



WEIMARANER

Breed Origins

The St Hubertus Branchen (St Huberts Hound), named after the monks at the monastery of St Hubert in the Ardennes, is often thought to be the most likely ancestor. These were heavy built dogs, long in body and of medium height with excellent noses, coupled with power and hunting ability. They were black, with red or fawn marks over their eyes and similar markings on their legs, with only occasionally a small white mark on their chest. Looking at the description it is easy to see why they are thought to be the most likely ancestors of the Weimaraner. Occasionally puppies today can be produced with the ginger markings over the eyes, muzzle and on the legs. ('Mark of the Hound' or 'Peachpoints'). A highly undesirable coat fault thought to be a throwback to breed origins.



The Branchen is thought by Professor Lutz Heck, a former director of Berlin Zoo, to be the oldest breed of hunting dog and the one from which all hunting dogs descend. In 1940 Professor Ferlinger also explained that 'Branchen' as a word could be traced back to the Bishop Brancie who lived in the 7th Century. Bishop Brancie was a renowned hunter and used such dogs to hunt.



These facts present compelling evidence that the Weimaraner was originally a mutation within the Branchen Hound . The grey mutations were then paired to produce the Weimaraner. Given the dog's excellent scenting abilities and inclination to ground scent rather than air scent, there are in all probability hound origins within the breed. It is also thought that all 'Vorstenhunde' (German name for pointers) had the Branchen in their ancestry.