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Front Cover: The Canaan Dog

The Canaan Dog, an ancient breed, is considered to have lived in the region of ancient Canaan from the period of the bible. In modern times in 1934, Dr. Rudolphina Menzel, a noted authority on dogs, was requested by the Haganah, Israel's first defense force, to develop a service dog organization for guarding isolated Jewish settlements and helping in the War of Independence (1948-1949). Dr. Menzel turned her attention to the pariah dogs (semi-wild or feral dogs) living in the area and concluded that this native breed of dog was ideally adapted to the conditions in Israel. She named the breed the "Canaan Dog", after the

Land of Canaan. The Canaan dog was recognized by the Israel Kennel Club in 1963 as a breed and since then as the national dog of Israel. In 1966 the FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale) also recognized the breed and categorized into the Spitz & Primitive Breeds Group.

The Canaan Dog is an affectionate and devoted companion developing a strong attachment to its owners and family. Due to its territorial instincts, wariness of strangers and keen senses the Canaan dog makes an excellent guard dog. The dog is very intelligent, learns easily and excels in obedience, agility, tracking and sentry work. Canaan dogs enjoy outdoor activities and exercise.

(Adapted from <http://www.canaandogs.org/>)