supposed to bark or bite a stranger. If this is the standard, then all dogs are good guard dogs. But, in my opinion, a guard dog is something more; he must be ready to give his life if need be, while defending his owner or his home. A dog who attacks an intruder and then at the first threat or injury abandons his prisoner is worth nothing as a guardian. Such an animal does not provide any security for his owner,

nor does he merit, in my opinion, the honorable name of a guard dog."⁵ The success of the Dogo as a work dog or guardian is, thus, of no surprise to us. Its ancestry comprises both hunting breeds which give it a hunting instinct, and work breeds, which give it intelligence and a protective instinct. Whoever has had Dogos in his house, or has hunted with them, knows how true this is.

Seeing the impact that the new breed has produced among dog lovers it occurred to me that what happened to Brillan Savarin, author of Physiology of Taste, would also happen to Dr. Antonio Nores. Savarin's book has been translated into all the world's languages and is read by all good "gourmets."

Savarin says in the prologue of this work that it cost him a great deal to publish it because his faculty colleagues at the Sorbonne would consider it such a banal theme. Nevertheless, many years have passed since the appearance of his book and no one now remembers that Dr. Brillan Savarin had once been a good professor at one of the most famous universities of Europe. In turn, however, few ignore his book on such a banal and mundane theme which has gained him such renown throughout the years.

In a similar manner, I feel that within some years, as medical science evolves and makes such enormous progress, no one will remember that Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez was a

great surgeon, a good university professor, and a student of medicine, or that he propagated new medical ideas, but, rather, his memory will be perpetuated as the creator of the valient Argentinian Dogo. Students will one day find his name in dog encyclopedias and related books. As we now remember the name of Arkright as the creator of the Pointer, of Captain G.A. Graham of the Irish Wolfhound, the Doberman Brothers as creators of that variety of the Pincher, the Duke of Gordon for the black and tan variety of the Setter, Laverack for the English Setter, or James Hinks for the Bullterrier, so too will future generations know that of Dr. Nores Martinez.

In the following text, the reader will find chapters on the why of the new breed, the reasons that it was developed, the means for its creation, what breeds compose its genetic make-up, for what practical end the breed was developed, the results, its working capability in the field and as a guard dog in the city. We will finally add some words about its education and training.

I think it oportune to conclude this prologue with another quote from my brother, Antonio. "To propose an idea you can tolerate the fact that you become wrapped up in it, because passion is the motor, it is the propulsive force of ideas; ideas born without passion, are born dead. The history of humanity is the history of

human passion; the biography of its great figures is also the biography of its great passions."6

Our passion has been dogs in general, above all hunting dogs, and the Argentinian Dogo in particular. They have been a constant presence in our lives. In these pages, the dog lover will find up to what point we have been faithful to this passion.

CHAPTER ONE

NEED FOR A NEW HUNTING BREED

To better understand the need for a new hunting breed and the way we have approached it, we have to examine the formation of breeds, that is what factors influence their genetic formation and the fixing of the instincts that characterize each species or variety. We must remember that all breeds, whether dogs or any other species, are the result of two circumstances that condition them: heredity and the ability to use desired characteristics. In other words, they are the product of the father plus the mother times the environment ($F \& M = E$). Heredity, or rather the pedigree, is the influence that the subject receives from his ancestors (parents, grandparents, greatgrandparents, etc.). The second factor, the ability to use desired characteristics, refers to the work, task, or mission that the subject has carried out for several generations, the exercise to which his members, his organs, and his senses have been subjected. This work, this use generation-after-generation, is what fixes the characteristics of the races, what sharpens the senses (sight, hearing, smell) adapting the physical attributes to the destiny of each subject (face, endurance, color, speed, quality, hair length, etc.) and increasing the temperamental elements

(courage, decision to attack, enthusiasm, will to complete an assignment, mental agility, faithfulness to the owner, lack of confidence in strangers, etc.).

Biologically we could say that the biotype or rather the total individuality, is formed by the genotype which corresponds to the ancestry and the phenotype which is the ability to use certain characteristics, the exercise, education, work, or whatever you wish to call it.

The first, or genotype, constitutes the initial biological impulse, inherited by each individual, a non-influencing factor; the second, or phenotype, is the acquired factor, influenced by external circumstances such as life style, education, food, exercise, etc.

In this respect, Dr. Nores Martinez, in his book on the physical education of youth¹ says: "In calling the initial biological impulse, that which makes a son look like his father or his ancestors, a non-influencing factor, I refer only to the fact of individual heredity, but not to the fact that this initial biological impulse cannot be modified in the course of generations through physical education, because it would negate inconvertible biological facts, such as natural selection, the improvement of the breed, the basis of zootechny.

"We can schematically represent the individual bio-

type in two concentric circles: the interior one corresponds to the genotype; the outer circle to the phenotype.

"To the extent that the influencing factors or phenotypes (feeding, life style, physical education, etc.) act in a continual form throughout the generations, the outer circle will increase at the expense of the inner circle or genotype, until it predominates and absorbs it.

"This shows how the genotype could be modified by continued environmental influence through several generations. I consider this not only valid because physical education morphologically improves human types, but also because intellectual and moral education, continued through the generations will result in an elevated social/environmental level (at the same time it shows how this type of education favorably acts on imperfect descendants)."

In the same sense, Professor J. Ruffie, a UNESCO expert in racial matters, affirmed: "Race, as it is understood today, is no more than the balance between a hereditary genetic heritage of many generations and the environmental conditions that have influenced factors of bodily adaptation, favoring the development of some to the detriment of others. Thus, after a great deal of time, each modification could mean the modification of the genetic heritage of a population including its racial type."

Returning to our theme, the reason, for example, of races and trials in selecting horses, is based on this

formula, as the race indicates the ability to use desired characteristics necessary for maintaining the speed and endurance of the horse, an original condition of his skill as an animal of war, work, or sports.

If for several generations, we raised pure-bred race horses with good pedigrees, but never let them run and always kept them shut up in their stalls, despite the excellent pedigree, a moment will arrive in which they can be beaten by a work horse.

The good pedigree, the historic ancestry will be worth nothing, if these are overcome by several generations of inactivity, of being static, if, in other words, they lack the ability to use desired characteristics.

The same thing happens to dogs. The breeds that were created by man, centuries ago, for large animal hunting and who are presently exhibited as members of the tracking group (the "hounds") have without a doubt excellent pedigrees. Some of them have genealogical registeries that go back for more than a hundred generations. However, although the heredity remains safe, we cannot say the same with respect to their ability to use desired characteristics. This is an absolutely indispensable condition so that the qualities for which the breed was created can be preserved.

Whether it be because in the countries of their origin hunting with dogs has now been prohibited, or whether it is because some wild species are extinct,

the reality is that for hundreds of years many breeds have not practiced their specific function. For instance, in Ireland, for more than two hundred years there have been no wild wolves for dogs to hunt.

We read that when a friend of Lord Byron offered him an Irish Wolfhound puppy to replace his famous Maida (to whom the poet dedicated such sensitive poetry) the great British poet answered: "Why do you want a wolf hunter when in all of Ireland there is no more than one wolf and that one in the zoo?"

Thus the Irish Wolfhound has lost his enthusiasm for the hunt, his legendary courage, and his sense of smell to follow a trail. The centuries of inactivity have caused the present animals of this breed to suffer the regressive influence of the lack of exercise, of the inability to use desired characteristics.

This condition applies likewise to the Deerhound, who was originally deer hunter; to the Borzoi or Russian Hound, a hunter of Russian wolves; and to the Afghans, Salukis, and other breeds. How long has it been since the Deerhounds have chased a deer? How long has it been since the Borzoi, that swift hunter of the steepes, has followed a pack of wolves? For how many years have the Afghan Hounds and Salukis not run over the hot sands of the African deserts hunting gazelles? How many years since the Rhodesian Ridgeback, or his ancestor the Phu

Quoc, not fought with lions in the Transvaal or Rhodesia? Among the working breeds there are many that were originally hunters as the Great Dane or the Ulm Dog, that was a true boarhound or boarhunter. How many generations have passed since these splendid dogs have confronted a boar?

Other breeds of the Terrier or companion group, as those valient hunters the Bullterrier or English Bulldog, that were created and first specialized in dog fighting are now unable to use those characteristics for which they were originally breed. (In 1826, England, their country of origin, banned such fights, thus these dogs have not had the necessary practice.)

The twisted and short legs and general conformation of the present Bulldog have made it a "Non-Sporting Dog" when he had been an excellent "Sporting Dog." The Bullterrier has become so small that they have had to make a "Mini-Bullterrier," that is a miniature variety of this breed. (The standard variety has become so much smaller physically that when I was in England, I visited the Bullterrier exhibit and thought I was seeing the miniature variety when, studying the catalogue, I realized that in front of me was the standard animal).

This lack of exercise through the generations is what has made many of these breeds, especially the larger ones, despite their pure blood and the care that has been taken

with their pedigrees, lose in many ways (some in all) their innate hunting qualities. The lack of reasonable exercise and adequate use of their organs, has made them lose not only their physical capabilities (the function of the organ) but also, and this is of greatest importance, their temperaments and their hunting instincts of courage, tenacity, persistence, and interest in the hunt. Generations of softness and inactivity have transformed skilled hunting animals into companion dogs, working dogs, or simply decorative dogs.

In contrast to what we have been saying, there are those breeds that have continued to use their abilities not only preserving their innate qualities as hunters, but also increasing them with the passage of time. This is the case with the Pointers, Setters, Spaniels, and others.

It is worthwhile to recall also what Dr. Nores ~~Martinez~~ said in a speech referring to the control that all breeds need: "Vigilance is indispensable in all breeds for a basic biological reason: In biology, dynamism is life; inertia is death. The species and breeds that do not improve that do not evolve, return to their former state. To do so is to recede, it is to leave the road travelled through the generations, it is the synonym for degeneration, because it is to lose

qualities acquired for a desired end."²

There are other mountain hunting breeds, as the English and American Foxhounds, the Harriers, Beagles, Bassett's, etc., who preserve their characteristics as hunters because they have continued to hunt, especially foxes. These breeds, however, are not practical in Argentina for mountain hunting and control of predatory species, because they were made only for "sports" hunting. For example, the Foxhound is an excellent trailer of foxes and, when properly taught, also trails boars, puma or deer perfectly. The breed was created for this reason and maintained for the sport and solace of "Gentlemen Riders" whose main object in hunting was not the killing of the fox but the diversion of the participants.

Conditioned for such sporting ends, the first requirement of a good Foxhound, thus, is to know how to howl on finding the first scent or trail of an animal. This also means that the animal is immediately advised and begins to flee. In the almost parklike European woods, surrounded by towns, the bark means the beginning of a "coursing" that sooner or later will end with the fox caught in its den or trapped.

But this same hunt held in Argentina's enormous mountains would mean the sure loss of the animal pursued. The bark of the dogs on the trail would alert the prey, allowing it time to escape to a neighboring mountain and

from there to others, putting itself safely at a distance from its persecutors.

The old standard of the Foxhound specified strong barking "like the Bells of Moscow", so that you could hear them as far away as those powerful bells. If this voice power was and is an advantage to orient the equestrian sportsmen in Europe, it is an enormous disadvantage in Argentina. Here what is wanted is to hunt the game and not run bothersomely for one or two hours after a howling pack.

In an extensive article about the English Foxhound by E.C. Harrison, the author says among other things: "Dogs who don't immediately bark, remaining mute, ought to be destroyed or at least retired from the pack immediately, whatever other good qualities they have ... To breed some of these dogs who have a tendency not to bark on the trail, would cause future difficulties that will be difficult to eradicate."³

I have written the contrary: a "mute" dog is an intelligent animal and he realized that the only way to catch a fox is to approach him silently so as not to scare him.

In respect to the number of dogs necessary to form a pack he supports our thesis and refers to the number and age of dogs that should constitute a pack. He states that a pack of fifty dogs is an "ideal" one.

Rene Valette⁴ goes even further, as he affirms in his preface that: The hunting of fox, boar, and deer, with a pack and on horseback, is not composed only of a group of seventy or eighty dogs..." The ex-President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, who hunted in his own country as well as in Europe, Africa, and India makes reference to the pack of General Wade Hampton with whom he hunted a great deal. "General Hampton hunted with a large pack of Foxhounds... Generally, they took forty dogs into the field at a time."⁵

This large number of dogs can be maintained only by a rich family or a club, but it is uneconomical on ranches in Argentina.

The big Hounds such as the Irish, Scotch, and others that we have imported and tested for many years and through several generations (we still keep some because of their gentleness and intelligence) do not produce results in large game hunting, despite the fact that they are silent dogs, because they have lost, due to the inactivity of many generations, their interest in hunting and their courage to struggle with an animal.

Courage to not yield to the attacks of an animal is indispensable to provide time for the hunter to advance through the tangles of the woods and reach the prey before it injures the dog. Furthermore, their great size is inconvenient. It makes their movement within the woods difficult, allowing the boar to easily injure the dog.

Likewise, with their long hair and dark gray color, they are easily confused with the mountains or the animal hunted, especially the boar. Consequently, they are likely to be injured by the hunter during the excitement of the hunt.

Just as it would be absurdly anti-sporting to make a featherweight box with a heavyweight, we have always judged it cruel to make one or several dogs fight a boar, puma, jaguar, or one of the enormous red foxes of Patagonia almost the size of wolves, who do not have the appropriate physical capacity. Any of the smaller terriers, for instance, despite their great courage, will succumb, fighting any of the animals mentioned above.

All the breeds to which I have referred in the course of this Chapter are excellent and faithful friends of man, guardians of our homes and loyal and unconditional companions of our children. Man's perseverance in improving and perfecting these breeds are most just and praiseworthy. But they should not be taken into the mountains to hunt nor should a disproportionate effort in relation to their respective physical capacities be demanded.

The reasons which we have tried to synthesize to the best of our ability in the preceding pages are the product of our studies of the characteristics of different breeds and the experience of an entire life. They made us see the need for a new breed with the physical requirements,

temperament, sharpness of senses, conformation of head, manner of hunting, swiftness, courage, and enthusiasm that would be appropriate for large game hunting in Argentina.

CHAPTER TWO.

SPORTS HUNTING

It is opportune to begin this chapter with a quote from Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez in which he explains and justifies the creation of the Dogo. In the conference noted in the preceding chapter he states: "No species of creation has so suffered the consequences of the laws of evolution as the dog. From prehistoric times to the present, his fidelity to man has given him an admirable ability to adapt to environmental and geographical changes derived from either his master's life style or tremendous geological changes.

"Who has not observed the enormous morphological differences between a robust Great Dane and a tiny Pekingese, between the svelte and aristocratic Irish Wolfhound and the long, humorous profile of the Dachshund, between the beautiful coat of a Setter and the naked skin of a Mexican Hairless.

"Is there really no more difference between the morphology of these breeds than between that distinguishing a lion from a tiger, a llama from a camel, or an anthropode from a primitive human being?

"What is the reason that among various breeds of the same species and only in this species, on an extensive

zoological scale, there are differences even greater than those separating different species?

"There is only one response to this question: It is due to this magnificent adaptive ability of the canine species acquired by following its owner through the length of history, by all the paths on the planet and in all the inclement climates of the earth, to serve with equal selflessness one owner, no matter what race, culture, or character.

"This magnificent adaptability of canines to environmental changes, whether in the psyche or the morphology, following the biological changes of evolution (or rather the contrary of involution) is what has contributed to the development of the immense number of breeds and varieties that we know today. Some are fixed by natural selection, others by man for such practical purposes as physical beauty, companionship, or whim (and some of them by an evident aberration of good taste). Offering the same fidelity equally to everyone, serving his owner even if he be the most tyrannical of men, a dog serves man whether aristocrat or bum with equal submission.

"Taking advantage of this easy adaptation of the species and this moldability to human selection, I proposed to develop a new breed of dog, that would meet the necessary conditions for use on large game hunts in Argentina. The impenetrable and virgin forests of Argentina

make conditions very different from those of Europe, from where we imported dogs for hunting. Here we hunt in open mountains, covering an immense area, where at times you have to cross paths so difficult you almost have to crawl. If boars, whether indigenous or imported, puma or tapir, having heard a dog pack in the neighborhood, are not immediately captured, it is useless to try to find them again, because thousands of acres would separate them from the hunters.

"Consequently, what quality should a dog have for this kind of hunting? In the first place, it should be able to explore the mountains in silence and be heard only when it reaches its prey. In contrast, when a Foxhound or another mountain breed hunts, it begins to howl when it finds the scent. The hunter who follows it can be sure that he will not bag his game as the pack's howl gives the animal sufficient warning to flee.

"Secondly, it ought to be a dog with a good sense of smell, but one that smells upwards, as the Pointer, and not over the trail. For example, in hunting puma, the animal fools the dog by circling and returning again over its own trail. At other times, it climbs a tree and jumps or rather crosses a precipice in one jump, leaving the dogs following his prints and whirling around in circles confused.

"In contrast, when the dog follows the animal by

scents, there is no possibility that it can be fooled and the known trick of the peccary, for example, of separating himself from the group and remaining hidden among the bushes while the dog pack pursues the rest of the fleeing herd, is useless if the dog scents the wild animals. Thus, it is common to hear people who live where there are puma, say that the best dog is the Pointer or a dog with Pointer blood, because it immediately finds and pins down the game until the hunter arrives.

"In the third place, it ought to be an agile dog, better at fighting than at chasing, as the wild boar, the puma, or the peccary, can be reached by any dog that is not very heavy. And finally, above everything else, it ought to be courageous. The dog on finding a puma or a mountain pig, although it is wounded, should be able to subdue its prey alone. Given the extent of the country where we hunt, it is impossible to travel hundreds of miles with a pack of twenty or fifty dogs, thus the dog must be capable of operating on its own.

"This quality of courage I consider fundamental, because here, where there is so much virgin land, you cannot follow a dog pack on horseback, you can scarcely enter on foot. We cannot get to the game if the dogs take it prisoner too far from us. The practice is that, on finding it the dog takes it prisoner immediately.

"In regard to the size of the dog, as our mountain paths are very narrow and overgrown, medium-size dogs

turn out to be most practical. However, for the sake of breeding it is worthwhile to select the largest and heaviest animals, who have been raised in the field, with the demands of work and poorer food, which often reduces the size. This is the reason for the old saying: 'Size is controlled by the mouth.'

I have recorded these words, spoken more than twenty years ago, because they synthesize the title of this chapter. Among those qualities noted, in my opinion, courage is of particular significance. It is indispensable that a dog be able to sustain the struggle of its captive, standing for a period of time without fatigue or letting go, so that the hunter can get close to the animal without any danger.

This vigor of the Dogo Argentino also gives it a certain speed on the mountains in relation to other hunting breeds. As it is able to endure the pricks and scratches of the bushes or the attacks of its prey, it can advance directly to the animal more rapidly than other dogs who are weakened by any injuries sustained.

In summary, a mountain dog ought to be silent, never barking while on the scent. Long experience in this respect teaches us that a "brawling" dog among the pack is sufficient to cause the hunt to fail.

It ought to be agile, strong, and long-suffering, which is equal to speed in the mountains. With a good nose, but a "scenter", not a trailer, and completely

courageous, the Dogo should be capable of fighting to the death, as has already occurred to them so many times.

They should have the necessary qualities so that four or five dogs constitute a sufficient pack to dominate with ease a European boar of 200 kilos (approximately 450 lbs.) or more; one alone should be able to account for a fox, an aguara-guazu, or a puma.

We have thus saved ourselves from the need for packs of fifty dogs to which Mr. Harrison refers, or those of seventy or eighty referred to by Rene Valette or Teddy Roosevelt.

scratches of the fingers on the back of its prey, is

CHAPTER THREE

BREED SELECTION

To form a breed of dogs to meet the conditions specified in the preceding chapter, it was necessary to identify and use those breeds that not only have conserved as much as possible their typical conditions but also were capable of transmitting these to their descendants.

First, a basic race with at least one of the essential conditions had to be established, then different races could be added that conceivably would be able to transmit innate qualities within their biotype to their descendants to obtain the "cocktail" canine that was looked for. Simultaneously, continuous hunting practice continued to fix the atavistic characteristics and add this functional ability to the Dogo's inheritance.

The basic animal was the old Cordoba dog of Argentina. In Cordoba, until the beginning of this century, dog fights were very much in vogue. Like cockfights, they were a tradition derived from the colonial period and strongly rooted in provincial life. It was common practice to hold a dog fight every weekend at which large bets were placed.

In those fights, a mixed breed of Spanish Mastiff and

Bull Terrier was used; when it was not pure Bull Terrier, it was mixed with English Bulldog. There was also at the beginning of the century a certain infusion of Boxer or "German Bulldog" blood, as that noble breed was then called.

From this mixture, natural selection formed the type of "fighting dog" which we called the "Old Fighting Dog of Cordoba". This was an extraordinarily courageous animal with tremendous endurance in fights; it died fighting, never ever fleeing an encounter, but it lacked smell and speed and its ferocity towards others of the same breed made it useless for hunting. The dog's tendency to fight with his fellow animals made it impossible to hunt with two or more in a pack.

But this primitive breed had two essential qualities. An excellent ancestry: Mastiff, Bull Terrier, English Bulldog, Boxer; and a great deal of functional skills acquired in generation after generation of fights which increased their bravery.

The Cordoba Dog, almost always white with some reddish-brown spots, was given additional, different bloodlines to avoid consanguinity. The Harlequin Great Dane, or Dog of Ulm, gave it more height and a good head. The English Bulldog, Boxer, and Bull Terrier increased its courage, fortitude, endurance, insensibility to pain,

and tenacity in combat; the Boxer also contributed its vivacity and intelligence, giving the Dogo the capacity to learn quickly when being trained as a guardian or seeing-eye dog.

The Pyrenean Mastiff, which was especially brought from the United States for breeding with the Dogo, gave its size, the ability to operate in the field, a good nose, accented the white coat, gave it strength and resistance, and especially that adaptability to all climates so typical of that mountain dog.

The English Pointer is principally responsible for the sense of smell of the Dogo and to him is also owed the characteristic quality of scenting that avoids his tracking with his nose to the ground. The Hounds and Bassets who perform in this way often become disoriented and reach their prey too late. The Irish Wolfhound has given them swiftness and together with the Great Dane and the Pyrenean Dog, is the source of the Dogo's height. The Bordeaux Dog, perhaps not quite purebred, which was in Cordoba and also was used in fights then, was likewise introduced, mainly for its strong jaw, its powerful head, and its great courage.

To avoid the harmful effects of consanguinity it was necessary to form several families, which arose from two large branches which Dr. Nores Martinez called the Araucanian family and the Guarani family. There were also

many examples of each breed that they used, in turn, for further breeding.

As the years went by and the families derived from this common trunk broadened, there was no possibility of danger due to consanguinity. In the bloodlines of the Bull Terrier, however, we had to introduce another infusion, because an extraordinary animal of this breed that we had brought from La Plata to Cordoba for breeding purposes was deaf. Nevertheless, he was such a valient animal and physically quite beautiful, that we had used him as the father. By the third generation we saw the ominous consequences of such deaf heredity, and this branch had to be redone using other Bull Terriers with good hearing.

This lengthy experimentation was carried out over the course of many years and many generations, always under scientific control. Those animals closest to the standard that Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez developed in 1928⁽¹⁾ we reserved for breeding.

At the same time as new breeds were introduced and different blood strains added to the Cordoba Dog, each specimen was submitted to intense training, hunting continually within the northern, central and southern mountains of Argentina. They were taken hunting in packs to lose their atavistic instinct of fighting among themselves. It took many years of work and selection to rid them of this tendency.

We are continuing to develop the Dogo's field instinct to make it an instinctive enemy of livestock predators. In addition to field hunts, we also train them in sparring matches with certain animals we keep captive for this purpose. This develops the Dogo's awareness of certain predators and familiarity with their mannerisms, thus, making the Dogo Argentino an instinctive hunter of such species. Even four-month-old puppies and females are capable of recognizing and acting when in the presence of a known predator.

CHAPTER FOUR

PHYSICAL AND ANATOMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Before describing the anatomy of the Argentinian Dogo it seems opportune to give the reader some opinions in regard to our Dogo as a "breed" in the scientific sense. The dictionary defines a breed as: "Each one of the groups into which they subdivide some zoological species and whose different characteristics are perpetuated through generations."

At the beginning of this book¹ I noted that Dr. Alfredo Sachetti had affirmed, after an exhaustive study of the Argentinian Dogo and with scientific endorsement backing him up, that we are dealing with a new canine breed.

In the meeting of the Canine Sub-Committee of the Rural Society of Argentina on May 21, 1964, its President, Dr. Juan O'Farrel reported on the presentation of the Argentinian Dogo Breeders Club asking for recognition of the breed. He affirmed: "I have carefully studied the information presented, as well as the animals exhibited in the last two shows, and I have no doubt that you have created a new canine breed with regular characteristics and of great use in Argentina." The Sub-Committee agreed unanimously with what President O'Farrel said and started the genealogical register of the Dogo Argentino.

The Dog Federation of Argentina also charged a Committee of distinguished members of the organization with studying the information presented by the Argentinian Dogo Breeders Club, requesting their official recognition of the breed. Its President, Mr. Ruben Passet Lastra, dealt with it in the following terms: "According to the classical definition, a breed is a group of individuals of the same species who acquire under natural influence or human intervention, common morphological characteristics, transmittable by inheritance. Those of us who are responsible for signing the favorable official communication of the Pedigree Commission of the Dog Federation of Argentina believe that the elements mentioned have been fulfilled. Not only has observation of the structure of a good group of Dogos at shows, in private homes, and on other opportunities been sufficient to examine them carefully, but also reliable testimony has been received from owners of these animals and all of them have corroborated the fact that these animals have really acquired fixed racial characteristics that differentiate them from others of the same species.

"Published commentaries in the press and in specialized publications that have arrived at identical conclusions, have also been taken into account.

"A point which was given particular consideration was the antiquity of the breed as we know it.

"To appreciate its evolution, the Dogo must be considered as starting not from the date when the standard was prepared, but rather from that of the Fighting Dog of Cordoba, who dates from the middle of the last century. Having had its characteristics fixed at the beginning of this century, it was favorably helped by a meticulous selection of animals to which were added the blood of other breeds, the majority of whom were not genetically foreign, as they did have some part in its original formation. Thus the creators were successful in giving it characteristics that were most appropriate.

"In 1928, Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez wrote the official, definitive standard, although they have achieved a greater regularity in the breed as since that time the Dogos have demonstrated morphological and intellectual characteristics that distinguish them and are repeated in their litters.

"In regard to chronological considerations, many universally accepted breeds are contemporary and acquired fixed form only a short time ago (e.g. the Doberman Pincher, Boxer, Cocker Spaniel, etc.)."²

The Dog Federation of Argentina accepted the conclusions of this Commission and also opened the genealogical register for this new breed.

So that our Dogo would be able to perform the mission for which he was destined, it was necessary to ensure

that he have the proper physical qualifications. There has to be a correlation between the physique of the dog and the work to be done. Keeping in mind this morpho-functional relationship, it was determined that it would have to have the head of a masticator and an olfactory face capable of scenting. The body should be conditioned for operating on all types of ground and against large game animals, surpassing it many times over in weight and size.

Following is a summary analysis of the anatomical characteristics of the Dogo.

H E A D

In the dog, as in all beings, the morpho-ponderal constitution obeys the adaptation of the organism to the environment. This constitution is fixed by ancestral inheritance and from the morphological constitution, one can deduce the qualities of the breed. Thus for example on seeing the body length, limbs, and sleekness of a Hound's body, we can judge its speed. There is a direct correlation between the morphology and the posture, which is the result of a general biological law that function makes the organ. Then, what morphology should a dog of prey have? Let us begin with the cranium.

In the Dogo Argentino the cranium profile is convex; the muzzle is concave upwards, as in the wolf, puma, and other like animals. The anatomical structure of the head

falls into the mesocephalic category, in which the measurements of the cranium and muzzle are practically equal. Other breeds are also mesocephalic, but because of their profile and shape, they have a different head from the Dogo.

The main difference between the head of the Dogo Argentino and the other mesocephalic breeds, with olfactory elements, such as the Pointer, Setter, and some Spaniels is that the Dogo adds a strong muscular structure, the masticating character of its jaws, and its convex-concave profile.

This development of the masticating muscles, added to the shape of the lower jaw, is what helps the Dogo hold onto its prey for a long time. Its lower jaw is powerful because its masticating muscles are firmly inserted into well-developed cranial bones, but it is the well-fitted dental arches in an ample mouth (which does "not fill with prey") that obligates the dog to loosen or let go of his prey or be asphyxiated.

The Dogo has, in addition, tight lips, not pendulous as the Bulldog, Bull Mastiff, Bloodhound, etc. If the upper lip is pendulous, it causes a valve in the inhalation, preventing supplementary breathing through the corners of the mouth.

We must remember that the dog does not perspire as it has no sweat glands; as Victor Hugo said, the dog "is an animal that laughs with his tail and sweats with his

tongue."

During physical work, the dog regulates his body temperature by releasing a great quantity of water vapor. For this reason, one sees what is commonly confused with saliva, but which is really no more than the condensation of the water vapor eliminated by the lungs.

B O D Y

The body of the Dogo has such particular characteristics that once having seen a Dogo Argentino, one will not forget it. In the first place, its size (24 to 26 inches in height and 80 to 100 pounds in weight) and its completely white color with short hair, make it a unique breed in the world.

In addition its appearance reflects a sense of power, energy, and force that is impressive in contrast with its expression of friendship and gentleness. It has a perfectly balanced body, with straight paws and well-arched and powerful legs. With a muscular neck, a thick tail naturally carried low, his very presence gives the sense of a dog of great power, endurance, and physical force, yet agile and light.

The Dogo Argentino has a tall, mesomorphic body (larger animals are preferred, but with no gigantism). It has the physical capacity and appropriate body size to fight large game, but without an excessive size that becomes inconvenient for running in the mountains.

Another characteristic that typifies the Dogo Argentino, and in which selection has had an influence, is the inclination of the shoulder blade which affects the speed and agility of the dog.

The more inclined the shoulder blade is the longer the humerus bone will be. This has several advantages. The lever arm is longer which results in greater force with lesser effort, that is, greater speed of movement and less fatigue. The running jumps are longer as the movement of the leg extends quite far and over a larger area; each jump then increases speed. The dog has a greater elasticity which helps it develop greater speed. The inclination of the shoulder blade broadens the chest and gives it greater depth, enlarging the thorax, which allows for a greater development of the heart and lungs. Finally, the base of support is increased as the fore-arms are more separated which gives the animal greater stability whether running or fighting.

C O L O R

The white color of our Dogos is a necessity within its function as a hunting dog. In effect to hunt with our Dogos, you have to leave your horse and go through a great expanse of fields, mountains, and woods to uninhabited places.

A dog with a dark coat would be easily confused with the vegetation. In contrast, the white color of the Dogo

makes him stand out immediately against the fields and mountains so he can be located at a distance. Likewise, the white color keeps it safe from being injured or confusing him with the prey in the excitement of the hunt.

This concern has already been expressed by other breeders. For example, according to Croxton-Smith: "The breeders of the Fox Terrier, who fixed the breed, with the aim of breeding an animal that could not be confused with a fox, concentrated on producing litters of white pups."³ Josephine Creasey, referring to a long-haired Foxhound, affirms that: "They chose the white color as predominant, to avoid fatal errors when they were hunting,"⁴ and Harrison, again in reference to the Foxhounds affirms: "In the open field there is a great advantage in availing oneself of dogs which are almost completely white."⁵

If the white color is given such importance in dogs as the Fox Terrier which hunts so close to men, and Foxhounds who work in "packs" of almost fifty animals together, it is obvious that the Dogs, who work individually, at a distance, and are free to work alone, far from the hunter, are benefited by the white color that we have chosen.

It will serve for their security, so that they do not become injured, and for the comfort of the hunter who can more easily locate them in the field. Even at night the white color helps to locate the dogs while they are in the field.

C O A T

With respect to the quality and length of hair, we have selected short hair because in the northern and southern mountains of Argentina that length protects them from ticks, fleas, and any other insects and likewise avoids their getting tangled in the underbrush. They withstand heat better, dry immediately after getting wet, and are also, cleaner and never have the characteristic dog odors of the long-haired breeds.

Despite their short hair, they withstand low temperatures quite well, as they live comfortably in the southern mountains of Argentina, including Tierra del Fuego. They have developed and reproduced well, fulfilling to perfection their hunting functions and living in "the open air" with no inconvenience. Likewise, the same is true in the hot northern part of Argentina. Their coat is similar to that of their ancestor, the Bull Terrier, as Clifford Hubbard states: "In India, it is one of the few British breeds that could withstand in good health, the climate.. and the ticks."⁶

The Dogo Argentino originated in the temperate climate of the province of Cordoba. We did not ignore the fact that later generations living in colder or warmer climates would cause changes in the physical constitution of the Dogo, especially in the hair length. Thus, in the course of the years, varieties of Dogos with distinctive coats will arise.

For now we have maintained the standard of the breed and avoided this possibility by continuously exchanging animals throughout the different climates of Argentina. Likewise, field work makes the dogs smaller. When from a very early age they are taken out, following the horses all day long, the excess of exercise, although it gives them a great deal of experience, trains them as hunting dogs, develops the sense of smell, and gives them strength and endurance, prevents and paralyzes their harmonious development and their reaching their full height, according to the standard, because the exaggerated work hardens the cartilage before the bones are fully developed.

Another result, which is a consequence of the quality and constitution of the soil shows up in the conformation of the Dogo's paws. In the swamps and soft soil of the humid pampa, the foot and toes stretch out and form what the English call a "hare foot", while on the hard or stony ground as in the mountains, their paws have curled toes which the English call a "cat foot." With the cold the hair also becomes coarser and longer, which again proves that admirable adaptation of the dog to all climates which Dr. Nores Martinez noted in the conference cited earlier.

That fact makes one think that in the course of the years different types of Dogos in regard to hair length will be formed to adapt to different climates. But this remains for other generations that will come after us.

The creators and present breeders are satisfied with having fixed the new breed of Dogo Argentino and having obtained his recognition by the major canine institutions of Argentina. We feel happy being able to say: Mission accomplished.

CHAPTER FIVE

QUALITIES AND CHARACTER

Despite the physical characteristics that make the Dogo fundamentally different from other hunting dogs, their temperament and that rare contrast between extraordinary courage and incredible kindness of character are what gives them their own characteristics and makes them basically different from all other known breeds.

In effect, their courage is now legendary. In innumerable instances the Dogo has demonstrated a decision to continue a struggle under such precarious conditions, in such a situation of physical inferiority, that its determination in an irrational being, in which it would be presumed that the primary instinct of survival would predominate over any other, seems incredible. Even the most savage animals, when they see a threat of death, flee before an enemy superior in force and power.

Man, when he has the stuff of a hero or a martyr -and there have been quite a few in the world- is capable of judging life by political, patriotic, social, or religious convictions. But outside of these exceptional cases, in all rational or irrational beings the instinct of self-preservation predominates. The instinct of self-

preservation, of saving one's life at all costs, even at the cost of sacrificing a neighboring life, is thus inherent in the nature of all beings.

In the Dogo Argentino, nevertheless -and there are thousands of proofs of this- the combative instinct prevails over that of self-preservation. We have seen them gravely injured, and even die, without yielding to a struggle.

In an article that I published, ⁽¹⁾ in answer to the title question: "Is the Dogo Argentino Ferocious?," I stated that many aficionados of the dogs have answered this negatively. No doubt the question arose on learning of the way in which the dogs are capable of fighting until death, on learning of the courage, decisiveness, and recklessness with which they attack wild boar, puma, or any other beast against whom their owners lose them. Thus, this legendary courage causes the image of a breed which kills or at least bites the first human who comes within reach. Whoever has had contact with a Dogo Argentino, whether owning one, having seen it at shows, or at the home of friends, will understand how far from the truth this is.

The Dogo is the most docile and mild of hunting dogs and without a doubt not even lap dogs have the kindness and patience to withstand the teasing that he can take from children. It is precisely this insensibility to physical pain obtained as a selective quality, that allows

them to endure with oriental stoicism any injury. In my long years of direct contact with them and with breeders and owners of Dogos Argentinos, never have I heard of a Dogo who had bitten anyone, much less a child.

I have seen my old Kob of the Pampas, hunter of many wild boar, who had fought dozens of times with adults pumas in the mountains, his head and body bearing the scars of his struggles, and several times at the point of death, endure patiently the most irritating teasing of children, without showing anger, snarling, or the least intent to bite.

This quality of inherent kindness is, on the other hand, natural in a strong being. From the lowest creature on the zoological scale to man, it is known that the greater the coward, the greater the cruelty. The hyenna and the jackal, cruel and bloody animals, reject fighting and are incapable of fighting and killing on their own. Rather they follow the king of the jungle, an admirable synthesis of courage and nobility, taking advantage of his leftovers and provide themselves with a feast from the remains of that master of the African bush.

History and criminology teach us that, while tyrants and delinquents have been exceptionally cruel, their cowardice has been even greater. On the contrary, courageous rulers or common men, are kind and display great generosity.

Only an English Bulldog or Boxer or a St. Bernard have such fortitude for the affection, often excessively burdensome, of children. The giant Irish Wolfhound, the stylized Deerhounds and Greyhounds, the Pyrenean Dog, whose good nature is characteristic (all breeds of which I am or have been a breeder) within a short while of playing with a child lose patience, placing a barrier of growls between them and the love of their young friends. Even the good-hearted St. Bernard's, symbol of kindness and gentleness, quickly lose patience and protest with growls.

Never in contrast -and I have owned, bred, and known several hundred Dogos in my life- have I seen one of them that tried to growl at or bite someone once they understood that he was to be treated as a friend of the family or the house.

Many times one finds oneself with friends who own a dog that they consider a good guardian because it bites the first person who gets near it. This is simply cruelty or bad education. Once we have greeted an unknown person for example, or the dog sees him in our company, whether outside or inside the house, the dog ought to understand that this person is a friend and from that moment on, never show unfriendliness toward that person, unless, of course, that person directly attacks us. A Dogo, however brave or good a guardian he may be, when he has understood that the visitor is welcome into the house, will never try to bite this person.

In regard to the owner, the submission of the Dogo is total and absolute. He gives completely of himself to his owner, without reticence, conditions, or reserve. He belongs totally to him and his family, and he will be docile and affectionate with the whole family, with an inherent goodness comparable only to the most submissive Spaniels.

I can conclude then, without hesitation, that the Dogo Argentino is not a fierce dog, but rather a valient one; that it interjects a very distinct element, quite the opposite of ferocity. In his case, valient means that it is decisive, tenacious, capable of sustaining injuries without protest, and struggling even at the sacrifice of his life.

If our Dogo could talk, I am sure that he would have adopted as his motto that of Henri du Verger: "If I advance you are mine; if I retreat, I am yours; if I die, vengeance is mine!" (Si j'avance suivez moi, si je recule, tuez moi, si je meurs, vengez moi!)

His destiny is marked in the geneotype of the breed. His genes bear the ancestry of the most valient and honored animals; through his veins flows the noblest blood of the canine world.

CHAPTER SIX

FAMILY AND GUARD DOG

As a family dog, or rather, in its role as "Man's Best Friend," the Dogo differs little from any other dog in the companion or working breeds.

If any characteristic differentiates them, it is their extraordinary patience and gentleness with children. The Dogo responds fully according to how it is treated and displays to its owner qualities of docility, abnegation, fidelity, and devotion as the most endearing Spaniel. It is not a "one man dog," as the English so assuredly call those animals who become so fond of one person that they bite all others, rather it is a family dog, not jealous in its affection and equally faithful to the owner, his wife, children, help, or family friends.

It is not nervous as caged dogs who bark and bite everything. Conscious of its own strength and power, it has no real need to quarrel with or provoke its peers. However, once provoked and bitten or attacked, its reaction is vehement. Then and there one sees the immense bravery, strength, and courage of this animal. Reproached or scolded by his owner, he will humbly lie down and never react to the rebuke, however difficult it may be for him.

In all justice, we can apply to the Dogo an old Irish refrain used in referring to the Irish Wolfhound: "Gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked," which is to say, friendly when petted, ferocious when irritated.

The Dogo's gleaming white coat is restful to the eye and its lightness not only necessitates but guarantees that it will be kept clean. The short hair makes the Dogo easy to bathe and it dries quickly, thus, this dog does not pick up or retain any disagreeable odors. He likes to swim and plunges into lakes and rivers with a great deal of pleasure, even into the cold waters of the southern rivers of Argentina; and it can swim in the strongest current. His health is evident; I know of no Dogo Argentino dying of distemper and its robustness makes it safe from those puppy illnesses that cause so many losses early in an animal's life. Nor is it a fussy eater; it eats all kinds of foods and can live on little.

It is not a barking dog, making it possible to keep it near other families, or even in an apartment, without bothering anyone. Without a doubt its ideal "habitat" is the country or a house with a big yard, since its energy needs an outlet in daily exercise. Nevertheless, it can adapt to living in a small space with no great problems.

An innate guardian, an instinct inherited from the Boxer and the Pyrenean Mastiff, the Dogo protects every-

thing it considers as belonging to its owner: home, car, house, personal belongings, etc. It practically does not need to be trained as a guardian; on reaching a certain age both male and female automatically exhibit this quality. As a guard dog of property, it is the obverse of the general tendency of other breeds. If, as has been well said, "a barking dog does not bite," we could say of the Dogo that the reverse is true: when he has to, he bites without barking, or at least with very little noise.

There is a distinct difference between having a Dogo Argentino as a guardian and having a dog of another breed: If a thief enters your house at night and you have any dog, you know there is a thief because the dog barks; if you have a Dogo, you know there is an intruder because he yells. The result is the same, but the thief receives his just punishment.

They have a great sense of knowing whether or not to attack. Admiring comments have been caused on seeing them play with pumas, mountain cats, fox or wild boar who were domesticated on ranches, whereas on the hunt confronted by these same animals in the wild, the Dogo treats them as a deadly enemy. They can spar with a caged puma, for instance, and yet after the match lie down to rest beside a tame one, letting him lick his fur and fall asleep beside him.

CHAPTER SEVEN

HUNTING AND FIELD DOG

As in the home, the Dogo Argentino seems in many ways like other working or companion breeds. In the field, however, it is totally different from ordinary dogs.

Whoever manages dogs such as cattle or sheep dogs knows they will limit themselves to barking and scare predators away without biting. They do not have a hunting instinct. But the Dogo Argentino has been created to hunt wild game. Therefore, he has a good sense of smell, an appropriate jawbone and courage that verges on recklessness. If directed against a cow, as a sheep dog, it will give chase and, responding to an atavistic instinct, will not hesitate to seize the nose or ear of the cattle and not let go.

Many ranchers, above all in the mountains where the forests are impenetrable by horse or even on foot, use their Dogos to calm rebellious cattle. Once so trained they end up working in the corral.

Therefore, the first thing they must be taught is to completely ignore domestic animals. When, from puppy stage, the Dogo knows that cows, sheep, goats, or domestic pigs form -in a way- part of the family, he will never bite any of them, and when hunting he will concentrate on the predatory animals, and not bother the domestic ones

that cross his path. In my home, we have a tame puma, who our Dogos treat with great friendliness, as if it were one of them; they sleep together and he even cares for and defends it, whereas, on the other hand, they will fight a wild one to the death. It is all a question of education. Therefore, I insist that the first thing that one must do is make them understand that they must completely disregard the existence of cows and sheep, even the horse we are riding.

This training is of prime importance for the future of the Dogo. We can never insist enough on this point. We must not forget that the Dogo Argentino is a hunting dog and every hunting dog is dominated by a strong instinct that runs in its veins and singly motivates it as if it had on blinders. It depends on the owner to direct this instinct. Therefore, a Dogo cannot and must not be placed in amateur hands or left free to his fortunes in the field.

To set him free to his luck means to set free his instinct, open the doors to his ancestry, to hunt, or rather, to trail, follow, reach, and subdue a wild animal until his owner comes to his aid. If we leave a Dogo so that he can do what he wants with a flock, it is as if we left a Pointer, a Setter, a Spinone or a Bracco in a henhouse so that it can do what it wants, or a Terrier within a rabbit hutch so that he can also give free rein to his instinct.

The Dogo ought to be handled in the field by a person who has affection for dogs and who pays attention to them during their first days in the field. When he is accustomed as a puppy to domestic animals, he will not attack them and if in playing he is overtaken by his hunting instinct, and tries to follow or bite them, he ought to be severely reprimanded and even punished. The Dogo should be taught to walk besides a horse and not be permitted to move away. With a few lessons, they learn quickly.

The Dogo's training should be entrusted only to someone who appreciates him, who knows how to use his qualities and born hunting instinct, who knows that he has a fine animal in his hands, and as such should be cared for. The Dogo should be treated exactly as delicate machines or good weapons are handled. Whoever does not have the capacity, intelligence, ability, or care to drive a good car, to use a fine automatic weapon, or a chronomatic watch, should resign himself to driving a mule cart, hunting with an old shotgun and telling time by the sun; he will save himself many irritations.

Once the Dogo learns to ignore domestic animals, all the rest of the learning is done by the dog. The more often he is taken into the field, the more quickly he will become useful. From a puppy, he will hunt small game by himself. Later, he will follow larger animals and, when an adult, if he is in the field where there

are pumas and wild boar he will concentrate on them with all his energy. If possible, he should be taken into the field daily. This daily exercise not only preserves his health and strengthens him, but also contributes to the development of his sense of smell.

Each weed has a different smell and even the aroma of the same plant varies with each season of the year. In dry or humid weather, in summer or winter, the odor of the field is different and its impact on the sensitive pituitary gland of the dog is different. The emanations of plants, the pollen of each wood flower, the breeze of the meadow or the wood, the wind of the mountains, each strikes the sensitive smell of the dog in a different way.

Someone once said: "No perfumist has been able to imitate the odor of wet earth," and that is the truth for those of us who love the field and feel happy horseback riding through the mountains and valleys, followed or preceded by Dogos; it is also true for the dog.

When they see us saddle a horse, the dogs become very excited. The training, thus, results in a double pleasure: for the owner and for our faithful companion.

Knowing well through practice, the different smells of the field, the Dogo knows how to distinguish those emanating from animals. Each day he steadies his nose, learning to not run wild or attack the small rodents he finds in his path.

It is not uncommon for the Dogo to remain behind us for a few moments and then catch up with us carrying in his mouth a rodent or small animal that he picked up. His great sense of smell helps him sniff partridge and other birds from quite a distance and chase them. Mr. Macio of La Pampa taught his dog, Lihuel, to hunt partridge and we have seen it stop and carry them almost with the perfection of a bird dog. Although this proves the keenness of its nose, it must also be remembered that the destiny of the breed is hunting large animals; for hunting fowl we already have Pointers, Braccos, Setters, and Spaniels, who are excellent for the task.

I particularly dislike those breeds that "do everything", because I am convinced that, in the end, they do nothing well. Man specializes in science, art, industry, trade, etc., because it is the best way to dominate a subject. It is the old principle of dividing the difficulties to conquer them better. Dogs cannot escape this wise principle; each breed ought to specialize in a determined job and, if it is hunting, in a type of hunting: feather or fur. I insist, therefore, upon the fact that the Dogo Argentino is a "hound" that is a dog that hunts by itself and with the help of whoever handles it.

One cannot hunt large game with less than two Dogos; based on my understanding and experience a pack of four to six Dogos is the ideal, although four is sufficient. Alone, the dog's courage will cause him great injury, if not certain death. We must remember that a wild beast.

fights in its own environment, where the tree trunks or the underbrush help him. When the dog gets entangled, and bound in his freedom of movement, he cannot attack where the prey is most vulnerable.

Another example of the Dogo's unique qualities would be in comparison to a sheep dog or any mongrel. Such animals do not seize the prey but with continuous barks, orient the hunter, often driving away the prey before the hunter can arrive, making the hunt impossible.

It would seem that the Dogo knows that "barking makes one lose strength," since it conserves all its energy to bite in silence.

As a complement to this chapter about training the Dogo as a ranch or hunting dog, I should add that he should never be bred on a leash. That is the best way to create problems for the future and make him a useless dog. The jail psychosis, which makes any animal despair, makes the Dogo braver, so much so that letting him go suddenly, with all his accumulated energy, will make him seem like an uncontrollable war tank, a robot or satellite that has lost its control base.

In contrast, bred free, it is one of the most tranquil dogs among all breeds, seeming, in this respect, like a Spaniel. It can spend hours watching children play, participating in their games or watching as a spectator, the work in the corral. When it is by our side, it feels quite happy putting its head on our lap as we rest beside a fire.

CHAPTER NINE

AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

It seemed wise to end this book about the Dogo Argentino by reproducing this article published in the August 1967 issue of Diana magazine, in which I related certain facts that prove the use of the breed as an assistant to man on the hunt and in the struggle against cattle predators.

A few months ago the newspapers and radios of Argentina were extensively filled with news about the heroic way in which a Dogo Argentino died in a struggle with a wild boar in Choele Choel. This Dogo -Day de Trevelin- had fought and died in the presence of North American and Argentine journalists and was filmed and photographed in action. This gave his death a certain trascedence and made him well-known, in Argentina as well as in other countries, including the United States.

For those who have not had the opportunity to see the Dogos in action in a struggle with a European boar, it seems surprising and even unusual that a dog locked in struggle with an animal many times over its own weight and strength, does not abandon the fight, until

it wins or dies. But this is the hallmark of the Dogo Argentino.

The death of Day de Trevelin -a beautiful animal that we sent five years ago to Mr. Bilo- brought to mind other incidents when we have been present or have reliable information on the struggle and death of the Dogos.

During Holy Week of last year, on returning from a plane trip to Punta Arenas to my house in Esquel we found a road worker had brought and left with the servants a practically destroyed Dogo. There were so many injuries on his battered body that it seemed impossible that he would live through such a traumatic experience. The dog was not one of mine and at first I did not recognize it, as it was so disfigured by bruises and its body so swollen. I called Dr. Nunez, one of the veterinarians in Esquel, who gave it his most solicitous care and, with the help of a friend and myself, we sewed the wounds and gave it first aid. Little by little, the dog recuperated.

In a few days, I was able to locate his owner, Mr. Pastor Rocha, foreman on the ranch of Elias Owen in Trevelin -on that ranch was born the now famous Day de Trevelin- and there they told me what had happened.

Mr. Owen and his foreman, Rocha, had gone out on horseback at dusk on Good Friday to check on the ranch and took only one of his Dogos, Olvido de Trevelin, brother

of the litter of Day, and a sheepdog. As soon as they entered the mountain the Dogo scented a wild boar and gave it chase.

In a few minutes they were aware of the silent struggle of the Dogo and the beast, while the sheepdog with his continuous barking indicated to them the site of the drama. Darkness came, making it very difficult for them to approach the tragic site of the struggle. They remembered that the full moon would soon be out and, at a prudent distance, they followed on horseback. The struggle of the Dogo with the wild boar was guided by the barking of the sheepdog, for the participants made no sound. The Dogo neither let go of the prey nor emitted a single sound; the wild boar, if it is an adult male, does not cry out and fights in silence, making no more noise than that produced by tossing the dog as he tries to free himself. This went on for about a half an hour, but it seemed like a century, considering the unequalness of the struggle and the isolation in the mountain forest so late at night. The full moon finally came out and Mr. Owen and his foreman could get near. They let their horses loose against the enormous wild boar; with no little risk they finally managed to grab a leg while the badly injured Dogo continued to hold the animal by the head. When the hunters finished off the animal with their field knives, their only arms, the Dogo was only a red stain on the ground, contrasting with the stark whiteness of his hair, made even more immaculate

by being washed by the snow and water in the mountains. Skinning the prey, they found that it was an enormous adult male wild boar; while they were placing it on one of the horses to carry it back to the ranch, the Dogo disappeared. Despite repeatedly calling, they were unable to stop him.

Thinking he was dead (Dogos, on feeling themselves near death or, very injured hide themselves in the underbrush) very sad at heart, they returned to the ranch. Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday afternoon passed until a road worker passing through the Valle Frio found the badly injured Dogo, returning in the direction of the ranch and scarcely able to walk. He thought that it was my property and therefore brought him to my house in Esquel.

The Dogo, Olvido de Trevelin had fought alone, hand to hand, for more than half an hour, at night, in the midst of a forest, with a wild boar that had a weight advantage over him, very injured by the tusks of the beast and the blows against the tree trunks. Happily he was able to recover and in fifteen days his owner came to pick him up.

On many other occasions he was badly hurt; he hunted innumerable pumas and wild boar, both before and after the events narrated. Only a few months ago, he finally died, killed by a wild boar while hunting in Rio Grande. Three of his brothers, and likewise brothers of Day de Trevelin, died under similar circumstances, thus, four of this litter died, two are presently still living: Dele

de Owen, owned by Mr. Bilo, and Facundo, which we own.*

When I returned ten years later to live in Esquel, I brought five adult Dogos, all hunters. I loaned them to Major Sustaita, to hunt boar and pumas on his ranch, La Diana, in El Corcovado. His foreman, Jaramillo, spent one winter with them hunting many wild animals. Alicaika, a beautiful Dogo born in La Pampa and one of this group, was killed in the mountains by a boar the same day after having conquered a puma. The height, the snow, and the intricacy of the forest impeded Jaramillo, who is an experienced hunter and field man, from arriving in time to help Alicaika, who had already died. The other dogs were badly injured, but saved. A little while later, a Dogo following a red fox that had found refuge in a corner of the mountain, threw himself at it from several feet above and fell to his death in the abyss.

A male puppy of this couple was born while they were in El Corcovado and Jaramillo gave it to a neighboring rancher, Mr. Alberto Sanchez. After many hunts and having been injured innumerable times, he was also killed by a boar.

I just brought down from the Percy Mountain Range, the Dogo, Nanco, owned by a rancher, Mr. Juan Goya. I brought him for breeding, as he is an extraordinary hunter.

* On reviewing this article two years after it was written, Facundo has now died in a fight against a very large-tusked wild boar on the shores of Situation Lake. From this litter only one Dogo remains, Dele de Owen, whom we gave as a gift to Mr. Bilo along with Day de Trevelin, after the other four had died.

His body covered with scars, makes him look like a Japanese samurai. He is four years old and they told me that, during that time, he had hunted many boar, fox, and puma. When they brought him to me, he had spent three days in a mountain crevice, where he fell while hunting a fox. The foreman, Aviles, who hunted with him, found him there with the fox already dead at his side. Happily, he saved his life.

On the ranch that Dr. Argentino Ventura had in El Corcovado, his foreman, Corvo, had a Dogo, Yack, who had hunted innumerable boar. On one of his fights his right paw had been cut and with the consequent lack of use had shriveled, leaving him to walk on only three feet. Even with this physical handicap, however, he continued hunting and daily travelled the mountains, following his owner. A while ago, the skin of a very large puma, that he killed in hand to hand combat in the mountains, was given to me. By accident, Dr. Ventura arrived that same day at the ranch and on seeing the Dogo so badly injured, took the necessary measures to save his life. He told me of the incident (its description made more impressive by the simple language of a mountain man) that had taken place in the steepest area of a ravine, with the Dogo in the embrace of a mountain lion, and unable to be helped because of the distance and density of the forest.

This Dogo is now eight years old and a semi-invalid. I asked for him from his owner and I have him now, to use as a stud and to provide him with a tranquil old age,

without hardship. With his scars and amputation, he is a true hero. In my diplomatic life, I have known many men who display a chest full of decorations; I hope that international law will pardon me, but I believe that many of those decorations do not have any greater merit than those of this valient but brave fighter of the southern mountains.

Doubtless the great poets such as Lord Byron and William Spencer would have dedicated some of their sensitive poems to the Dogos with pleasure, as those which they dedicated to their noble Maida and Geler respectively.

In a letter which I received from Mr. Jordana Baro, owner of the Rio Meseta ranch in Puerto Santa Cruz, who some months ago took a pair of Dogos, I learned the following story. His son went into the field on horseback with the two Dogos, not yet one year old. When quite far from the main buildings of the ranch, each Dogo got the scent and then lost it. Impossible to follow them, the son returned to get his father's help in searching for the dogs. Several hours later, they found them, quite separated from each other. Each one had killed a puma and was sitting beside his respective prey.

The reader will tire if I recall all the cases that I know of in which our Dogos have fought "to the end" or have died in fighting. It is their destiny. But all those faithful and valient hunting companions whom I have

just recorded, as so many others that escape my memory or my knowledge, did not have the luck to die before newspapermen or cameramen as the courageous Day de Trevelin. Those Dogos Argentinos who have died in the heroic form of Day de Trevelin are innumerable.

For those who died silently, with no more tomb other than the virgin fields, nor more of a shroud than the snow, I want to render my thankful remembrance.

I confess without hesitation that every time that I learn of a Dogo that has died so loyally, I feel, in addition to the sadness inherent in a painful fact, the kind of pride that the Spartan mothers must have felt when, on saying goodbye to their children that were going to war, they said, on handing them the shield: Return with it or die with it....

To date, all the Dogos have known how to triumph in the struggle or die as Day de Trevelin. Therefore, the monument that the Winchester House erected to the Dogo, is also a monument to those other Dogos who anonymously have faithfully fulfilled the hallmark of the breed, which as a childhood dream we inspired in them for over more than forty years: Triumph or die in combat.

CHAPTER EIGHT

STANDARDS

As in all the canine breeds, and more so because the Dogo Argentino is a new breed, a few years ago some discrepancies arose among show judges as to its physical specifications. With the standard that was drawn up by the creator of the breed, and approved by the Argentinian Dogo Breeders' Club, there will now be no possibilities of error in respect to the regulations by which the Dogos are judged and the goal to which responsible and conscious breeders of this breed ought to aspire.

Head: Massive, convex front to back, and transverse through the relief of the masticating muscles and the nape.

Foreface: The same length as the head. The line joining the two orbital projections of the forehead is at an equal distance from the occiput and the teethridge of the upper jaw.

(We have separated the head and face, although both together constitute the head of the Dogo. The head is typical and, as has already been previously explained, belongs to the mesocephalic type. It should have a convex-concave profile, that is the head is convex due to the relief of the insertion of the masticating muscles, a classic in the head of the "masticating" type of hunting

dog. The face or muzzle should be slightly concave upwards, proper in a dog with a good sense of smell or rather one that has the head of a masticator and olfactory face, inasmuch as there is a functional interaction: scenting high. The cheekbone arches are very separated from the head, with a full temple cavity for the comfortable insertion of the temple muscle.)

Eyes: Dark or light brown in color, eyelid rims should be black or clear; eyes set well apart. A lively, intelligent look but with a marked firmness.

(Clear eyes, or red eyelids, subtract points. Unequalness of color -bluish-grey eyes- is a basis for disqualification.)

Jaws: Well-adapted, not overshot or undershot, strong, with well-implanted, large teeth.

(The number of molars is unimportant. The homogeneity of the dental arches, the lack of cavities, neither overshot nor undershot jaw, and especially that the eye-teeth (canines) are large and clean, and cross perfectly when biting the prey (scissors bite.)

Nose: Strongly pigmented with black, with a light stop at the tip, full nostrils.

(A white nose or one very spotted with white loses points. A cleft nose or hairlip is disqualified.)

Ears: Above the crown of the head, erect or semi-erect, triangular, should always be shown

clipped.

(The jury should not judge a Dogo with long ears; he should be removed from the ring. The clipped ears of the female can be a little longer - as in the Great Dane. The male, however, is preferred with ears a little shorter. The Dogo Argentino is a hunting dog and the long ears offer an easy hold and a very painful one. In addition, for reasons of esthetics the clipped ears are necessary.)

Lips: Well-turned up, taut, free edges, black pigmented.

(Short lips are demanded, so that when the dog is taking his prey, he can also breathe through the back corners of his mouth. If the lips are pendulous, although the upper jaw is sufficiently long, it makes a valve in the inhalation and closes the corners of the lips. This impedes the animal from supplementary breathing through the corners of the mouth, while restraining the prey; thus, he has to let go or cause asphyxia, as happens in breeds with pendulous lips.)

Occiput: It should not be in relief, because as the insertion of the head and neck form an arch, the powerful muscles of the nape will completely hide it.

(It is confused with the curved line of the convexity of the cranium.)

Neck: Thick, arched, slender, with very thick throat skin, wrinkled as the Mastiff, the Bordeaux Dog, and the Bulldog, and not loose as the Bullterrier.

(This elasticity of the neck is due to the fact that the cellular tissue of this part is very slack, allowing the neck skin to slide against the superficial aponeurosis so that the tusk or claw of an adversary injures only the skin. When a puma, for example, tries to grasp the neck, the skin, elastic and stretched a great deal, allows them to be caught easily.)

Chest: Full, deep, giving the appearance of large lungs. Seen from the front, the sternum ought to back up under the elbows.

(As the Dogo Argentino is a working and fighting dog, the importance of a deep and full chest for the dogs' breathing is obvious.)

Back: High, very strong, good muscular relief.

Thorax: Full; when seen from the side its lower edge rises higher than the elbows.

Spinal Column: Higher in the shoulders, inclined in a gentle slope towards the rump.

(In adult animals, when the spine and kidney muscular development are good, it looks like an easy chair in profile, and given the relief of the spinal muscles,

presents a middle channel and length of the column.)

Paws: Straight, with short, well-joined toes.

(The length of the toes ought to be in proportion to the paw; well-padded, with thick skin, and very rough to the touch; with callouses that allow it to run a great deal through rough and rocky soil without hurting itself.)

Kidneys: Covered by the dorsal muscles.

Legs: Very muscular thighs, with a short hock and well-closed toes, with no aberrant toe (dewclaw.)

(Good angulation. Always remember that the legs are the propulsion pullars for speed and support for a struggle. One can never insist too much, therefore, on the strength of the thigh muscles. The aberrant toe (dewclaw), so easy to get rid of in the first months, loses points as a recessive characteristic from the Pyrenean Dog, but it is not a reason for disqualification.

Tail: Long and thick, but not extending past the hock, carried naturally low. During a fight, he keeps it raised in a continuous lateral movement, as when he greets his owner.

(It should be remembered that the tail is a great help in changing direction while on the chase, where it acts in a compensatory way as a rudder, and during a fight, where it supports or helps the hind-quarters.)

Weight: 40 to 45 kilos (80 - 100 lbs.)

Height: 60 to 65 centimeters (24 - 26 inches.)

(In height as well as weight, the judge should be inflexible. Since the Dogo is a fighting dog, among the big hunting breeds, small size loses efficiency. All adult Dogos, whether male or female, of less than 60 centimeters, ought to be disqualified. Among several good dogs, the one of greatest height is preferred. The creator of the breed has established that there should exist a harmony of proportion or normal organic correlation, that from a functional point of view, translates into a greater capacity to fight. Therefore, one should look for the animal of greatest size and weight, without gigantism.)

Coat: Completely white. Any spot of color should be disqualified as an atavistic characteristic.

(White dogs with skin very pigmented with black should not be considered for breeding. This recessive characteristic could become predominant in the children if they pair, in turn, with others that have the potential for this defect. The small spots on the head are not a cause for disqualification, but among two similar animals, the completely white one is preferable. In contrast, any spot on the body is cause for disqualification.)

Disqualifying Factors: Bluish-grey eyes, deafness, spots on the body, long hair, white nose or very spotted with white, prognatism

(whether overshot or undershot), very pendulous mouth, a Greyhound head, long ears (unclipped), less than 24 inches tall, more than one spot on the face, any physical disproportion. The aberrant toe (dewclaw) loses points, but does not disqualify the animal.

SOMETHING MORE ABOUT THE DOGO

1

Dr. Jose Antonio Güemez in his work, American Historiography, refers to the Dogo Argentino. Because of the originality of the theme, it is appropriate to note his comments here.

"Another 'advantage' of great importance to the conquistadores were the dogs. Their size and ferocity were unknown to the Indians. Some of their exploits were recounted in the pages of history books for both their elements of triumph and horror. At the entrance of Cortes into Mexico, Sahagun wrote: 'likewise (the Indians) had great fear of the large greyhounds they brought with them, their mouths open, their tongues hanging out, and panting and they put great fear into all those who saw them.'

"Names of the most famous animals -Becerrillo, Bruto, Leoncico- were preserved by the chroniclers and some of their deats were recounted as extraordinary deeds. They made a salary, at times more than the halberdiers, for their intelligence and their ferocity. In the chronicles they are called "Greyhounds" or "Mastiffs." I have done a great deal of research to arrive at an exact physical idea of the kind of dog that the Spaniards brought on the conquest and which occasioned so much fear among the Indians. The unknown, that bothered me for so many years, can now be revealed thanks to some Italian manuscripts of

1445 and later. There among the tricks of war was a drawing of a "Mastiff dog," equipped with a special harness. The dog was used against cavalry to disperse it with barks and the fire it bore in a knapsack on its back. The silhouette and detail of this "Mastiff dog" coincides in minute detail with the Dogo Argentino that the passion and love of the Nores Martinez family has produced after multiple crossings. Thus, it can be said, that genetically they have achieved the reconstruction of a type of dog that was thought to be extinct."

NOTES

A New American Breed

- 1 Dr. Alfredo Sachetti, Problems of Systematic Biology (Turin, Italy: Editorial Anaudi).
- 2 Dr. Alfredo Sachetti, Review of the School of Philosophy and Humanities (Year IV, No. 123).
- 3 Dr. Alfredo Sachetti, Species and Breed in Biological Order, pp. 111 and 133-139.

Prologue

- 1 Clifford Hubbard, The Book of the Dog, p. 622.
- 2 See Jack Perry's articles in the Post Tribune (May 23, 1965) and Field and Stream (November 1967).
- 3 See, for example, articles by Mr. Espana Paya, former President, International Hunting Council in Diana Magazine published in Florence, Italy (No. 21, November 1965); Dr. German Cohn in the magazine of the Dog Federation of Czechoslovakia; Dr. Eric Schneider Lyer, German Dogo breeder, in Das Tier (April 1968); Mr. Luis A. Daal in De Honderwereld of the Netherlands (Christmas Issue, 1963); Mrs. M.B. Wood, authoress of Dogs of All Nations, which contains a chapter on the Dogo, in Dog's Life published in Great Britain (November 25, 1967).
- 4 Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez, Diana magazine (May 1947).
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez, speech at the hunting dog show of the Buenos Aires Hunting Center, held at the Argentinian Rural Society Headquarters, where the first Dogos were exhibited in Buenos Aires (September 28, 1947).

Chapter 1

- 1 Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez, The Biological Bases of Physical Education (Cordoba, Argentina: Editorial University of Cordoba, 1944), p.49.
- 2 Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez, Diana magazine (October 1947).
- 3 E.C. Harrison, "English Foxhounds", in The Book of the Dog, edited by Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, p. 752.
- 4 Rene Valette, La Chasse a Courre et a tir.
- 5 Theodore Roosevelt, Big Game Hunting in the Rockies and on the Great Plains, de luxe edition (New York: Pullman's Sons, 1899), p. 258.

Chapter 3

- 1 The Standard was first published in Diana magazine in May 1947 and adopted by the Argentinian Dogo Breeders Club, the Rural Society, and the Dog Federation of Argentina.

Chapter 4

- 1 Sachetti, Species and Breeds... of the Netherlands (Christina Poppel, 1963), p. 185.
- 2 Ruben Passet Lastra, "The Dogo Argentino: Why It Is A Breed," Nuestro Amigo magazine (No. 4, February 1965).
- 3 Croxton-Smith, "The Short-Haired Fox Terrier," in The Book of the Dog, p. 65.
- 4 Josephine Creasey, "The Long-Haired Foxhound", in The Book of the Dog, p. 693.
- 5 Harrison, "The Foxhounds," in The Book of the Dog, p. 755.
- 6 Clifford Hubbard, Dogs in Britain.

Chapter 5

- 1 Caza y Pesca (Hunting and Fishing), June 1965.

Something More About The Dogo

- 1 Dr. Güemez is ex-Professor of Philosophy at the Universities of Buenos Aires and La Plata and Professor of the Introduction to History at the Universities of Neuquen and Mar del Plata.

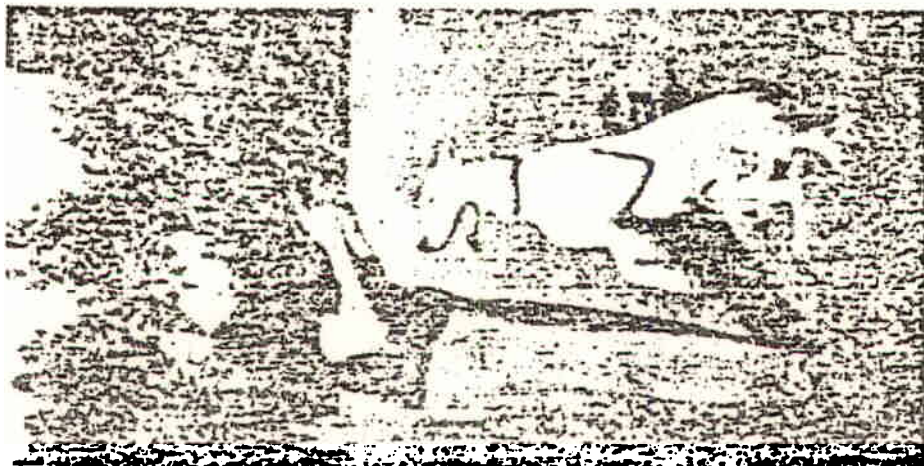
PHOTOS

The majority of the photos are of various Dogos or Dogos fighting; the exceptions are listed below.

- p. 27 Background of Bull Terrier
- p. 28 Photos of Bull Terrier in Bull Baiting
- p. 40A Chart of Origin
- p. 63 Figure 1 cranium (of anatomical interest)
- p. 64 Figure 2 "
- p. 65 Figures 3-5 craniums of other breeds to compare with the Dogo.
- p. 66 Figures 3-5 craniums of other breeds to compare with the Dogo.
- p. 69 Figure 7-8 sketches of craniums of other breeds; Figure 9 sketch of Dogo.
- p. 71 Poem (Translated in front of book).
- p. 74 Figures 10 and 11 sketches of craniums of other breeds.
- p. 115 Only photo of Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez.
- p. 141 Mr. Bilo with "Day de Trevelin".
- p. 145 Seeing-eye Dogo. Note text reads as follows:
"Similar cases have induced European authorities to include the Dogo Argentino in the "Working Dog Group", while in Argentina he is included in the "Hound" or hunting dog group..."
- p. 147 Ancient dogs resembling the Dogo.

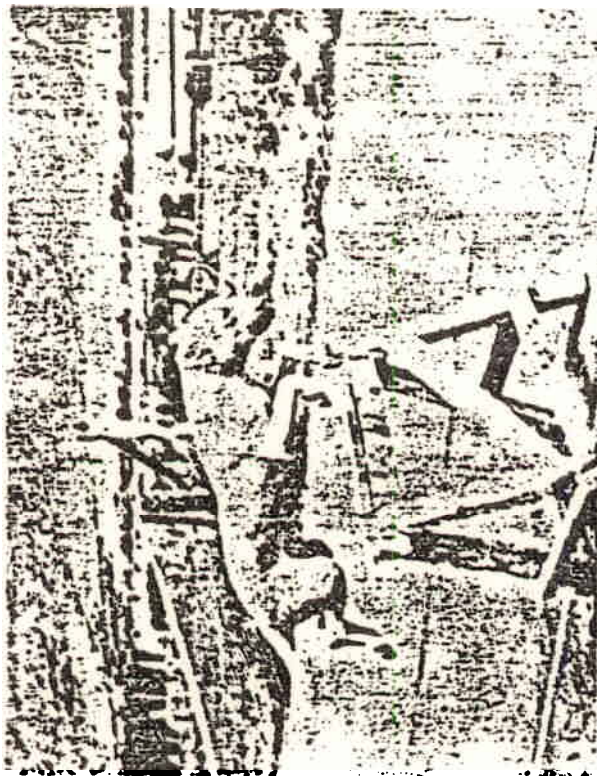
lejos se está de la verdad cuando se lo supone un perro feroz.

El dogo es el más dócil y manso de los perros de presa



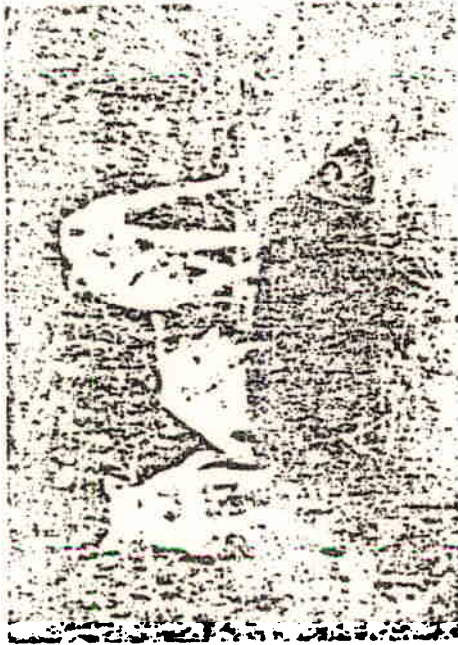
En obediencia y disciplina, así como en ataque y defensa, el Dogo Argentino, aprende con suma facilidad.

En la fotografía Alpastaco del Chubut, (RPIra. N° 6-RGDA: 183). Enseñado en disciplina, saltos, ataque y defensa, por el profesor Floro Torres, quien ha adiestrado con éxito varios Dogos.



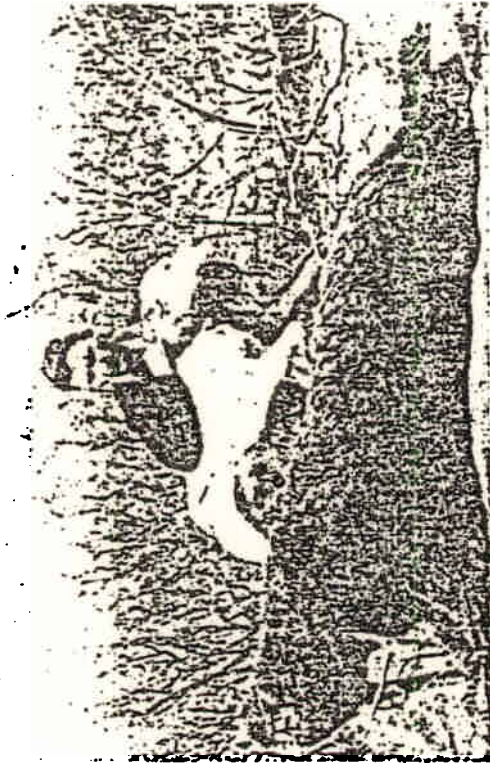
La muerte de Day de Trevelin —hermoso ejemplar que hace cinco años enviáramos desde aquí a Biló— me trae a la memoria algunas anécdotas de luchas y muertes de perros de las que hemos sido testigos presenciales o leído noticias fidedignas. Tratemos de recordar algunas.

Para Semana Santa del año pasado, al regresar a nuestra casa de Esquel en el Domingo de Pascua de un viaje en avión a Punta Arenas, nos encontramos que un camión negro había traído y depositado en manos del servicio doméstico, un dogo prácticamente deshecho y con tantas heridas en su maltrecho cuerpo, que parecía imposible que sobreviviera a tanto traumatismo. El perro no era de mi propiedad y al principio no lo reconocí, pues estaba desfigurado por lesiones e hinchado. Llamé a uno de los veterinarios de Esquel, el doctor Núñez, quien le



Tarzán del Chubut, Laura del Chubut y Cándida Shehven con el jabali obtenido por ellos.

prestó sus más solícitos cuidados y, ayudado por mí y un amigo, le cosimos las heridas y le hicimos las curas



Amadeo Biló con su internacionalmente famoso, "Day de Trevelin", de Allen, Río Negro.

de emergencia. Poco a poco se fue recuperando, hasta que salió a flote.

A los pocos días pude ubicar a su dueño, el señor Pastor Pocha, capataz en la estancia de don Elías Owen, en Trevelin —en dicha estancia nació el ya famoso Day de Trevelin— y allí me informaron de lo ocurrido.

Don Elías con su capataz Rocha, había salido de a

Orejas: Sobre la cima de la cabeza, erectas o semi-rectas, de forma triangular, deben presentarse cortadas siempre.

(El jurado no debe juzgar un Dogo con orejas largas, por lo que debe retirarlo del ring. En la hembra puede aceptarse las orejas recortadas un poco más largas — como en el Gran Danés—. El macho es preferible con las orejas un poco más cortas. El Dogo Argentino es un perro de presa, es decir, de lucha, y en ella las orejas largas ofrecen una presa fácil y muy dolorosa. Además, razones de estética hacen necesario el corte de orejas.)

Labios: Bien arremangados, tirantes, de bordes libres, pigmentados de negro.

(Se exige el labio corto, para que cuando el perro esté haciendo presa, pueda respirar también por la comisura labial posterior, porque si el labio es péndulo, aunque el maxilar sea bastante largo, viene a hacer de válvula en la inspiración y cierra la comisura de los labios, lo que impide al animal hacer una respiración supletoria por las comisuras labiales, durante la presa, teniendo que largar por asfixia, como pasa en las razas de labios colgantes.)

Occipucio: No debe hacer relieve, porque los potentes músculos de la nuca lo borran por completo, siendo la inserción de la cabeza y cuello en forma de arco. (Se confunde con la línea curva de la convexidad del cráneo.)

Cuello: Grueso, arqueado, esbelto, con la piel de la garganta muy gruesa, haciendo arrugas como las del Mastín, Dogo de Burdeos, Bulldog, y no tirante como en el Bullterrier.

(Esta elasticidad de la piel del cuello se debe a que el tejido celular de esta parte es muy laxo, permitiendo

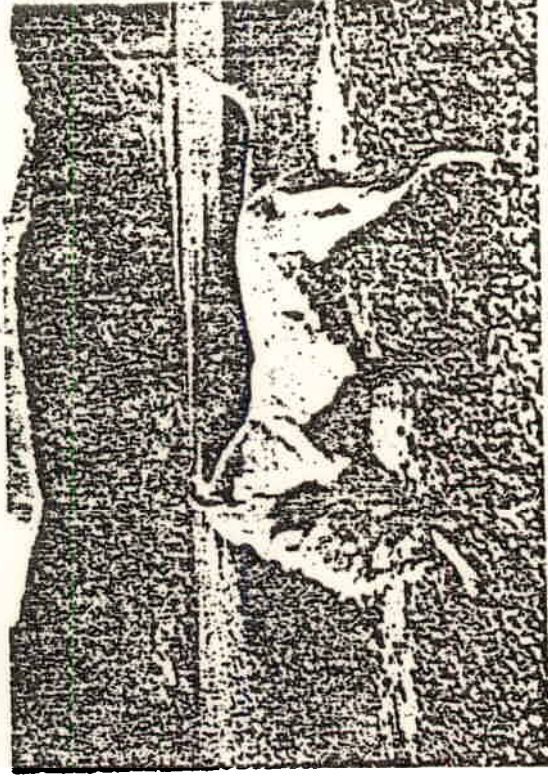
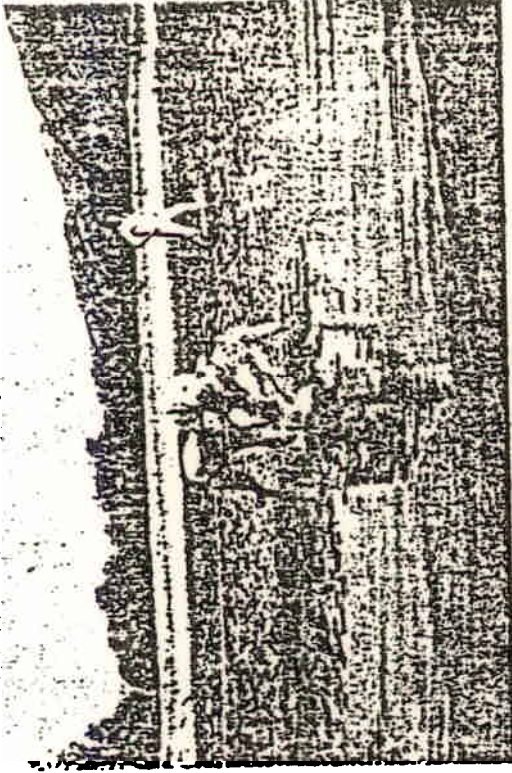


Dogos en Viña del Mar, Chile. Los Dogos Gaucho del Chubut y Fiba del Chubut, propiedad del Dr. Gregorio Eguiguren.

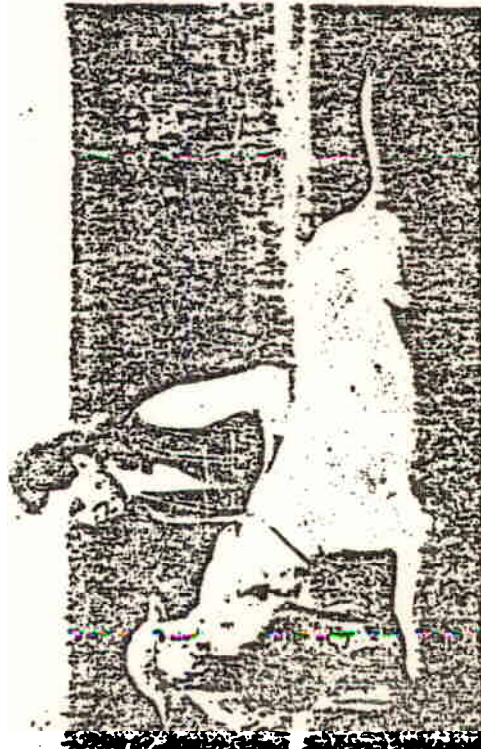
proviengan de animales. Así iremos notando cómo cada día se afianza en su olfato, aprendiendo a no correr liebres y a dar muerte instantáneamente a los pequeños roedores que encontrará en sus diarias correrías, lo que hace sin darle mayor importancia y sin pérdida de tiempo, para en seguida alcanzar al jinete y seguir camino adelante en busca de mayores presas.

Será muy común que el dogo se nos quede atrás unos instantes y en seguida lo veremos alcanzar el caballo trayendo en su boca un hurón o un peludo, que si no se lo quitamos o se lo hacemos dejar, lo llevará hasta el final de la marcha. Su gran olfato lo lleva a ventear perdices y martinetas desde muy lejos y las corre hasta hacerlas volar. Con unas cuantas llamadas de atención y viendo que el ave vuela, no insistirá. El señor Mucio, de La Pampa, enseñó a su dogo Lihuel a cazar perdices y hemos podido verlo parando y trayendo casi con la perfección de un perdiguero. Eso es prueba de la ductilidad de su olfato, pero tampoco es el destino de la raza, que fue hecha para la caza mayor, y de pelo, no de pluma, para lo que ya tenemos los Pointers, Bracos, Setters y Spaniels, que son insuperables por el ancestro y la gimnasia funcional de tantas generaciones sin intervalos hasta nuestros días.

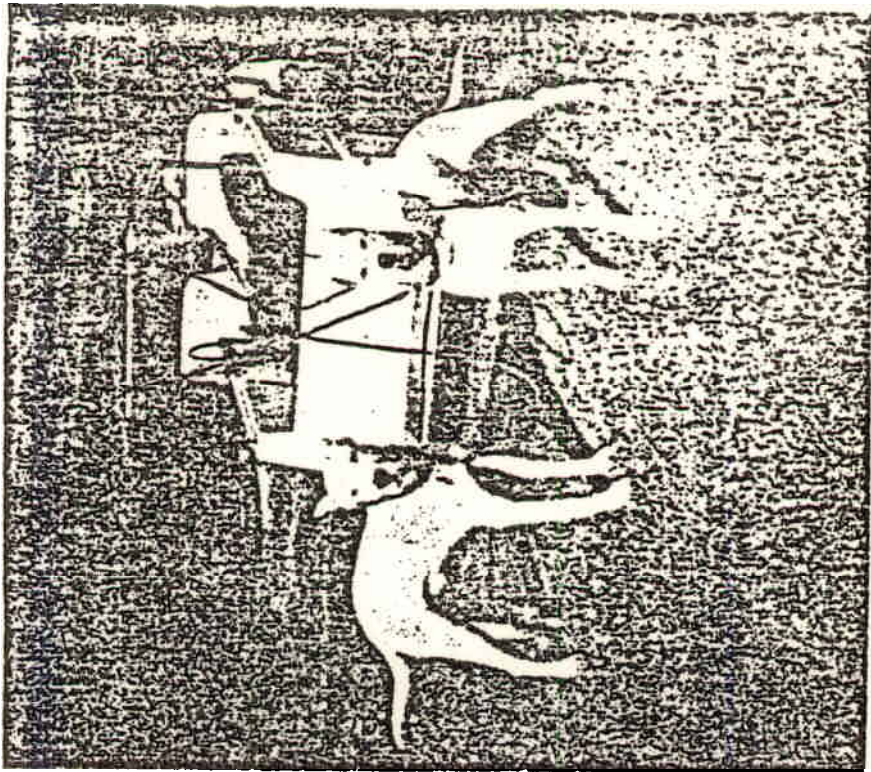
Yo soy particularmente enemigo de esas razas que "sirven para todo", porque en realidad y al final de cuentas, nos convencemos de que no sirven bien para nada. La humanidad marcha hacia la especialización en las ciencias, artes, industrias, oficios, etc., porque es la mejor forma de dominar una materia. Es el viejo principio de dividir las dificultades para vencerlas mejor. El perro no puede escapar a ese sabio principio, ya que cada raza debe especializarse en un trabajo determinado y, si es de caza, en un tipo de caza: pluma o pelo. El perro "orquesta" es como el hombre-orquesta, que cree o dice saber todo y al final no sabe bien de nada.



Lince del Chubut, trayendo a su amo un ganso salvaje (abutarda).



El Dogo con un mínimo de educación puede convivir con los animales domésticos.



Dogos en E.E.U.U. Kotel del Chubut y una hija, ambas propiedad del Sr. Rodolfo Martínez, Secretario de Educación de la O.E.A.