

# Karnataka's Mudhol hounds

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**In news-** Mudhol hounds, a breed of hunting dogs native to north Karnataka, could be inducted into the Special Protection Group (SPG), the elite force protecting the Prime Minister of India.

## **About Mudhol hounds/Dogs-**

- The Mudhol Hound, **also known variously as the Maratha Hound, the Pashmi Hound, the Kathewar Dog and the Caravan Hound, is a breed of sighthound from India.**
- **The Kennel Club of India and Indian National Kennel Club recognize the breed under different breed names.** The KCI registers it as a Caravan Hound while the INKC uses the name Mudhol Hound.
- **Known for their hunting and guarding skills, the characteristically lanky Mudhol hounds get their name from the erstwhile kingdom of Mudhol** (in present-day Bagalkot), whose rulers first began to breed them.
- The dogs are **fast runners, with excellent stamina and agility,** and have a sharp vision and a keen sense of smell.
- They are **believed to have been bred first by Raja Malojirao Ghorpade of the erstwhile Deccan kingdom of Mudhol** who, after seeing the qualities of the dogs that the tribals of his territory kept, decided to breed them selectively.
- **The Raja is said to have presented a couple of these dogs to King George V on a visit to England,** whereafter the breed got the name of Mudhol hound.
- For the specific qualities that they possessed, the **Indian Army took a batch of Mudhol hound puppies into its Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) training centre in Meerut in February 2016.**
- **This was the first time that an indigenous breed was trained at the RVC Centre** which has a long history of

training foreign breeds such as Labrador and German Shepherd for possible induction into service with the Army.

- Once inducted, the hounds could play a key role in the detection of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in counter-insurgency operations.
- **The dogs already serve with the Indian armed forces and some paramilitary forces and could become the first indigenous breed to be part of the SPG.**
- The Kennel Club of India (KCI) and Indian National Kennel Club (INKC) recognize the breed under different breed names. The KCI registers it as a Caravan Hound while the INKC uses the name Mudhol Hound.

**Further**

**reading:**

**<https://journalsofindia.com/special-protection-group-spg-act/>**