

## THE LITHUANIAN HOUNDS: RECREATION OF THE BREED, STANDARD AND SPREADING IN LITHUANIA

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**Summary.** Lithuanian hounds origin from several groups of the local dogs which were used for hunting from time immemorial. But we do not know exactly what the breed looked like in the past. Hounds set against the beast stop them and give the hunter a chance to come close and kill them. There are not working dogs among them. All of them are brave and fierce with the beasts. They are not afraid either of bears or wolves. Hounds can follow the blood track. Hounds possess beautiful ringing voices. When Vytautas transferred Tatars to Lithuania ( XII century), they brought some roughaired and longhaired hounds with them. In 1566 the Second Lithuanian Statute gave the names of 11 groups of dogs. The purpose of this work is to show further work in preserving the breed of Lithuanian hounds. The paper gives the data of exterior measurements made in some shows. The tables of research data and working characteristics are presented.

**Keywords:** exterior measurements, standard, Lithuanian hounds.