

Estrela Mountain Dogs

The Breed Standard



- **GENERAL APPEARANCE** A sturdy well built dog of Mastiff type, conveying an impression of strength and vigour. Never cumbersome. Has distinctive small ears, folding backwards and hook to tail.



- **CHARACTERISTICS**

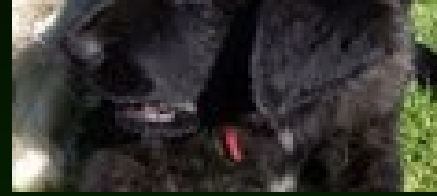
A hardy guard dog, active and of considerable stamina.



- **TEMPERAMENT**

Loyal, affectionate to owners, aloof to others, intelligent and alert. Self-willed but trainable.





- **Head And Skull:** Head long and powerful with broad, slightly rounded skull. Moderate stop set halfway between nose and slightly defined occiput. Muzzle tapers moderately with slightly aquiline nose. A narrow head and pointed muzzle are undesirable. Large black nose with well-opened nostrils. Jaws well developed. Lips black, tightly closed and not pendulous. Roof of mouth black.



- **EYES** Neither deep nor prominent, of medium size, oval in shape with calm and intelligent expression, preferably amber or darker. Black rimmed eyelids closing well, with rather prominent eyebrows.

EARS Small in relation to body, thin, triangular, rounded at the tips. Moderately high set. Rose ear falling backwards, with inner edge apparent, carried close to skull.



- **MOUTH** Teeth very strong. Jaw strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.
- **NECK** Short, muscular and well set on. A hard, thick tuft of hair under throat. A dewlap is undesirable.



- **FOREQUARTERS**

Forelegs straight, well muscled and with strong, round bone. Moderately sloping shoulders and upper arms. Short pasterns which appear nearly vertical when viewed from the side.



- **HINDQUARTERS**

Moderate angulation. Thighs well muscled. Hocks moderately well let down. Rear pasterns vertical.



- **BODY** Back preferably short, slightly higher at withers and almost level. Short coupled, broad, well muscled loin. Slightly sloping croup. Chest moderately deep and broad. Ribs well sprung. Underline very gently rising.



- **FEET** Oval with thick, hard pads and tightly closed toes. Abundant hair between pads. Dark or preferably black nails.



- **TAIL** Set on low. Reaching to the hock. Forming a distinctive, rigid hook at the tip. Well furnished and feathered. Carried low. On the move may be carried slightly higher than the level of the back.



- **GAIT / MOVEMENT:** Free and easy purposeful jog trot. Has a tendency to converge at a faster pace, without weakness. Should not be penalized for carrying the head level with the topline in motion.



COAT Two types:

- **Long coat:** The outer coat is thick and slightly coarse without being too harsh. Lying close over the body, flat or slightly waved, never curly. Undercoat very dense and normally lighter in colour than the outer coat. Short and smooth hair on head, diminishing in length from the base of ears to tip. Thick and abundant round the neck and chest forming a ruff, particularly in the male. Forearms, thighs, rear pasterns and tail abundantly feathered. Lower hocks and backs of forearm abundantly feathered as is the tail. Short, smooth hair on front of legs. A woolly or fluffy coat undesirable.



COAT Two types:

- **Short coat:** Short, thick, and slightly coarse, without being too harsh, with a shorter dense undercoat. Any feathering should be in proportion



COLOUR Recognised colours are:

- **Fawn:** which varies from burnt yellow through reddish gold to a deep red, with or without guard hairs. The fawn should never be so pale as to be a dirty white.



- **Brindle:** any of the previous permitted colours with the addition of streaks or smudges of black or brown varying in intensity.



- **Wolf Grey:** a mixture of grey and black hairs intermingled, with or without guard hairs





- All black and all white, skewbald and piebald unacceptable. Black muzzle or mask is highly desirable.
- White markings on chest, underside, feet or tail are tolerated but undesirable.



SIZE

- Height: Dogs: 65-72cm (25.5—28.5 ins):
Bitches: 62—68 cm (24.5—27 ins).
- A tolerance of 4cms (1.5ins) above these limits is allowed



- **FAULTS** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which this should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.
- **NOTE** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

