

ment of sporting firearms. Wing shooting came into popularity during the first decade of the 18th century, and from that period the rise of the "bird dogs" was marked.

Most of the pointing breeds were developed in the British Isles. The first on record were those used in 1650 for pointing rabbits. It was not until about 1825, however, that the breed came into real prominence.

The Hound Group—Most of the dogs of the various breeds were developed for sporting uses, primarily to trail game by ground scents.

The typical breeds of the hound group are powerfully built dogs with strong legs, long heads, and muzzles, "floppy" ears, and overhanging upper lips or "fews".

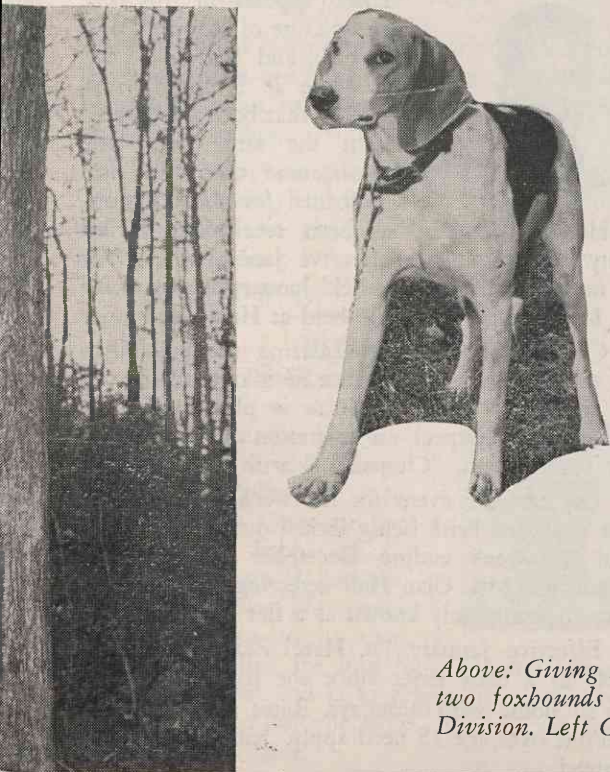
Appearing in England in the middle ages, small

hounds, mainly harriers and beagles, began to be used in the hunting of rabbits. Harriers and beagles are miniature foxhounds in appearance, the beagle being the smallest of the true hounds.

The English country gentlemen of the middle ages were the main developers of hound breeds, and the development of the breeds paralleled the hunting fancies of the times. Deer and rabbit hunting were popular long before fox hunting came into style; thus harriers and beagles, which were followed on foot, are older breeds than the foxhound. The foxhound probably was developed by crossing one of the old English hounds of the bloodhound type with the greyhound to give speed in the chase of the fox in open country.

Brought to the United States, the beagle soon became one of the most popular hounds. Basically a hunting dog, the beagle's popularity is due to its use by thousands of rural sportsmen for rabbit hunting. Single beagles commonly are used for this type of hunting, but they may be hunted in braces or in packs.

Little known in northern areas of the United States, but familiar in Western North Carolina is the Plott hound. A highly specialized breed, it knows no equal as a bear-hunter. Brought to America from Germany in 1750 by Johannes Plott, the hounds, used for boar and deer, underwent careful breeding and by 1883, Johanne's great-grandson, John, who had moved into Western North Carolina, had succeeded in breeding into a hound all the desirable traits found in a bear hound. From that time until the present day a Plott hound is recognized as the king of the bear dog world.



*Above: Giving the Echo photographer a look of uncertainty is one of two foxhounds owned by Elmer Baker, Casting Room, Cellophane Division. Left Center: "Come and git 'im, Bill—I've got 'im out on a limb!"*

*So this coon dog belonging to Bill Phipps, Finishing, Cellophane Div., seems to be saying. Bill claims that the best coon dog is one-half hound and one-half "just plain dog." Left: "Awk! . . . Cut it out, Vic! You're choking me!" Vic Sigmon, Inspection and Control, Paper Division poses(?) one of his fine beagles for the cameraman*

