

The "SREDNJEDRAVSKA" breeding-house introduces to you

The Karst Shepherd or Kraševac

The Karst shepherd is a Slovenian natural treasure and the oldest indigenous breed. It was internationally recognised in 1939 as the Illyrian Shepherd and then again under the current name of "Kraševac" in 1968. The breed is several centuries old and has been used as the sheepdog in the Slovenian Karst area, mainly around Pivka. The ancestors of the Kraševac were described by internationally renowned explorer prof. Strebel, as a link between the Greek Molos. He mentions the possibility of a Latin origin via the Pompeii dog. However it is more likely that it was brought to the Karst area by the Illyrians with their sheep herds via the Dalmatian islands and Istria. The Greek Molos interbred with other sheepdog breeds in the wider area, such as the Caucasian and Romanian sheepdogs or the Macedonian sheepdog or Šarplaninec. The Kraševac has long been regarded as a good flock guard and remains so even today when, like most working dogs, it is more of a companion and friendly family member.

The Kraševac is a medium sized, compact sheepdog, of iron-grey colour with 10 cm long dense double coat. The head is extremely noble with friendly, almond-shaped, dark-brown eyes and an amiable, rounded skull. It is slightly longer than its height, with a sabre-like tail, reaching at least to the hocks. The back is solid, straight, the chest of medium width and elbow deep with quite well-sprung ribs. Teeth: scissor-bite, dentition perfect. The iron-grey colour has two additional shades, towards silver grey or very dark grey. Some of the darker animals have characteristic stripes on the legs, a reminder of their ancestry.

Height: between 54 and 60 cm for females and 57 to 63 for males. Length: 67 to 71 cm, the weight between 35 and 42 kg. The length of the head is around 24 to 26 cm, the width is around 13 cm, the length of the muzzle is between 11 and 12 cm. In terms of the character, the Kraševac is a very specific and extremely reliable breed. As a sheepdog it is independent and brave but also prudent and reliable, with a very stable personality. It does not tolerate subordination well and likes to be an equal partner. It responds best to intelligent, patient but consistent training. Any pressurising will lead to rejection and distancing. Timely and correct training is crucial.

In general, the Karst Shepherd makes a good protective dog, a reliable and independent guard dog, an average hound, a poor retriever, but still an excellent sheepdog. If we are prepared to accept its behavioural logic and treat it as a kind of partner, then the path to successful training is secured. Any attempts of subordinating it too much can back-fire and we will lose an opportunity to train an obedient dog. In general, they are far more reliable guard dogs than other breeds. The fact that over 150 Karst Shepherds have won one or several titles as nominees, national or international champions, and that 80 of them have passed the service dog exams testifies that the Kraševac is an established and quality breed.

Together with the four breeds of hounds, the Kraševac is part of a rich natural and national heritage and dog-breeding tradition which is celebrating its 76th anniversary of organised operation Slovenian Kennel Club. Throughout the centuries they have been formed by our environment and raised by Slovenian people.

“Over the centuries they were shaped by our environment and raised by Slovenian people.”

Franc Kiseljak

Our first karst shepherd **Riva below village Debenec**, which we bought in the prison in Dob from the Ministry of Justice, where they used Karst shepherds to guard the buildings. In the Dob prison they were professionally engaged in breeding the Karst shepherd breed and they bred recognizable, typical, noble, excellent and very high-quality representatives of the breed. At the time, that we bought Riva, the breeding of Karst shepherds in the Dob prison was stopped, as video surveillance took over the role of guard. This means, that our breeding line is the only one, that maintains this recognizable type of breed and originates from this breeding. All subsequent dogs were her descendants. All four of her descendants were born in our breeding-house. I am the only Karst shepherd breeder, who maintains his tribal, breeding and lineage line of the offspring of his own breeding bitches. Riva, Šana and Boni have already said goodbye. We have two bitches at home, Hita is thirteen years old and her daughter Pina is five years old. Dogs and bitches from our breeding who take part in shows become champions, real in beauty.



Karst shepherd **Ch.Šana Srednjedravska** is the daughter of Riva. She won the title of Slovenian Junior Champion, Slovenian Champion, Slovenian Veteran Champion, Austrian Champion, Croatian Champion, International Champion, European Champion in Tulln 1999, European Veteran Champion in Zagreb 2007 and World Beauty Champion in Milan 2000.



Karst Shepherd **Ch. Boni Srednjedravska** is the daughter of Šana Srednjedravska. She won the title of Slovenian Champion, Slovenian Veteran Champion and European Beauty Champion.



Karst Shepherd **Gr. Ch. Hita Srednjedravska** is the daughter of Boni Srednjedravska. She is the Slovenian Junior Champion, Slovenian Champion, Slovenian Winner, Slovenian Grand Champion, Croatian Champion, Austrian Champion, International Champion and World Beauty Champion in Budapest 2010. Hips imaging report is A, elbows imaging report is 0. She has a DNA test - a blood test.



Karst Shepherd **Ch. Pina Srednjedravska** is the daughter of Hita Srednjedravska. So far, she has become the Slovenian Junior Champion, Slovenian Champion and Croatian Beauty Champion. Hips imaging report is A, elbows imaging report is 0. She has a DNA test - a blood test.



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<https://www.facebook.com/srednjedravska.psarna> - www.dogbreedinfo.com/kraskyovcar.htm

<https://www.facebook.com/Karst-Sch%C3%A4ferhunde-srednjedravska-1863926943850984/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Psarna-Srednjedravska-Kennel-Srednjedravska-223055711057041/>

https://www.facebook.com/Karsthirtengewelpen-Srednjedravska-2217822344979524/?modal=admin_todo_tour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ng-EL5Mb33U&t=45s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6vq8X3sQDQ> - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okQKEHpox8s> -

<https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCpW4tCpvCvpUKPVyXklzQ2Q/videos/upload?filter=%5B%5D&sort=%7B%22columnType%22%3A%22date%22%2C%22sortOrder%22%3A%22DESCENDING%22%7D>