

## ***PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI - HISTORY OF THE BREED Presentation by Lesley Chalmers***

***To be viewed in conjunction with the power point presentation.***

The more commonly accepted history of the Pembroke Welsh Corgi traces back to Scandinavian raiders bringing their dogs with them to the British Isles, possibly as far back as the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> century. The Swedish Vallhund is seen to bear many similarities to the Pembroke and is presumed to have been bred with the original native Welsh dogs. It is also thought that the dogs brought over with Flemish weavers, who settled in Pembrokeshire, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century were also bred with the local farmers dogs cementing the Spitz characteristics that the Pembroke expresses today and perhaps accounts for the evolution of the Pembroke as a cattle dog.

But the original role of the Pembroke was that of a wildfowler's dog, on the cliffs and in the caves of the Welsh coastline. The Wildfowlers supplied the trade in seabird's feathers and eggs.

The Scandinavians also believe that the Pembroke descends from their Lundehund (the Norwegian Puffin hunting dog) and also one of the Spitz group. The Lundehund has a similar ear carriage to the Pembroke (the base set forward on the top of the head) and the ears have to fold back so that the ear canal can be protected from the weather, just as the Pembroke's does. Interestingly, the hind dew claws of the Lundehund still occur in the Pembroke.

Even up until mid last century, in Britain, the Pembroke was used as a guardian of the farmyard and helped to control the domestic fowl. When huge flocks of geese were reared in Wales as a source of income they were also quite useful in gathering the flock so that they could be housed for the night and also getting the quarrelsome geese to the market. They were unsurpassed in this task. It was driving the farm animals to market at which they excelled.

Often considered to be related, the Cardigan and the Pembroke are actually two distinct lines with the Pems descending from the Norse, Spitz type dogs and Cardigans from the Teckel family. The correct Pembroke possesses none of the identifying Teckel characteristics of the Cardigan. However they were not recognised by the Kennel Club (UK) as separate breeds until 1934. It is believed that many cross matings took place in the early 1900's. But both are achondroplasts and they all have a front assembly peculiar to dogs of this condition. The foreleg MUST curve around the brisket otherwise the front leg will be straight and fall on the outside of the body rather than neatly under it, resulting in a wider than desirable front movement. The lower leg is straight.

Pembrokes would also take command of cattle. With their low stature, they nip cattle on the heels and then duck to avoid the kicks. This trait became particularly valuable to working Welsh crofters when the British Crown created a rule that declared all open land as common land, where cattle could be grazed. The Pembroke style of working actually drove

the cattle farther afield rather than keeping them herded together, which allowed for a larger grazing area.

So what historical requirements do they need for this

So why does the Pembroke have to be so unrelenting about his size?

Now tell us about the coat

The standard calls for a neck that is “fairly long”. Why?

Why does the Pembroke have to be intelligent?

Why must the Pembroke have a sound temperament

Why must the Pembroke be soundly constructed

Give me some of the things that you think define good Pembroke movement

Isn't it true that you can say that about the movement in just about ANY dog????

So, what's the difference between a Pembroke and (say) an Old English Sheepdog??

### ***FORM AND FUNCTION!***

The OES is also a Drovers dog – droving sheep rather than cattle. He controls the sheep in a completely different manner than the Pembroke – although both do it with their mouths – one with the bark the other with the bite. The OES is also required to go for miles and miles without a break .....

How????

So, I might ask you now..... why doesn't a corgi amble like the OES does and the answer is that he does! He will go into “conservation mode” if you ask him to walk for any great distance.

So are we all comfortable about the function of a Pembroke and how the historical function dictates his form?