

THE GOOD TIMES AND THE BAD TIMES OF THE FILA BRASILEIRO IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL

Rio Grande do Sul, the land of the gauchos that borders in the South with Uruguay and in the West with Argentina, finds itself in the middle of attention of fila people because of the declarations about mix-breeding, done by an ex breeder and owner of a famous kennel.

Mix- breeding, the ecological crime took place during the decades of the seventies and the eighties of the last century. Most of the fila lovers do know this fact.

Critical persons might say now: oh no, that mix breeding story again .Okay, but I am also aware that many of the fila lovers have heard something but do not have real knowledge of the matter. Many breeders who own mix-breed bloodlines keep being blind and they show aggressiveness to the fila lovers that talk openly about the subject. When they are discussing in the internet groups it seems they have a lack of correct information because they use to say that something that passed thirty years ago is not their problem. They prefer the ostrich politic instead of getting information or let themselves to be informed.

A small refreshment: together with the beginning period of the mix breeding the Initial Register was closed (1975). The consequence was that the filas from the fazendas could not enter any more the official cynology while the mixes of fila with Mastino Napolitano, Old English Mastiff and Great Dane were legal.

Mixing all these types did not bring anything, nothing at all; it only caused a horrifying image of various types. The ignorance of some breeders is sometimes enormous; one day I was reading the following in the internet: “We must fix the Kirongozi bloodline by inbreeding”. This is no lie, I read it in a message group of the North East Brazilian breeders. So this means that these poor people do not know that the specimen Guri do Kirongozi is half fila, half Mastino Napolitano with a super falsified pedigree?

At the same time they do not understand where their short leg filas come from. And what about the judges who make these animals champion with their biggest smile?

Here we are, the system smells bad, very bad.

And suddenly in June 2008, in a Brazilian internet group we see a breeder, co-owner of a famous kennel, declaring that the majority of his dogs were mix breeds, that they delivered mix breeds and he talks openly about the big errors these dogs had. These dogs spread over most of the kennels of the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Also an enormous quantity was exported to The United States of America, to Mexico and to Europe, and the influence of this bloodline has been very big, everywhere.

At the beginning of the nineties I corresponded with some fila lovers of Rio Grande do Sul. They told me interesting things, I received nice pictures and also heard some terrible things about some famous dogs.

During many years my Rio Grande do Sul file was accumulating dust in my archive. Now, thanks to the declarations of Mr. Carlos Eduardo (Pipico) I read the information I kept there one time more and I decided to use it for this article, the old information as well as the recent statements of Pipico. I am going to use the good and the bad information with the aim to make conclusions at the end.

SOME OF THE FIRST KENNELS IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL



CANIL PONCHE VERDE

The Ponche Verde kennel can be found in Porto Alegre, capital of the State. The owner, Mr. Antonio Carlos Pereira de Souza told me in a letter from 1994 that he dedicated himself to the breed since the beginning of the seventies. He did not write much about his first dogs but I know that the female

“ELKE” was the pillar of his kennel. Her picture shows the head of a pure fila, a perfect head.

Because of a lack of time the kennel was managed in the beginning of the nineties by a friend of the owner; the engineer Carlos Celestino and the young veterinarian doctor André Plentz. All of them knew Dr. Paulo Santos Cruz personally. The kennel was associated with CAFIB, also because Carlos Celestino was the representative for CAFIB in Rio Grande do Sul. Fate took away Carlos Celestino who died because of a hepatitis caused by a contaminated blood transfusion... Carlos Celestino had an enormous knowledge about filas and besides that he was very courageous; he showed it in his articles about fila and his mix breeding attacks.



At the beginning of the nineties he organized some CAFIB shows where four Fila bitches and some males of the Ponche Verde kennel were approved. A very important male was “CHIMANGO DO PONCHE VERDE”. By chance I discovered the real name of “Chimango”, he was born as “Endi do Hisama” in the CAFIB Hisama kennel in Guarulhos, Sao Paulo. One day in 1994 I visited this kennel and they showed me with pride some pictures of their “Endi” which were identical to the ones of “Chimango” that I received from the owner of the Ponche Verde kennel. The parents of Endi are Genipabu da Serra Dourada and Colina do

Hisama, in the CBKC pedigree we see as the parents of Chimango: Carajas do Ponche Verde and Ravena do Ponche Verde. What I discovered I like to call very simple: PEDIGREE FALSIFICATION. I am sure this was done with the best intention to improve the breed with pure lines and may be it was impossible to get a CBKC pedigree for a CAFIB dog. However: the first CBKC pedigree for a CAFIB dog (Registro de Espera – waiting register) that I have seen was made in 1991. Since then more CAFIB dogs got their CBKC registration and breeders could count on a more honest cynology.

Apart from being used inside the Ponche Verde kennel, Chimango was also allowed to mate bitches from other kennels.



Chimango do Ponche Verde, alias Endi do Hisama



*Naja do Ponche Verde
daughter of Chimango*



Xuxa do Ponche Verde with litter

CANIL ARAMBARÉ DO SUL

In the year 1993 I changed correspondence with the owner of the ARAMBARÉ DO SUL kennel, Mr. Ernani Kessler, specialized judge Fila Brasileiro, all-rounder and founder of the Fila Club in Rio Grande do Sul (Fibrasul).

Since the beginning of the seventies of the last century “Arambaré do Sul” dedicated itself to the breeding of the Fila Brasileiro, always looking for type and temperament.

Without any doubt, his best female has been MALU DA CABANHA DOS RANCHOS, BORN IN 1981. Malu had various litters. Her best litter was with Delicado da Fazenda Poço Vermelho; the most famous children from this combination were Elza and Eco do Arambaré do Sul.

Another litter from Malu has been with “Figueiro do Panamericano 56”



Malu da Cabanha dos Ranchos, painted by Marilda Millet

Continuously some observations made by Carlos Celestino:

FIGUEIRÓ

I know Figueiró, he is old but still alive. For being a fila he should need another head. He is very strong, has a lot of bones”, a lot of “mass”, he is brave, but the head....

His breeder, José Duarte (Panamericano 56 kennel) was a very special person. He has already passed away. He knew that BURITI and BARONEZA were mix breeds, but he thought that by inbreeding he would have better result. Without doubt this happened, but it was with a loss of time.

Ernani Kessler used Figueiró with a lot of criterion and he had a lot of success in his Arambaré do Sul kennel, supporting principally on Figueiró and Malu., (Cel. 93)



Elza do Arambaré do Sul

I did not know MALU DA CABANHA DOS RANCHOS, I lived in Manaus untill 1986. Her name is figuring in many pedigrees nowadays. They say that she was typical, she did not have much mass and was big as a male (Cel. 93)

About his stand on CAFIB Mr. Kessler himself wrote me:

“Referring CAFIB: because of my activities as a judge of CBKC and because of the FCI I cannot permit myself participation in some not official event. For this reason my dogs are not analyzed by this club. We do not have anything against the philosophy of CAFIB, as a matter of fact our entrance into the cynologic world has been because of CAFIB.”

More famous kennels in Rio Grande do Sul are:

CANIL BRONHUIHA
CANIL DO CAUDILHO
CANIL SEMALU
CANIL SETE LUAS DO SUL
CANIL RINCAO DOS BRAVOS

SOME OPINIONS ABOUT THE RIO GRANDE DO SUL KENNELS AND THE SITUATION OF THE BREED BY CARLOS CELESTINO

“SUL AMERICANO

Sul Americano is working without any technical criterion. They do not select, but they sell. The most important bitch was FLORA, very nice but with prognatism. She spread this big error all over Rio Grande (CEL 93)”

“There are other honest breeders, but the base are mix breed dogs, there is ignorance of the breed” (Cel.93)

“The persons are honest but the base of the breed is wrong (Cel.93)”

“Now they are trying to obtain a “pure fila by crossing “, a hopeless job. (Cel.93)

“Here in Rio Grande, like I said before, the persons are honest or they are cheating very well. Just a few work with technical foundation. They want pups out of their females from champion dogs, without attention to genetics. The big goal is selling. (Cel.93)”

“Regarding to the judges, we have the same problem. There is a mafia of judges / breeders inside the CBKC which makes champions among them. (Cel.93)”

“The CBKC breeders do not have the courage to go to a CAFIB show after that ANTARES DO CHAUDILHO, from the Apache line, was eliminated and his owner received a document with the information that his dog was a mix breed with Mastino Napolitano. (Cel. 93)”

“APACHE DO CHIMARRITA

He left a problematic off spring with clear signs of Mastino Napolitano present nowadays in the kennels of PANAMERICANO 56 and BORGHETTO (Cel.93)”

The dog KITO DO SEMALU (grandson of Apache) is hairy, like two or three more of that same line. KITO was world champion (June 93 in Argentina) (Cel.93)”

“BORGHETTO from Bento Gonçalves (150 KM from Porto Alegre) is a prominent breeder nowadays in Rio Grande do Sul and Brazil. His female PORCINA DO BORGHETTO, of old age now, was the best dog of Brazil, I don't remember in which year. He has five adult males, all grandsons of Apache (Cel.93)”

THE BORGHETTO KENNEL

The Borghetto Kennel, owned by Dr. Carlos Alberto da C. Gonçalves (Bento Gonçalves – Rio Grande do Sul) was one of the most important kennels of the State and had a great influence on the other kennels in the area. Borghetto started about 26 years ago and became famous because of the success of their female PORCINA DO BORGHETTO, a super champion that won the ranking CBKC of 1988, and with Indio Rincao dos Bravos. They produced many champions more which entered other kennels inside and outside Brazil. In the next article I will treat the declarations about mix breeding in the own kennel and in general, recently done by the current breeder Carlos Eduardo on an internet discussion group.

CANIL BORGHETTO

CARLOS ALBERTO DA C. GONÇALVES
Bento Gonçalves — RS



A — ÍNDIO do RINCÃO DOS BRAVOS

Jovem Campeão — Campeão —
27/11/87

Pai — B — APACHE DA
CHIMARRITA

Mãe — A — EMBIARA DO
ARAMBARÊ DO SUL

A foto mostra ocasião da Exp.
Nacional julgada pelo SR.

CARLOS FERNANDES
MASCIOTTA que escolheu ÍNDIO
do RINCÃO DOS BRAVOS como
o "MELHOR DA RAÇA".

Também foi escolhido como o
"MELHOR MACHO" das
especializadas julgadas pelos
árbitros JOSÉ A. DA SILVA e
JOSÉ RENATO PINHEIRO

B — PORCINA do BORGUETTO

Jovem Campeã — Campeã —
Grande Campeã — Campeã
Sul-americana 01/08/85

Pai — FIGUEIRO DO
PANAMERICANO 56

Mãe — ATIA DO ZOOTRAL
A foto mostra ocasião da Exp.

Especializada de F.B. em Curitiba
em 14/05/89 quando PORCINA
foi destacada como a melhor fêmea
da raça pelo árbitro DR. AILTON
DE AZEVEDO (à esq.), e melhor
criação F. da Exposição pelo DR.
HERCULANO SEIXAS (no centro)

Vencedora das Exp. Especializadas
da raça julgadas pelos árbitros:
MARCO A. FERREIRA, WAGNER
BACCONI, JENI F.G. BUENO,
SILVANA BOTTINI, JOSÉ A.P.

DA SILVA, JOSÉ RENATO
PINHEIRO, AILTON DE
AZEVEDO, HERCULANO
SEIXAS e LEILA REBELO.

PORCINA DO BORGHETTO é o
cão FILA BRASILEIRO que mais
vitórias obteve em exposições
especializadas nos últimos



anos no Sul do País.
Aos Juízes que reconheceram os
méritos dos nossos cães e aos
amigos incentivadores o "CANIL
BORGHETTO" sente-se

profundamente agradecido.
Tels.: (054) 252-4350 / 252-4672
FILA BRASILEIRO sempre FILA
BRASILEIRO sempre FILA
BRASILEIRO sempre

CANIL BORGHETTO
BENTO GONÇALVES - RS
- FILA BRASILEIRO -



<p>ORIXÁ OGUM DO BORGHETTO Nasc.: 28/01/90 Pai: Indio do Rincão dos Bravos Mãe: Etel do Bataca JCh., Ch., Gr. Ch., Ch. Argentino, Ch. Sulamericano, Ch. Internacional, Melhor da Raça do Brasil do Ranking 91 - CBKC, 9º Melhor cão de todas as raças do Brasil Ranking 91, Melhor do Top Twenty do FIBRASUL - RS - 1992</p>	<p>ARETUZA B. DO BORGHETTO Nasc.: 23/04/91 Pai: Indio do Rincão dos Bravos Mãe: Akira B. do Borghetto JCh., Melhor absoluto da Exposição Especializada julgada em 25/04/93 pelo Sr. Ernani Kessler</p>	<p>BUTIÁ B. DO BORGHETTO Nasc.: 01/11/91 Pai: Orixá Ogum do Borghetto Mãe: Akira B. do Borghetto JCh., Ch., Gr. Ch., Melhor absoluto da Exposição Especializada julgada pelo Sr. Alexandre Acunha em 19/06/94</p>
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CRIAMOS TIGRADOS - DOURADOS - PRETOS
O MELHOR CRIADOR DE FILA BRASILEIRO DO RGS - FIBRASUL 93
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TEMOS FITA
DO CANIL

CONCLUSION:

Before the mix breeding period (middle of the seventies) there was generally a correct Fila type, there were homogeneous litters and there was peace in the Fila scene in Rio Grande do Sul.

After the ecologic disaster of mix breeding the panorama changed completely. A few breeders could maintain a good type because of being aware about what happened and by keeping their line clean.

Many breeders destroyed in a few years all the good things they had. Once they had destroyed the Fila stock it was impossible to do a reconstruction by mixing the good with the bad. They could not recuperate the nervous system and the temperament.

During various decades the breeders tried to recuperate the lost type with CAFIB Filas but this kind of “purification” did not work out because so many characteristics were changed.



Two specimens, bred by the same Rio Grande do Sul breeder, the first one with Mastino Napolitano influence, the second one with influence of the Old English Mastiff.

INFLUENCE OF THE RIO GRANDE DO SUL BLOODLINES IN THE REST OF THE WORLD

MEXICO and the U.S.A.

Many Filas of the CBKC breeders and the breeders of Rio Grande do Sul went to this part of the world.

SPAIN

A business gift

The owner of a shoe factory in the province of Alicante had business relations with a colleague in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. One day in 1989 the latter sent a couple of fila pups to Spain as a business gift.

The couple was growing and passing their days in a kennel on the factory area where they received more provocations and teasing from the factory workers than love of the owner. I knew about their existence by my dog food distributor. I expressed the wish to visit the couple of filas but did not get permission. One day the factory owner decided to get rid of the filas and changed them for a couple of Alsations from a kennel where many breeds are produced. In that place they produced two litters, after some time the owner of the kennel realized that he could not make money with fila breeding and offered the whole lot to me. I went there the next day and



found a group of bad nourished filas. The father – Bataclan do Broquinho – was of bad quality, plane top line, prognatism. For me this excluded at once the puppies of the two litters that were walking around over there. But the mother, in bad conditions however, was very nice; it was love at first sight for both of us. I made the deal with the owner, the bitch did not watch her partner or her pups, jumped in my car because she knew that happy times were finally there.

From that moment she was my shadow. Her name was “PAMELA ARRAYAN”, daughter of Eco do

Arambaré do Sul and Isis do Arambaré do Sul. It was from an inbreeding on Malu da Cabanha dos Ranchos and Delicado da Fazenda Poço Vermelho. In our kennel “Los Tres Naranjos” she had one litter. Pamela is the great grandmother of Garimpeiro de Los Tres Naranjos. Unfortunately we lost our dear Pamela after some years because of stomach torsion.

By chance I have seen some of the BATACLAN / PAMELA pups as adult filas; they were very nice and looked like the mother. I know that one male was bred to a Los Tres Naranjos bitch by their owner. This litter did not enter into official cynology.

The owner of the Spanish Kennel “Carniceiro” went to Portugal for three matings with a “Bronquinha” dog and introduced the Rio Grande do Sul bloodlines into Spain recently by his K – L and N litter.

Some years ago a foreign family came to live in Spain and they brought two filas from Belgium with “Rafuri” and “Borghetto” blood. They produced a litter. Fortunately the owners did not register the litter and they kept the five pups.

REST OF EUROPE

At the end of the last century a Belgium dog breeder decided to start with filas. Under influence of an opportunistic Polish lady who dominated the Fila scene in that part of Europe she killed a fila of CAFIB lines and started all over with Rafuri dogs. Soon another man started to breed too so two breeders spread CBKC lines over Belgium and Holland. They stopped after some years, and nowadays another Belgium lady is going on with these lines. What we see here is the normal pattern, starting a fila kennel without any technical knowledge, doing a lot of damage to the breed and leaving it after about five years.

A sad reality.

Ines van Damme

THE “PIPICO” BORGHETTO CASE

JUNE 2008

Veterinarian Doctor Carlos Eduardo Gonçalves is the son and the successor of Dr. Carlos Alberto (who is still alive), the founder of the “Borghetto” kennel. Recently Carlos Alberto travelled to Minas Gerais where he visited some traditional fila breeders and where he bought two filas that were different from the specimens he had known and bred during many years.

A few months ago he entered in an Internet group where fila lovers discussed about mix breed dogs and he made some declarations that had an enormous impact in the fila world. His serious and honest words caused admiration among the followers of the authentic breed. Some owners of specimens with Borghetto blood – who will never admit what is history: mix – breeding- reacted in a negative way. Other ones with a wider horizon have talked openly about this subject.



Boiadeiro do Borghetto

Next some statements of Dr. Carlos Eduardo, nicknamed “Pipico”:

I am an ex CBKC breeder, in fact my old dogs are in the majority of those falsified CBKC pedigrees. My whole life I was looking for something in these CBKC dogs that nobody taught me and in the end I found it when I visited Olegário and some more people in Belo Horizonte. In short, I doubt about my 26 years of breeding and about the majority of the CBKC breeders regarding the purity of these dogs and the truth of their pedigrees. I was a breeder of black filas “tragicomedy”, only who doesn’t see is the one who doesn’t want to see.....

Sorry for this intervention, but did I hear the name of “Algazarra”? Do you want a better proof of fraud and mix-breeding? I knew all these dogs, in fact she was a daughter of one of our bitches. Her mother was 71 cm. high and was a Mastiff. Yes, she was a monster. This was not the worst thing; you did not know the males of that Algazarra. Jejejeje. Aboris do Rafuri was a monster...yes I know very well what he was.....he was not just a Mastino, he had more wrinkles.....76 or 78 high. Worse than Excalibur! Gentlemen, no more comments!

In reality this is a very sad story. After crossing and inbreeding I needed to open my bloodline, and... after that? I started to buy, and then? I started to get desperate because I did not get the fila temperament, in fact it was the contrary, enormous dogs, afraid too (I gave one as a gift and now he has already won three Best in Shows). In reality I can count with the fingers of one hand the dogs who were real guardians during the last twenty years. In fact I am in favor of the temperament test provided that they are hard, because here in the south, they had become a real joke before they stopped them completely.

World champions with earplugs so they could not hear the applause and so on..... Okay, we got used to dogs without temperament, with a lot of mass (from other breeds), anabolizantes – I never used them – and so on. The black fila, jejejejeje. We saw such a bitch in 1984 and we liked the color. So we bought a bitch named Donna de Abarey (as not to lie, she looked more like a Great Dane / Pointer cross) and what was the surprise; in the third generation in a litter of 15, finally appeared something that looked like a fila! Simple, simple. Talking

about fila colors we already had black and tan, I have pictures of them. Coming back to the beginning, we got used to see cowards, friendly ones, dogs hiding their tail in presence of strangers (which some use to call. "this fila has a stable temperament")



Feiticeira do Borghetto - black and tan

I discussed these subjects already two years ago with a friend, here we go....filas without temperament, tremendous stops. Some dogs got forced alimentation to look fat and "lovely". Oh, I am writing this to be able to compare CAFIB with CBKC and I go on....Regarding to the pedigrees; a very famous ex breeder used until tiredness one of our dogs named Dardo do Borghetto (in fact a relative of Algazarra) and you will not believe it but he talked openly about that. Okay, the hairy ones jejejeje.....I have seen dogs being trimmed in the ring, incredible. It was a Major National Winner and he went from Rio Grande do Sul to Sao Paulo to be used as a stud! Do you really believe that a good selection took place with a past like this? And a fraud like this?

I would like to thank Mr. Olegário, Adriano (Chacará Tres Irmaos) and Mr. Alirio because they received me and showed me their kennels and I could see real filas..... Unfortunately I had not the pleasure to know all the other CAFIB breeders!

Temperament was very important, there was a control of weight, and they were measured and so on. But soon after that the corporal mass became important because the heaviest ones were winning the shows. In reality I think that we had to blame for big part the judges and the system because the wrong selection was based on the show ring. To my opinion the excess of selection had an opposite effect. This is another case of how the human intervention can be erroneous! Besides the gigantism and the dwarfism, the reproductive problems are obvious because there are many problems in mating and delivery.

REACTIONS OF SOME BREEDERS

In the Internet forum of the **Club de amigos y criadores del Fila Brasileiro en Mexico** I read some comments from Mexican fila friends that I respect very much because of their sincerity however we do not always agree. We start with some statements of Mr. Izquierdo (June 24, 2008)

“It is without any doubt that the comments made by Mr. Carlos Eduardo, son of the founder of the Borghetto kennel and Fila Brasileiro breeder, leave a bitter taste in the mouth, not because of what he is saying but because of the way in which he makes fun or is trying to make fun about how his kennel INSCRUPULOUS and UPSETTING, used dogs of doubtful origin and crossed them with the goal to get PROFIT.

The ones of us who have used blood of the Borghetto kennel have seen already long time ago that there were problems with the colors that came out of some crossings with Borghetto specimens (concrete case is Orixá Ogum do Borghetto); we know very well that they produced dogs with black and tan marks (like the proper marks of the breeds Doberman and Rottweiler).

We are not that stupid as you might believe; maybe because of respect for your breeding we did not manifest it in public”

Mr. Izquierda continues his letter with philosophies about the improvement of the breed in Mexico, the using of CAFIB dogs in CBKC lines and about the temperament test. In short, all very interesting subjects for everybody but at the moment not applying to the declarations of Carlos Eduardo.



*Nega do Borghetto,
black and tan*

Another reaction comes from Mr. Cesar Fernandez:

“I followed all the comments about the publications of Carlos Eduardo in another Internet group. The truth is that besides the fact that his comments are personal we have to respect them because for the first time somebody says open and clearly:

YES mix breeding took place in my kennel and in this or that line there was blood of Mastino or Great Dane.

This, my friends, shows a sincere and courage position and instead of saying that the one who was a good breeder

was his father and have doubt about his words, we have to admit that somebody recognizes in public the facts about which people talked so long and were hiding at the same time. It is true what he is saying and he talks about what happened in his kennel without offending anybody. But my friends, this is not the end of the world. I believe that everything that is said.....can be of great help to bring us back to the Fila.”

Like his friend, Mr. Fernandez continues writing about his interesting ideas about the actual situation of our breed.

From the U.S.A. we saw a lot of reactions from some types who do not deserve to be mentioned in this bulletin because of the low level and vulgarity of their messages. Some fila lovers showed their astonishment and other ones were aware of the mix breeding because Internet helped a lot by spreading information about the history of the breed.

A CBKC judge reacted by criticizing my Spanish book (in which the whole mix breeding fraud is explained step by step) and did this as a personal attack and without any respect. I hate Internet discussions but in this case I felt obliged to react in a sincere and strong way.

Many times bad things can turn into good things, after this absurd attack I received a lot of support from followers of the authentic breed as well from CBKC people and judges. One official invited me to come to Rio Grande do Sul to exchange ideas and I would like to go there one day. A quiet dialogue can bring a lot of benefit for the breed maybe.

Personally I am convinced that the big problem of the CBKC breeders is the IGNORANCE about the mix breed subject and / or the ostrich policy. I do not have any intention to offend people, at the contrary. I am talking about a reality and it would be great to see those breeders get out of their actual lines.

Analyzing very well the discussions about this subject I concluded that the majority of the CBKC breeders did not read anything about the breed. The veterans among them read the “Gran Livro” of Procopio do Vale. This book has many positive items in my opinion but it is very important to realize the period in which it has been written: in main period of the mix-breeding and the war against CAFIB.

Almost none among the CBKC breeders has ever seen the “O FILA” magazines of CAFIB

My book “El gran libro del fila brasileño” is the only book until now that treats the mix breeding problem chronologically.

Almost nobody in the CBKC has seen it, in spite of that their screams of protest almost reached the clouds.

I haven't seen either much interest in general cynologic items by all the fileiros. In Brazil people say that the fila brasileiro is a breed for "caipiras" (country people ment in a negative way) and it hurts to admit that this is true in a great part. Among fila people there is not much knowledge about general cynologic themes.

Another reason for scarce information could be a lack of "fila tourism" of the Brazilians to Minas Gerais. For some reasons, like the bad condition of the roads, enormous distances and so on, they had a limited horizon. Since the last decade fila people use to travel more with the goal of seeing the different bloodlines of the State which is considered as the birth place of the breed and where one finds the largest amount of authentic fila in the whole of Brazil.

I asked Pipico for his opinion about the beginning of the mix breeding in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, I asked him if it was practiced over there or that the first mix breedings entered from other States. He is convinced that the strange blood entered with the import dogs from Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Nobody talked about it, nor then and neither later.

So, finally a CBKC breeder was admitting the mix breeding. The impact of his words has been enormous because they are the words of a breeder who had a lot of influence in his State, in Brazil and abroad. Many owners and breeders all over the world are realizing now that what they have and breed are mongrels and nothing else than mongrels. It was time that the fila people finally got aware of the situation. Finally they are able to understand from where the anomalies of their dogs come from.

Let's hope that they open their eyes and that they too begin to fight for a real and healthy breed.

Ines van Damme