

NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF

GROUP: Working

SIZE:

Males, 25 ½ to 29 ½ inches; females, 23 ½ to 27 inches. A tolerance of three-quarters of an inch, plus or minus, allowed for both sexes.

Very serious faults: Heights over or under the tolerated limits. Weight: Males, 132 to 154 pounds; females, 110 to 132 pounds.

COAT & SKIN:

Dense, fine, glossy coat of equal length and uniformly smooth; maximum length is about five-eighths of an inch; must not have any trace of fringe.

Abundant and loose thick skin over all the body; particularly loose on the head, forming numerous wrinkles and folds; forming well-divided dewlap on underside of the neck.

COLOR:

Preferred colors: gray, lead, black, mahogany, tawny, and tawny stag; each color may be brindled (tigered); small white patches on the chest and on tips of toes allowed. Acceptable, but not preferred shades: brown, pale gray, and cream.

HEAD:

Massive and broad at cheekbones; total length of head about 30% of height of dog; abundant skin forming wrinkles and folds; upper longitudinal planes of the skull and muzzle must be parallel; broad skull arched in front and especially flat between ears; skull is greater than one-half the total head length; viewed from the front, the skull is very developed with pronounced middle crease; barely apparent occiput; very pronounced stop.

Eyes: Situated in a sub frontal position; set slightly deep and well distanced; eye color corresponds to coat color; pigmented eyelid rims with tendency to be round.

Ears: May be cropped or natural; if natural, they are triangular in shape and lie flat and close to the cheek; if cropped, they form a nearly equilateral triangle; ears are small in comparison to size of the dog; set-on above the zygomatic arch—the bony ridge forming the lower border of the eye socket.

Muzzle: Very wide and profoundly deep; muzzle length is one-third the total head length; sides of muzzle are parallel; viewed from the front, the muzzle almost seems to form a square.

Nose: Nose is very large with large nostrils well distanced; vertical profile line of the nose is the lip; pigment corresponds to coat color.

Teeth & bite: Scissors, level, or reverse scissors bite; strong, well-developed regularly aligned, white teeth.
Very serious fault: Pronounced undershot bite.

NECK:

Slightly crested, well-muscled neck, wide at the base, tapering slightly toward the head; neck length about 28% of the dog's height; width about one-half its length; circumference of neck is four-fifths of the height. Dewlap is not abundant, but is well divided, beginning at lower jaw and descending to a length about equal to one-half of the neck's length.

Body:

Massive and strong; length is 10% greater than height

Topline: Level, broad and long; back length is about one-third of dog's height.

Chest & croup: Broad, open chest has well-developed pectoral muscles; width is about 40 to 45% of dog's height and is equal with the rib cage; breast bone is level with the point of the shoulder; well-sprung, long

ribs; full rib cage; girth is 1.25 times the height. The muscular croup is wide and robust; well developed where it joins the backline; slopes about 30 degrees; length is about 30% of dog's height.

FOREQUARTERS:

Forequarters are vertical when viewed from side and from front; strong structure in balance with size of dog; long, very developed shoulder has well-separated muscles; length but 30% of height of dog; shoulder blade angle of 1-5 to 115 degrees. Forelegs are full and well developed with upper arm muscle mass; length of upper arm is about 30% of dog's height, slanting horizontally 55 to 60 degrees. Elbow has abundant, loose skin, not held too close to body. Length of forearm is equal to that of the upper arm; strong structure and well-developed muscles, vertical and perfectly dry. Straight, wide, dry pastern, vertical to forearm, flat pastern inclines about 70 to 75 degrees; length one-sixth the length of the entire leg. Front dewclaws may be removed.

HINDQUARTERS:

Robust and powerful hindquarters are in proportion to the dog's size and mass, sufficiently developed to ensure proper drive and movement. Hind legs: upper thigh is about one-third length of the dog's height, inclining about 60 degrees; wide with large, clearly-defined muscles; thighbone joins hip at a 90 degree angle; stifle angle is about 110 to 115 degrees; lower thigh inclines about 50 to 55 degrees and is slightly shorter than upper thigh; very strong with clearly evident muscularity. The hock joint is very long in relation to the leg; strong, round, dry rear pastern is positioned perfectly plumb with length about one-quarter of dog's height; rear dewclaws are removed.

Feet: Very large, oval, compact; right forefeet have well arched toes; well pigmented hard, dry pads; darkly pigmented, strong nails; hind feet smaller than forefeet, with identical attributes.

Tail: Wide and thick at the base, tapering slightly; docked one-third, allowing two-thirds to remain, reaching the point of the hock; carried slightly sloping at rest, carried level or slightly higher than topline in action.

MOVEMENT:

Strong and driving, yet very agile.

TEMPERAMENT:

Protective and aloof with strangers, strong and loyal, but not aggressive nor prone to bite without cause; alert, intelligent, and noble.

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 bite.

Convergence or divergence of skull and muzzle parallel lines.

Concave muzzle, arched muzzle, Roman muzzle.

Total lack of pigmentation of nose or eyelids.

Crossed eyes; pale blue eyes; clear eyes.

Lack of wrinkle.

Lack of dewlap.

Excessively short tail, whether natural or docked; twisted tail; kinked tail.

Very extensive white markings

Albinism.