

The Taigan



The **Taigan** ([Kyrgyz](#): тайган), and also known as **Kyrgyz Taighany** ([Kyrgyz](#): кыргыз тайганы) (*Kyrgyzskaya Borzaya* in Russian), is a [breed](#) of [sighthound](#) from [Kyrgyzstan](#). The Taigan is found in the alpine [Tian Shan](#) region of Kyrgyzstan on the border with [China](#), it is closely related to the [Tazy](#) and the [Afghan hound](#).^{[1][2][3]}

As a sighthound the Taigan predominantly uses its sight and speed to overcome its prey, it is known for its extraordinary stamina at altitude, but the breed is known for its versatility whilst hunting, they can follow scent trails and also have a reputation for retrieving game, they are often used to hunt in combination with [trained bird of prey](#), especially the [golden eagle](#).^{[1][3]} The Taigan is used to hunt a wide range of game including [marmot](#), [hare](#), [fox](#), [badger](#), [wildcat](#), hoofed game such as the [ibex](#) and [roe deer](#) as well as the [wolf](#).^{[1][2][3]}

The Taigan has medium-length and slightly curly hair, it has a wide range of colours ranging from white and shades of fawn through to greys and black examples.^[1] Since the [breakup of the Soviet Union](#) the Taigan's numbers have significantly declined, but the Russian Kennel Club has made concerted efforts to ensure the breed's survival, recognising it along with the Tazy, and trying to find good breeding stock of both breeds.^{[1][2]}



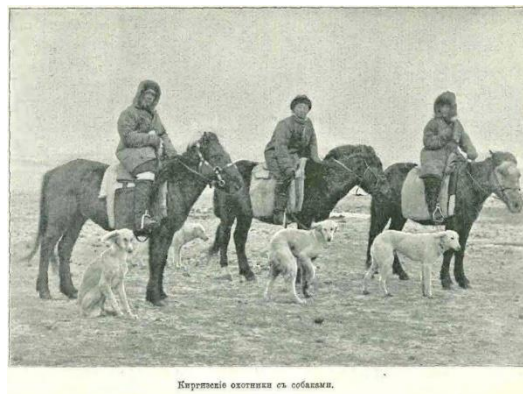
Art from the region



Hunting with Taigan hounds



A Taigan hound



A group of Kirgish hunters with hounds
"Photo from 1896. Signature - Kyrgyz hunters with dogs. Probably Taigans". Supplied by Andrus Kozlov