

## National Dog of DPRK

Phungsan is the national dog of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The dog is very clever.

In ordinary days it is docile and obedient to its master, but it is very fierce when faced with enemies. Usually dogs bite their enemy's neck and other parts, but Phungsan makes a frontal attack and bites the enemy's throat.

It is also easy to be kept.

It is highly resistant to cold and viable; it is especially resistant to diseases; as it is omnivorous and grows well even in harsh conditions, it can be raised in any places.

From olden times many interesting stories have been told about this animal.

In the days of Koryo (918-1392) it was told that a dog saved its drunken master's life from a forest fire before being killed, a dog in a northeastern area took care of a blind orphan by always guiding him and a dog saved a drowning man's life before being drowned itself in a midwestern area, so people built monuments to the faithful and virtuous dogs.

Today the Korean people protect and propagate the dog by preserving its foundation stock and sustaining its excellent characters.

Many families keep the dog, exchanging their experiences with one another.

In the National Dog Show-2019 which was held in the Central Zoo in Pyongyang in November 2019, before the outbreak of global health crisis, Yuwol, raised by a couple, named Hong Yong Il and Ri Hyang Rim, living in a suburb of Pyongyang, won the first place.

The wife, Ri Hyang Rim, said that if the other's goats were seen among hers when she was driving them into their shed, the dog would snarl, and it does not follow the people other than her family members even though they give it something to eat or tempt it with other things; it strictly guards everything in her house and lets no one put their hands on them.

Once when the husband, Hong Yong Il, was playing *ssirum*, a Korean type of wrestling, it was sitting silently nearby, but when Hong was thrown off and was under the opponent's body, the dog caught the opponent by his clothes, snarling, making spectators surprised.

The people call this couple “walking dictionaries of the national dog” as they are well-versed in keeping Phungsan.

After the show was over, the people vied with one another for Yuwol’s puppies.

Phungsan is registered as a natural living monument of the state and Kwangdok-ri, Kim Hyong Gwon County, Ryanggang Province, as the dog reserve.



