

Shaggy Komondors Good Watchdogs

Some observers feel that the declining sheep industry of the Western United States could be turned around by the Hungarian Komondor, a rare guard dog that can fend off coyotes, wolves and other natural predators of sheep.

Experiments with Komondor dogs are being carried out by the United States Department of Agriculture in Western States. Animal researchers hope to prove the economic value of these rare guard dogs for controlling coyotes, wolves, wild dogs and other predators of sheep.

To the scattered owners of the Komondor breed around the U.S., however, the experiments probably won't turn up anything they don't already know. Traditionally, the Komondor is an animal of extreme courage, ready to attack and drive off a marauder. Its heavy matted coat, which resembles a mop doesn't allow the teeth of a coyote or wolf to penetrate the skin. At the same time, the dog's fierce character is combined with complete loyalty and faithfulness to his owner.

Komondors are especially adapted to the climate of western sheep ranges. Their matted outer coat, over a fine-haired undercoat, insulates against biting cold and also protects against the heat of summer.

The Komondor has been recognized as a breed since the 16th Century. Through the years, it has been bred to maintain the traits of a guard dog. By the 20th Century, many of the natural enemies of sheep were gone in Hungary and central Europe and, as a result, the dogs became less common. Today it is a rare breed and

has been maintained by only a small number of breeders. Only 40 litters were registered in the United States in 1977.

In the United States, the Komondor is a recognized breed of the American Kennel Club, and there is also a Komondor Club of America, headquartered in New York City. But the most active promoter of the breed is the Middle Atlantic States Komondor Club, Inc. which publishes literature and a newsletter for Komondor owners and breeders.

FARM SHOW contacted the Middle Atlantic States Komondor Club for more information about the breed and its use as a guard dog for domestic sheep and goat flocks. A spokesman cautioned that farmers and ranchers should not consider owning a Komondor until they have seen one in a working situation.

"Our club feels strongly that there must be only one Komondor — not different dogs for pets or show or work," the club spokesman pointed out. "In fact, the dogs are not good pets for U.S. suburbia. They are too aggressive, too much of a peasant's dog. The dogs have been bred for centuries to be independent thinkers and to take responsibility. We find that the dogs we breed here can still perform the tasks for which they were bred in Hungary. They attach themselves to an owner and then to his property and flocks. Without much help, they take on the job of guarding everything that belongs to their owner."

Komondor breeders point out that guarding duties have to be taught to the dog. Although it is a skillful

fighter, it is not a natural hunter or killer. It does not attack coyotes or bobcats by instinct but by learning from the owner who is the enemy.

The Komondor is a large white dog with the mature animal of both sexes having a characteristic tasselled outer coat. It is strong and well built, measuring about 27 in. in height and weighing 85-100 lbs. Among other dogs, the Komondor likes to be the boss. Among other animals, he can be taught to accept them and protect them. To his owner and the owner's children, he can be well-behaved, playful and affectionate.

Because of the rarity of the breed, the Komondor is an expensive dog. A high quality pup will cost \$400-\$650, depending on the dog and reputation of its breeder.



Komondors will attack coyotes, wolves and other natural predators.

Because the Komondor is so unusual, breeders recommend that prospective owners first see the dogs in action and become familiar with them before considering buying.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Middle Atlantic States Komondor Club, 102 Russell Road, Princeton, N.J. 08540.



Full-grown Komondors stand about 27 in. high and weigh 85 to 100 lbs.

FEATURING AIR-TO-AIR INTERCOOLING

Ford Rolls Out "TW" 110-165 Hp Tractors

Those new "TW" model Ford tractors we've been telling you were on the way began rolling off the assembly line as this issue of FARM SHOW went to press.

Heading the "totally new" line is the TW-30 at 163 pto hp, the largest, most-powerful 2-wheel drive tractor ever built by Ford (Steiger builds Ford's larger 4-wheel drive tractors). The other two models in the series are the turbocharged TW-20, which at 135 pto hp replaces the Ford 9700, and the naturally-aspirated TW-10, successor to the 8700 and rated at 110 pto hp. All three new TW models are powered by derivatives of the 410 cu. in. 6-cyl. Ford diesel engine.

Ford claims an industry "first" for the TW-30: Its engine is turbocharged and matched "to the only tip turbine

fan air-to-air intercooler in the industry. Intake air is cooled 126° by a heat exchanger between the turbocharger and the intake manifold. A flow of cooling air is directed through the heat exchanger by a tip-turbine fan powered by compressed air from the turbocharger."

A Ford dual-powered transmission is standard on the TW-30, optional on the TW-20 and TW-10. It offers 16 speeds forward and four in reverse. Optional front-wheel drive is available on all three models. An 8-speed transmission is standard on the TW-10 and TW-20.

Other features of the new TW line include hydrostatic power steering, tilt steering wheel, suspended brake and clutch pedals, 72-amp alternator, and an optional Ford-built cab. A

heavy-duty front axle is standard on the TW-30; optional on the TW-10 and TW-20. An optional wide adjustable front axle is available for all three models. With an optional 25 gal. auxiliary tank, the TW-30 has a 100-gal. fuel capacity.

For more details, see your local Ford dealer, or contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ford Tractor Operations, Public Relations Dept., 2500 E. Maple Rd., Troy, Mich. 48084 (ph 313 643-2764).



Top of the line for Ford's two-wheel drive tractors is the TW-30, powered by a new turbocharged, intercooled Ford diesel engine with 163 pto horsepower.