

ARGENTINO DOGO

GROUP: Working

SIZE:

Over one year of age, males, minimum 25 inches at withers; females, 23 ½ inches. Taller, heavier Dogo is preferred provided he is balanced and in condition. *Disqualifications:* Dogs over one year of age under minimum height.

In proportion to size of dog. *Serious faults: Overweight or poorly conditioned dogs.*

CONDITION: The Dogo must always be in hard condition and field ready.

COAT:

Very short and thick, of uniform length, smooth and glossy. *Disqualification: Long hair.*

COLOR & MARKINGS:

White; markings on head, including eye patch, are permissible; minimal ticking on coat is permissible; skin pigmentation is acceptable. *Serious fault: Patches of color on coat, other than the head.*

HEAD:

Massive skull; viewed from front, skull is square with chiseled features with a furrow between the eyes; pronounced cheek muscles; viewed in profile, distance from tip of nose to stop is equal to distance from stop to occiput.

Muzzle:

Nasal bone is so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop.

Eyes:

Black or hazel; eyelids rimmed in black or pink or combination with black preferred. *Disqualifications: Blue or China eyes.*

Ears:

Cropped or uncropped; cropped ears should be short, erect or semi erect set high on head, triangular in shape; uncropped ears are wide at base and tapering to rounded point, of medium to heavy leather, carried close to head, folded, rose or semi-rose; uncropped ears may have heavy spotting or can be solid black or brindle (no penalty). *Disqualification: Deafness*

Nose:

Black with pink permissible providing majority of nose is black; well developed, wide open nostrils.

Teeth & bite:

Large, evenly spaced, white teeth; scissor or level bite preferred, but slight undershot permissible if not visible when jaws are closed. *Faults: Overshot or excessive undershot.*

Lips:

Close fitting, edged with black. NOTE: Close fitting lips are required to permit the Dogo to breathe through the corners of the mouth when holding prey. *Disqualification: Loose lips hanging below lower jaw.*

NECK:

Thick, arched and flexible with very thick skin at the throat; crest of neck should flow to base of skull without occipital bone being prominent. NOTE: **The skin must be loose to permit it to slide over the body so that in fighting the teeth or claws of the prey wound only the skin and not the flesh.** Flexibility of the skin over the throat so permits the Dogo to move rapidly to grab the prey.

BODY:

Powerful and muscular without bulkiness; graceful lines, Strong back with well developed muscles; Loin is highest, curving gently towards the croup; Chest quite broad, deep and well muscled, extending to or below the elbow.

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS QUARTERS:

Front legs should be straight with upright pasterns.

Hindquarters:

Muscular and powerful with good angulations; hocks well let down; dewclaws **MUST** be removed. NOTE: Hindquarters must be very muscular since the speed to the Dogo and his ability to hold his prey are dependent on this.

Feet:

Length of toes in proportion with feet, well arched and closely spaced; thick and tough pads. Front dewclaws should be removed; rear dewclaws must be removed. *Disqualification: Rear dewclaws.*

Tail:

Long and thick, not extending beyond the hock; at rest, tail is carried down; in chase, tail is carried up.

MOVEMENT:

Strong and driving, yet very agile.

TEMPERAMENT:

Protective, very alert and jovial; uncanny intelligence and keen wit; very people oriented; extremely friendly and outgoing; self-confident; trusting of humans.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Overshot or seriously undershot bite.

Blue or China eyes; Albinism

Deafness.

Loose lips hanging below lower jaw.

Long hair.