

# ARTICLE circa 1899-In Defense of the Chinese Dog



Artwork etching featured at Hamshere gallery in the U.K..  
Possibly the famous Hildelell Ba Tang circa 1910

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This charming article was written back in the day when the

chow was first introduced to American and European households. We were getting to know this unique creature both as companion and show dog. All the "rules" that applied to the average canine seemed to be challenged by the Edible Dog of China. Of all the things we have altered on this magnificent breed over the past century, the chow's heart, soul, and unique personality and general characteristics have remained in tact ...thank goodness!

**In Defense of the Chinese Dog.**  
**From The Spectator.**

He was a red chow called "Fingo," the winner of the three first prizes at the Crystal Palace and Aquarium shows, and therefore a typical specimen of his breed. One of his chief characteristics was unique devotion to me as his master, for however long I left him with other friends, whenever I arrived he refused to look at anybody else and became my devoted slave. He was an excellent watch-dog, but so amiable that he never bit anybody in his life. He had a very independent and rather haughty air, which I have known other dogs resent, though there was nothing mischievous about it. He did not care for the caresses of strangers, and would receive them with amusing indifference; but if a friend pronounced his name, his tail never failed to give a sympathetic shake on the top of his back, and if I spoke to him, his nose was nuzzling my hand in a moment, and he was begging me to repeat his name.

He was no good for sport, because he could not hunt without giving tongue, and he could not retrieve; but he had a good nose and very keen sight, and was perfectly obedient. After one or two lessons he used to walk through a flock of sheep without heeding them, and he would come to heel when called, even though he was in full cry after a cat. I did not care to teach him many tricks, but those I wanted him to learn he mastered with great ease and never forgot. What made him specially good for the house was that his coat never had any offensive smell, and he contrived to make everybody devoted to him. Out of doors, I think, the most remarkable characteristic was his power of finding his way home wherever he happened to be.

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