

Gaddi Dog

Source: DTE

The <u>Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources</u> (ICAR-NBAGR) has officially recognized the **Gaddi dog**, an indigenous breed from the Himalayan region.

- The Gaddi dog is the fourth indigenous canine breed to be registered, following the Rajapalayam and Chippiparai breeds of Tamil Nadu and the Mudhol Hound of Karnataka.
- The breed, named after the Gaddi tribe of Himachal Pradesh, is used to guard sheep and goats from predators and is nicknamed the 'Indian Panther Hound' or 'Indian leopard Hound' for its ability to fend off carnivores like the Snow Leopard.
 - The Gaddi tribe of Himachal Pradesh is a semi-nomadic community traditionally involved in shepherding and wool processing.
- Physical Features: The Gaddi dog is known for its massive, arched neck and a robust muscular body, with a black coat and occasional white markings.
- Population Decline: The Gaddi dog, with a population under 1000, is facing extinction due to gene pool dilution and lack of breeding programs.
- Conservation Effort: The recognition aims to help conserve the Gaddi breed, which is not yet acknowledged by major kennel clubs.

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