

# CANIL DE JAWA A PROJECT OF FILA FRIENDSHIP IN THE VALLEY OF THE PARAIBA RIVER

INES VAN DAMME

Before telling about the “de Jawa” Kennel it might be interesting to describe the area where the Filas of this famous kennel were born, as well as telling something about the small group of Fila lovers, which realized a project of breeding their national dog, organizing specialized shows and spreading important information.

## APARECIDA AND GUARATINGUETÁ

About 160 km. West of Sao Paulo, at the highway in direction of the State of Rio de Janeiro and on the banks of the lovely Paraíba river, close to the border of Minas Gerais, we find two cities which have been one municipality until 1928; Guaratinguetá and Aparecida; home of the Jawa – Fila project that experienced its height between 1987 and 1997.

In spite of being the place where we find Brazils National Sanctuary, Aparecida can hardly be found in the travel guides. In the year 1717 some fisherman found a small clay statue of the Virgin Mary, only 35 cm. high in the waters of the Paraíba River. Soon the place of Aparecida developed into an important pilgrimage town.



*Image of three fishermen finding a small statue of the  
Virgin in the Paraíba River*

In 1955 started the construction of the modern cathedral that dominates the surroundings of the town. The church was consecrated in 1980 by Pope John Paul II and in 1984 declared officially National Sanctuary by the bishops of Brazil. The cathedral can accommodate 45.000 persons while 200.000 pilgrims visit the “Santuário Nacional Nossa Senhora da Conceição Aparecida” every year on October 12, the national feast-day. I had the possibility to visit the Cathedral with the local Fila friends and was impressed by this modern monument, which is not on the top list of travel agencies, but absolutely a worthwhile excursion.



*Santuário Nacional Nossa Senhora da Conceição Aparecida*

### **WALTER, JONAS AND SEBASTIAO**

In Brazil I met on various occasions the phenomenon of a kennel, having dogs in the own place as well as spreading dogs in the houses of friends and relatives in the area, and having the control on breeding and inscriptions. This was what happened in Guaratinguetá with the “Canil de Jawa”, owned by Mr. Walter de Souza Novaes Nunes.

A small group of devoted Fila lovers, the above-mentioned Walter, his cousin Jonas Tadeu Iacovantuono and their friend Sebastiao Perreira Monteiro Jr. (the last two ones CAFIB judge since the year 1992) have been the soul of the Fila scene in the Vale do Paraíba during about ten years. They discussed the qualities of the dogs and decided together the matings to realize and followed the development of the pups as much as

possible. The three friends completed each other in knowledge as well as in character and very soon the Jawa – Vale do Paraíba project was known all over.

The sudden death of Sebastiao in August 1996 was a big shock for the Fila world. In November 1996 I went to Brazil and met the other people, who were related to the Jawa project in their own environment. I learnt how things were organized, I have seen many Filas and I met Walter and Jonas. Very soon a second tragedy took place, in the beginning of the year 1997 Walter de Souza Novaes Nunes passed away.

The Fila scene of the Paraíba Valley has never been the same since then, in spite of the dedication of Jonas and Walter's son, a veterinary student in the period of his father's death.



*Walter de Souza Novaes Nunes*



*Jonas Iacovantuono*



*Sebastiao Perreira Monteiro Jr.*

## WALTER AND HIS FILAS

The name of the JAWA Kennel is just a concentration of the two first letters of the names of Walter and his wife Jacyara. Walter, an insurance agent in Guaratinguetá used to breed Dalmatians until he found out that they were hiding because of fear when burglars visited his place. This was the moment to change breed and to start with Fila Brasileiros.

In 1980 the first Filas came into Walter's life, he started breeding, but only in 1987 he joined CAFIB after the discovery of the male "Hercules".

I took the next information about the "Jawa kennel" from the first and only magazine about the activities of the "Vale do Paraíba" group, edited by Jonas Iacovantuono as a tribute to his friends Walter and Sebastiao (original idea of the magazine: Olegário Bretas Ferreira)

"Canil Jawa"

The "discovery " of Hercules dates back to 1987, he was a typical yellow specimen, alert and calm. The discovery happened by the sharp and trained eyes of Sebastiao who observed this excellent animal on top of a truck.. The analyse of phenotype and temperament was performed at highway Presidente Dutra, when taking advantage of the CAFIB judges passing by in direction of Rio de Janeiro. Once approved, the real Jawa breeding was started. The CAFIB A litter was registered (Hercules x Tila). Tila was a daughter of Igor and Luana and all these Filas were also approved by CAFIB later on.



## *Hercules*

Unfortunately Hercules did not leave much offspring. The best specimen from his bloodline this very moment is Infante de Jawa, son of Condor and Buana, both children of Hercules. Children of Infante have been successful in CAFIB shows, bringing good type and excellent temperament.

Another sustainer of the Jawa kennel is the combination Scorpion do Ibituruna and Iris do Tangará Açú; a good example is the outstanding Andra de Jawa.

Only ten years of breeding under CAFIB criterions means that the Jawa kennel is only at the beginning. The letter “G” of the second alphabet was reached in 1996. Main thing is quality, not the quantity”.

I took the following pictures when I visited Guaratinguetá in 1996. Walter’s house is situated in a street in town and has a rather small back garden with some kennels where I found these Filas:



*Buana de Jawa (Hercules x Luana de Jawa)*



*Brisa de Jawa (Scorpion do Ibituruna x Iris do Tangará – Açú)*



*Bethânia de Jawa*



*Juma de Jawa (Scorpion do Ibituruna x Iris do Tangaré – Açu)*



*Juma do Hisama (Infante de Jawa x Fauna do Hisama)*

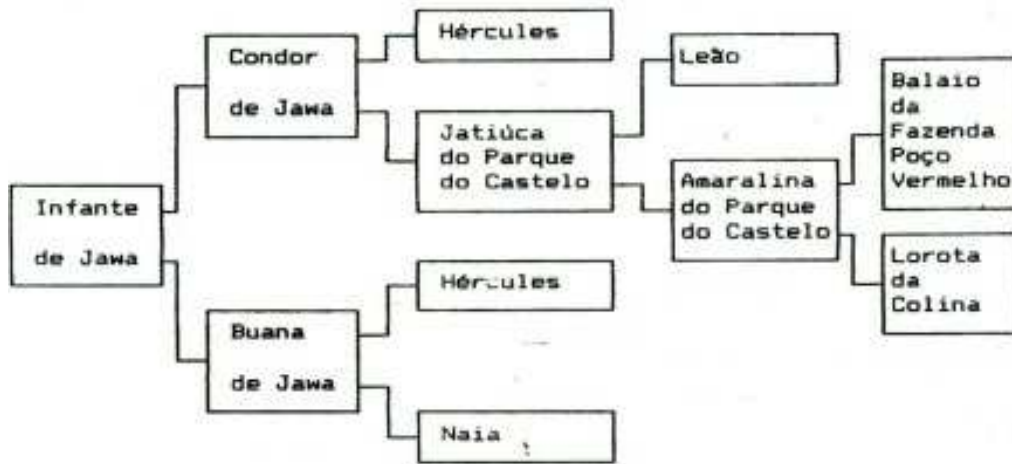


*Hercules de Jawa (Phanton de Jawa x Orca de Jawa)*

Without any doubt we can say that the most famous “de Jawa” Fila is INFANTE, a nice yellow male with a deep black muzzle, and famous for his actuations in temperament tests. He was CAFIB Temperament Champion in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

His pedigree shows the various ingredients of the basis of the Jawa kennel, like the Filas bred before joining CAFIB and Hercules. To make the history about Jawa complete I like to publish a small article written by another visitor of “pure Fila Brazil” in the middle the nineties of the last century; Micki Smith, one of the American ladies that like me were interested in learning about the true breed.

# PEDIGREE INFANTE DE JAWA



© pictures: left Canil de Jawa, right and under CAFIB

# CANIL JAWA & INFANTE

*text and pictures*

**MICKI SMITH**

*In a small town in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil, lives one of the finest and toughest dogs I have ever seen. He is Infante de Jawa. Owned by Walter Nunes who is a renown CAFIB-Brazil supporter and breeder. Walter has bred and developed a fine cadre of courageous, stable and driven Fila.*

*We first met Walter and Infante, in the summer of 1995, in Brazil at the CAFIB Guarulhos Exposition. In that show, Infante won Best Temperament. An honor he would replicate many, many times. You see, Infante holds rare and cherished prizes, his temperament rating is "Outstanding", and he has been awarded the title of "Gold Medal" Fila.*



*That was the first CAFIB-Brazil show for me, it was an awesome event just to see all those Fila who looked like Fila, together at one place. These dogs were all calm, beautiful and typey. There were no grotesque stops; no huge tucks; no chopped off muzzles; no mastiff straight stifles; no squared off bodies; no Neapolitan expressions: not overdone, sized to do the job they were bred for; no giants; just pure Fila! But as I would discover seeing all this excellence in breeding and preservation of pure*

*Fila, I was but a neophyte. All the rhetoric about CAFIB vs. OTHERS, the endless debates over whether or not there was cross-breeding, and all the years of owning and watching Fila did not prepare me for the shock of seeing, first hand, a show ground full of pure Fila. Fila with split second, confident reactions and stable temperaments. I had never seen Fila of this quality and temperament soundness EVER here in the States. What I thought were Fila, were but mere shadows of the real thing.*



*In the midst of all this excellence, a superior dog captured my admiration. I cannot say that he was the most beautiful dog that day, I cannot say he was the most typey dog that day. I can say however, that he exemplified the pinnacle of everything I expected in superior temperament from a pure, correct Fila. That dog was Infante de Jawa, a proud, fearless male.*

*This photo clearly shows his focused drive and determination. As I took this photo, his expression made the hair stand up on the back of my neck. Me, an old time agitator, police K9 trainer, Schutzhund fancier, TT tester; intimidated by the mere thoughts of what that expression would mean! Just as I gathered in my own "fear" response, I became jealous of Walter, as Infante did his "Fila" thing. As I backed off, Infante instantly raised his gaze to Walter, showing a sweet, adoring, contrite dog. This exemplified his overall depth and range of correct temperament: fearless defense and acute, total loyalty to family and farm.*

*Not only has Infante won many awards on his own behalf, but he has produced many winners too. He is a tribute to all the hard work Walter and his family have done, preserving pure CAFIB Fila. I have now been to several CAFIB shows in Brazil, and have seen many of Infante's offspring. It is a wonderful opportunity to witness how strong his*

*temperament transfers to his progeny. I have the privilege of owning an Infante daughter, Dama de Jawa, who also exhibits this strong character. Ines van Damme , the Editor in Chief of "The Fila Brasileiro Magazine", owns Duna de Jawa, who is a show winning, adoring, stable tempered sister to our Dama. Excellence begets excellence, and we are anxious to see how our Infante girls do when it is their time to produce pure Fila puppies!*



*We Congratulate Walter once again, for the fine work he has done preserving the Fila Brasileiro, particularly his contribution to courage and mental soundness. Walter and the other Jawa breeders set a superior standard of excellence . After all, Fila is, as Fila does. Canil Jawa dogs talk the talk, and walk the walk! Congratulations to Walter for raising the temperament standards to a level we may all target and aspire to. Only a few will ever attain Infante's level of excellence.*

*(footnote: I had written this article to be published in our newsletters November 1997 edition. Today I, received the awful news the Walter Nunnes has passed on. He earned my endearing admiration with his zeal and lust for Fila, and his great appreciation for what temperament really is. Walter and his brave dogs will live in our memories forever. Salute' Walter! - Canil Verdade, George & Micki Smith)*

# FILAS IN OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES

## GARBOSA DE JAWA

During my stay in Guaratinguetá in 1996 Walter and Jonas showed me as much Filas as possible, in their own place and as well in the houses of friends and clients. One outstanding bitch happened to be GARBOSA DE JAWA. Unfortunately we could see her only through the gate of the property and for this reason it was impossible to take good pictures.

I'd like to quote some comments about Garbosa made by Francisco Peltier de Queiroz and Jaime Perez Marhuenda, referring the results of the CAFIB Ranking 1994.

Jaime Perez wrote in the CEMA bulletin February 1995:

“CAFIB started a new system of publication of the results: Together with the names and the points obtained by every participant, also appears the number of expositions in which the specimen in question has participated. This new information is very important. Here in Spain we always have said that at the time to select specimens to import from Brazil, looking for parents at the first classifications of CAFIB was only a relative confirmation of their quality. The fact that a dog figures between the first places of any ranking means – a priori – that the owner surely is willing to travel Brazil from show to show. While classifying the dogs by a medium of points obtained, we notice some important modifications. “

While studying the results of the CAFIB championship 1994 we notice that the female champion participated in 8 expositions, had an average of 23,37 and a total of 187 points.

Number five was Garbosa de Jawa, she participated in 3 shows, reaching an average of 36,66 points. This bitch could have been champion without any problem, only if the (co) owner had shown her frequently.



*Garbosa during a CAFIB Temperament Test, provoker is Sebastiao.*



*Garbosa de Jawa*

### **SCORPION DO IBITURUNA AND IRIS DO TANGARÁ –AÇU**

Two dogs from different bloodlines are Scorpion do Ibituruna bred by Dr. Paulo Angotti in Governador Valadares in the North East of Minas Gerais, and Iris do Tangará Açu, bred in the State of Sao Paulo.

These dogs gave outstanding offspring that was incorporated in the Jawa bloodline. The couple Scorpion – Iris lived in the house of a friend and unfortunately we did not find him at home, so again I had to take pictures through the gate.



*Scorpion do Ibituruna – Iris do Tangará - Açu*

## **CONDOR II DE JAWA AND XAMBIRA DO PARQUE DO CASTELO**

In the garden of a swimming school “Clovis natacao” the owner Mr. Clovis - showed us a very interesting and temperamentful male: Condor II de Jawa (Infante de Jawa x Bethânia de Jawa), a young male who could be a bit fatter to my taste. The female Xambira do Parque do Castelo (Saturno de Jawa x Ginga do Araguaya) was bred by Airton Campbell. The result of a mixture of the lines Parque do Castelo (Ginga) , Araguaya and Jawa had turned out into a very nice female.



*Condor II de Jawa*



*Xambira do Parque do Castelo*



*Saturno de Jawa*  
(with his owner Airton Campbell)

### **FILAS IN THE HOUSE OF JONAS IACAVANTUONO**

Jonas Tadeu Iacovantuono, public relations officer of the municipality of Guaratinguetá and CAFIB judge since 1992 and cousin of Walter Nunes was the proud owner of the bitch Andra de Jawa, daughter of Skorpion do Ibituruna and Iris do Tangará – Açu. She lived in the back yard of Jonas' house together with her children Ebano and Elba de Jawa. Infante de Jawa was the father of the litter.



*Andra de Jawa*



*Ebano de Jawa with Jonas Tadeu Iacovantuono*

## FILAS OWNED BY SEBASTIAO

Sebastiao can be considered as one of the most dynamic CAFIB members ever. CAFIB and the breed owes a lot to him. In the book “Filas and Fazendas” I published one of his letters in which he told about his famous male “Leao” (blood of the fazenda Bom Sucesso of Joao Costa in Itanhandu – Minas Gerais) and how he joined the CAFIB.

Because of a lack of room he gave his male Leao as a present to CAFIB. Leao spent the rest of his life in the house of Airton Campbell, one of the founders of CAFIB and important judge.

This generous gesture was typical of Sebastiao and he repeated it on many occasions. He knew every single Fila in the area, he had an “eye” for combinations and thanks to his sound judgment some matings were done which made history later on. He supported newcomers in the breed not only by advice but even helping building up the kennels. Since 1992 he was CAFIB judge and he was a very good provoker at the Temperament tests. He increased the number of shows in his area, found supporters for financial help and made things more attractive for the exhibitors and for the public. Very interesting is the collection of newspaper cuttings about Fila, especially in the Vale do Paraíba area. He made various copies and thanks to Jonas Iacovantuono I have one of them in my archive.



*Sebastiao with Mantra de Jawa and pups of the D 2 litter  
(among them Duna II en Deusa de Jawa)*

Because of his daily work as a school-porter he lived in a house on the schoolyard where he had only two kennels for his Filas. For this reason he had to accommodate other Filas of his property in the houses of friends.

Sebastiao was the owner of MANTRA de Jawa and found her a good home in Aparecida, very close to the Cathedral in the house of Mr. Maciel, the owner of Maciel video who made so many nice videos of the CAFIB shows in the first half of the nineties. Mantra was mated to Infante de Jawa and to Neon do Engenho Velho. From both litters pups were exported to Spain.



*Mantra in the house of Maciel in Aparecida, november 1996  
In the background Jonas Iacovantuono*

# MANTRA DE JAWA

<i>Sire</i> MINEIRO DO IBITURUNA	<i>Sire</i> JUPITER DO IBITURUNA	<i>Sire</i> JUNDIAQUARA DO PARQUE DO CASTELO	<i>Sire</i> LEAO	
			<i>Dam</i> AMARILINA DO PARQUE DO CASTELO	
		<i>Dam</i> AMI DO IBITURUNA	<i>Sire</i> BRAVO DO GOIACA	
			<i>Dam</i> URA DE PARAIBUNA	
	<i>Dam</i> AGATHA DO IBITURUNA	<i>Sire</i> BRAVO DO GOIACA	<i>Sire</i> XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
			<i>Dam</i> XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
		<i>Dam</i> URA DE PARAIBUNA	<i>Sire</i> ÇUNA DOS TABAYARA	
			<i>Dam</i> BELONA DE PARAIBUNA	
	<i>Dam</i> BRISA DE JAWA	<i>Sire</i> SCORPION DO IBITURUNA	<i>Sire</i> JUNDIAQUARA DO PARQUE DO CASTELO	<i>Sire</i> LEAO
				<i>Dam</i> AMARILINA DO PARQUE DO CASTELO
<i>Dam</i> DIACUI DO IBITURUNA			<i>Sire</i> ADROS DO VALE DO BRAGANÇA	
			<i>Dam</i> AGATHA DO IBITURUNA	
<i>Dam</i> IRIS DO TANGARA - AGU		<i>Sire</i> XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	<i>Sire</i>	
			<i>Dam</i>	
		<i>Dam</i> XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	<i>Sire</i>	
			<i>Dam</i>	

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JAWA EXPORTS

### **Mantra de Jawa x Infante de Jawa: D2 litter**

The bitch Dama de Jawa went to Mrs. Micki Smith (Verdade Filas) in the USA.

Duna II de Jawa came to my kennel Los Tres Naranjos and Deusa de Jawa and Don de Jawa went to mr. Angel Aramayo (Peña Yerre kennel) in La Rioja.

### **Mantra de Jawa x Neon do Engenho Velho: G2 litter**

The bitch Garoa de Jawa was a gift from Sebastiao to our kennel Los Tres Naranjos and the brindle aração male Guarani de Jawa went to Mr. Aramayo.

Dama de Jawa in the USA, bitch of outstanding beauty and strong temperament, was never bred and she was put down at rather young age, together with all the Filas that belonged to Micki Smith because due to disillusion about the health situation of many of her imports, she decided to change breed. (Info Mrs. Dona Valentine, Cascabel kennel who travelled on various occasions to Brazil together with Micki Smith)

Don de Jawa had a disqualifying fault and was given by Mr. Aramayo to a friend as a guard dog. Deusa was not bred in the Peña Yerre kennel.

Duna II de Jawa had three litters in the kennel Los Tres Naranjos. Her most famous children were Yonas de Los Tres Naranjos, Yamaitá de Los Tres Naranjos, Yarara de Los tres Naranjos and Kuman de Los Tres Naranjos (father of the three litters was Guerreiro do Itapuâ)

The name of the male “Guerreiro do Itapuâ” brings me back to the insight of combinations in Fila breeding of Sebastiao. It was Sebastiao who advised the combination of Titá do Ibituruna with Hena do Amparo, which resulted in the famous Nagan do Amparo. The same Sebastiao, when partner in the Itapuâ kennel, decided the combination of Nagan do Amparo with Fama do Hisama; the parents of Guerreiro do Itapuâ. This success formula was repeated many times by his (ex) partner Giovanni Eder, currently owner of the Itapua kennel. Many outstanding dogs out of this combination like Etna and Elo do Itapuâ played an important part in the Fila scene from half the nineties till the beginning of this century. So in the most successful litters of Los Tres Naranjos we still see the influence of Sebastiao Perreira Monteiro Jr. because it was him who sold me Guerreiro in 1994 and thanks to him I got the different Jawa dogs.



*Duna II de Jawa*

*Deusa de Jawa*



Garoa de Jawa had three Los Tres Naranjos litters; F2 with Gameleira Tororó das Gerais, I2 with Guerreiro do Itapuã and S2 with Garimpeiro de Los Tres Naranjos. The I litter (father Guerreiro do Itapuã) was absolutely the best one and gave us Iris, Iracema and Idalgo de Los Tres Naranjos.



*Garoa de Jawa*

When Mr. Angel Aramayo stopped breeding, Los Tres Naranjos bought the fawn female Deusa de Jawa and the brindle araça male Guarani de Jawa. X rays were made and learnt that it was better not to breed them. The subject of not breeding because of hip dysplasia versus the importance of the conversation of an important gene pool is another discussion item, there are different points of approaching this problem. As breeders we decided not to use them because the same blood entered in our kennel by Duna and Garoa, but.....Guarani and Deusa who lived together were not separated in time and gave us the surprise of a nice litter. We were not happy at all, on the contrary we were full of self-reproach and felt obliged to put asleep the whole litter but in the end we were too weak to do so. We took the next decision: the litter was not for selling to laymen. We approached breeder friends which were aware of the importance of the gene pool, gave the pups as a present with the condition to X-ray them at the age of 18 months. Only in case of having A-B or C hips (FCI rates) we would give also the pedigree and put the condition to breed them only with HD free partners. This idea worked out very well, and one of the males who lived in Germany with a well known judge and breeder gave her a lot of offspring, unfortunately with females which were not hundred percent “pure”.



*Guarani de Jawa*

Resumen: Duna II de Jawa and Garoa de Jawa belonged to the pillars of the actual Los Tres Naranjos kennel. Too old to be bred now (they are 12 and 11 years old now) they live on in the many children, grandchildren and great grand children. They can be found in many pedigrees in Spain. Offspring was used in breeding in the Czech Republic, in Germany, in Holland and in Thailand.

Guarani de Jawa died many years ago because of a stomach torsion and Deusa died at the age of 8 years because of a cancer.

As far as I know there have not been more Jawa exports than the ones I mentioned above.

The Jawa kennel and the Vale do Paraíba Fila friendship project is history now, destiny made this positive experience stop too early. The name of the kennel, the names of the dogs and especially the names of the friends deserve to live on as an example of good collaboration in the cynofile world.

Copyright: Ines van Damme