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Fact Sheet: Irish Setter

Dog type: gundog

History:

- The breed was developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was bred by crossing Setting Spaniels, Pointers, English Setters and Gordon Setters.
- Irish Setters were originally bred to hunt upland game.
- The Irish Setter was an excellent gun dog and became popular in England and America as well as in rural Ireland.

Do you know....?

- In the earlier part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish Setters were called 'Red Spaniels'.
- The Irish breeders often called them 'Modder Rhu'. This is Gaelic for 'red dogs'.
- In the 1890's Irish Setters first appeared in Dog Shows and were very well-liked. From this time they were bred as show dogs rather than hunting dogs.

Irish Setters as pets:

- Beautiful and elegant to look at.
- Energetic.
- Need lots of exercise.