



19TH C. OIL ON CANVAS PAINTING OF DOGS IN KENNEL SIGNED L. DE BESENVAL, 1865

\$6,900

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This exceptional antique 19th century oil on canvas is signed and dated "L. de Besenval 1865" at the lower left and is titled *Six chiens dans une cour de chenil*. The composition depicts six hunting and working dogs gathered within a kennel courtyard, rendered with striking anatomical precision and individualized character. Arranged in a balanced horizontal grouping before a gated fence and rustic stone outbuilding, the dogs create a strong sense of depth through controlled light and shadow. Each animal is treated almost as a portrait, from the reclining chestnut dog engaging the viewer in the foreground to the attentive standing hounds and the powerful central figure modeled with careful attention to musculature and coat texture. The subdued earthy palette and softly atmospheric sky align with the 19th century European sporting tradition, reflecting both French and British influences of the period. Born in Soleure in 1812 and later established in Paris, where he died in 1889, the artist exhibited during the mid-19th century and developed a respected reputation for carefully observed animal and sporting subjects. His work reflects the disciplined naturalism associated with the Paris Salon, combining academic precision with refined sensitivity to light and composition. His paintings continue to appear at French auction houses, including Artcurial. Executed in oil on its original canvas, this antique painting retains its authentic surface with age-appropriate craquelure consistent with its 1865 date, reinforcing its historical integrity and character. It is presented in a substantial carved giltwood frame with foliate and beaded decoration that complements the warmth of the scene and enhances its decorative presence. A handsome and refined antique sporting subject offering both historical authenticity and strong visual impact, ideal for a study, library, hunting lodge, or traditional interior. Dimensions: 43.5"W x 27.5"H