

Congratulations on your new Cirneco dell'Etna!

The Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America (CdECA) has prepared this flier to share information to help you fully enjoy your new family member.



A breed with an ancient history

Coins minted between the 5th and 3rd centuries B.C. at Segesta and several other towns reflect the existence of the Cirneco dell'Etna in Sicily for at least 2,500 years. The reverse side of these coins is usually the image of Adranos, the god personifying the Sicilian volcano Mount Etna. A temple to honor Adranos was built in 400 B.C. on the southern slope of Mount Etna. The legend of the Temple of Adranos maintains that it was guarded by a thousand Cirnechi that had the divine ability to differentiate between thieves and disbelievers, whom they attacked, and pilgrims to the temple, whom they guided, with particular benevolence to women, fools and those showing signs of intoxication.



Welcoming your Cirneco home

Cirnechi can happily live as “only dogs” in the household but do enjoy canine companions as well as children. Cirnechi can integrate well as members of a household with smaller pets, including cats, but because of its strong hunting instinct, care and caution must be taken when introducing them. Their prey drive also necessitates only allowing them off-leash in secure areas. Invisible fences are not recommended as Cirnechi will ignore those boundaries when focused on pursuit of prey. Although not known for climbing over or digging under traditional fences, monitoring for potential escape from a fenced yard is needed.

Born to hunt

Today's Cirneco evolved over the course of millennia with little manipulation by man, allowing nature to dictate survival to this hearty, intelligent hunter. Its function remains hunting small game in encumbered areas — a riverbank, rocky slope, forest or agricultural field. The primary sense employed is scent with sight and sound almost equally used for locating, flushing, following, and directing the hunter to the prey.



Beauty and substance

The Cirneco is a medium-sized hunting dog, slender of build but strong and robust. The general appearance should be of long limbs, light construction and square outline. Their relatively short coat requires minimal upkeep and ranges in shades from light tan to dark chestnut with variable amounts of white. The full breed standard may be viewed at

www.cirneco.org or www.akc.org.





Enjoying your versatile Cirneco

With its lively and active disposition, acute perception, and independent thinking, the Cirneco needs regular mental stimulation and time with its family. It responds well to positive methods of training and relishes learning new skills and tasks. Cirnechi enjoy participating in agility, lure coursing, obedience and rally trials, engaging their noses in tracking and nose work, and moving beautifully in the conformation ring, among other activities. With its athletic build, the Cirneco affords many performance activities and pursuits for its owner.

All Cirnechi, even those that are solely beloved family members, benefit from basic obedience training. This foundation should include a strong emphasis on an enthusiastic recall (coming when called) for safety. Regular exercise, a balanced diet, and interplay with the family will ensure your dog's well being.



Health and care of your Cirneco

Despite its elegant appearance, the Cirneco is a hardy breed without any known heritable health issues and thus lifespans can surpass 15 years. CdECA continues to monitor carefully for the appearance of any health issues in our breed. If you encounter any health concerns over your dog's lifetime CdECA encourages you to contact our health committee:

health@cirneco.org

Because the Cirneco has a single coat and little body fat, it is intolerant of extreme cold and may require a jacket for comfort. Little grooming is required: bathing when soiled, nail care, and teeth brushing. In addition to ID tags, permanent identification (microchipping) is recommended to bring your dog home in the event he is lost.

Breeding



Because the Cirneco is relatively uncommon in the US, you may be tempted to breed your new dog; however, this choice carries great responsibilities and should only be pursued with the primary goal of improving the breed. Prior to breeding, you should ensure your dog is healthy, reflects the breed standard, and has a sound temperament. You should carefully screen all homes for the puppies you produce and maintain lifelong commitment to those puppies. For most family pets, spaying and neutering at the appropriate time (determined with your Veterinarian) decreases your dog's risk of specific health problems and prevents unwanted/accidental breedings. Spayed and neutered dogs may still fully participate in all AKC companion and performance events.

Learn more and get involved!

The Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America (CdECA) was founded in 1997 with the primary goals of representation, protection and promotion of the Cirneco dell'Etna in the United States. Our club is comprised of pet owners and fanciers of the breed; we welcome new members to join us and support our mission! To learn more about our breed and organization, visit our website:

www.cirneco.org

and Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/cirneco

We are available to assist you with questions regarding and challenges encountered with your Cirneco. You may email any queries or requests for additional information to our Corresponding Secretary:

corrsecy@cirneco.org

If you find you are unable to care for your Cirneco and need help finding a new home for him, contact your breeder first for assistance. For additional help, CdECA's rescue committee may be reached at:

rescue@cirneco.org