



Albanian Kennel Association
Rr. Komuna e Parisit, Tirana, Albania

Progress Report 2



Project reference number 35.07.07
Shara mountain dog (Illyrian Mastiff)

After two months of very cold winter in Albania, the project Shara mountain dog continued to be implemented with field activities such as meetings with shepherds of Qarrishta and Rajca villages, participation on Royal Canine dog's competition, Shara mountain dogs distribution, network building between shepherds and farmers, training in dog maintenance, institutional lobbying between countries etc.



Donating a puppy to a shepherd in Rajca (Albania)



Transporting three puppies from Struga (Macedonia)



Searching for pure breed



One of the best (most traditional) farmer in Balkans



Dog breeders from Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia



Shaking hands

Distribution of Shara mountain puppies to shepherds of Qarrishta village

In order to coordinate puppies' distribution, a local coordinator is hired. Bajram Kullolli (Forest engineer of Librazhdi district) together with the veterinarian of Qarrishta Vaid Hasa have been coordinating the field work on the villages.

Note: The population of Qarrishta village is composed by two main family-tribes: Hasa and Bicoku. They are living mainly with livestock breeding (husbandry).



Albanian traditional herding livestock

Vaid Hasa will supervise in continuity the health conditions of the dogs, at least till when they reach the proper age (eight months) to handle themselves. He has been trained to deal with any discordance on dog behavior with the flock of livestock and humans.

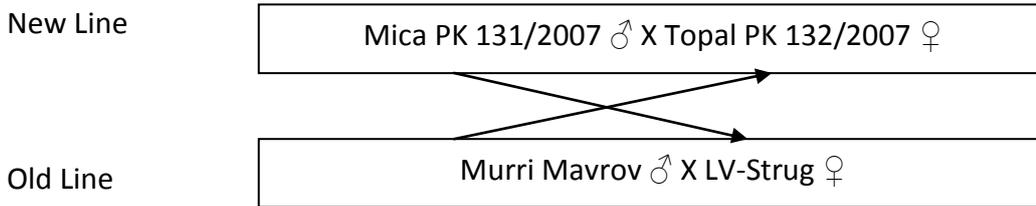
The expert Bajram Kullolli will serve as local contact. With his cooperation and support, we made a total estimation of all shepherds (in the selected area) and their demand for livestock guarding dogs.

Together we valuated and decided to donate the dogs to the following shepherds:

1. Hamdi Hasa; flock with 162 sheep; location – Dragan (Qarrishte).
2. Garip Hasa; flock with 112 sheep; location - Qafe Kryq (Qarrishte).
3. Mahmut Bicoku; flock with 150 sheep; location – border Qarrishta - Rrajca.
4. Hysen Xhyra; flock with 107 sheep; -//-
5. Jusuf Dashi; flock 153 sheep; -//-
6. Sali Bogdani; flock 100 sheep; location – Rrajca
7. Skender Ceraku; flock 65 sheep; -//-

During the distribution process is noticed a huge demand for sheep guarding dogs especially from Rajca village. In the meeting organized in Rajca with a few farmers, they were very interested to profit from the distribution scheme. Taking in mind the demand for guarding dogs, three other individuals will be distributed to the shepherds of Rajca. After one year when the dog's reproduction process will start, the new born puppies will be considered for other shepherds.

Cross Breeding Scheme



By cross-breeding with scheme we can conserve the two lines and obtain in the same time cross-line individuals. Within a year we are expecting ten more puppies to distribute to other shepherds in the protected selected area.

Promoting the Shara mountain dog to all interested target groups

In order to increase awareness about the values of Shara mountain sheep guarding dogs, at least nine meetings are organized in Librazhdi area with shepherds, farmers, forest engineers, foresters, commune deputy, NGO-s members that are operating in the area, veterinarians, naturalists etc.

A website (www.deltarilir.com) is created and will serve as informative source for all news and technical indications about breeding the Illyrian sheep guarding dogs and other races of dogs.

Participation on the “Royal Canine” competition organized in Skopje (Macedonia). Seven Albanian farmers had the chance to gain experience in organizing dog competitions, to meet (create contacts) other dog breeders from Balkans and Europe and to visit some Shara mountain dogs farms.

Albanian Kennel Association

For the first time in Albanian history is created the “Albanian Kennel Association”. This NGO is founded in June 2008 from a group of dog-lovers and breeders. The main purpose of this society is to promote values of autochthon breeds of dogs and other breeds also. This is the first association ever in Albania that wants to group all the dog breeder, farmers, shepherds, dog-keepers and all people who care about pets especially dogs.

A.K.A is also focused in protecting on of the most ancient autochthon breed in the world, the Albanian Sheep-guarding Dog (also known as Qen Stani, Qeni Sharrit/Shara mountain dog, Deltari Ilir, Canis Illyricum, the ancient moloss and Illyrian shepherd dog).