

RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK

Group: Hound

General Description:

The Rhodesian Ridgeback is a strong, muscular, handsome dog, with a symmetrical outline. It is very agile and athletic, capable of great endurance with a good amount of speed. The distinctive characteristic of this breed is a ridge on the back that is formed by the hair growing in an opposite direction from the rest of the coat. The ridge should be clearly defined, tapering and symmetrical. It begins immediately behind the shoulders and continues to a point located between the prominences of the hip. It should contain two identical crowns opposite each other, the lower edges of which do not extend farther down the ridge than one-third of the length of the ridge. ***Serious Fault: One crown or more than two crowns.***
Disqualification: No ridge

SIZE:

A mature Ridgeback should be symmetrical in outline, slightly longer than tall but well balanced. Dogs should be 25 to 27 inches in height, with a desirable weight of 85 pounds; bitches should be 24 to 26 inches in height and weigh around 70 pounds.

COAT:

Short, dense, sleek, and glossy. ***Faults: Woolly or silky coat.***

COLOR:

Light wheaten to red wheaten. Head, body, legs, and tail are uniform in color. Dark muzzles and ears are acceptable, but black ears are not desirable. Small amount of white on the chest and on the toes is acceptable: ***Faults: To be penalized to the degree of deviance: Excessive white; any white on the belly or above the toes***

HEAD:

Of fair length. The skull is flat and rather broad between the ears. It is free from wrinkles when in repose. The stop should be reasonably well defined. Muzzle is long, deep, and powerful with closely fitting clean lips. ***Faults: Heavy head; round skull; snipey muzzle; bulging cheeks***

Bite: Full complement of sound white teeth meet in a scissors bite. Canine teeth are especially well developed. Even bites are acceptable but not desirable and to be faulted to the degree of variance from the scissors. ***Disqualification: Overshot or undershot.***

Nose: Black or brown or liver according to the color of the dog. ***No other colored noses are acceptable.***

Ears: Medium-sized; set rather high and carried close to the head. Wide at the base and taper to a rounded tip.

Eyes: Set moderately apart; round; bright; sparkling, with an intelligent expression. Eye color should be in harmony with the color of the dog. A black nosed dog will have dark eyes; a brown nosed dog has amber eyes.

NECK:

Fairly strong and free from throatiness; flexible

BODY:

The back is powerful. The strong, muscular loins are slightly arched. The very deep, roomy chest is not too wide. The brisket reaches down to the elbows. Body length, measured from the shoulders to the hindquarters, is slightly longer than the height, measured from the withers to the ground. Ribs are moderately well sprung, but never rounded like barrel hoops, which would indicate lack of capacity for speed. ***Faults: Too long or short in the back; roach back; sway back; round ribs.***

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders should be sloping, clean, and muscular, denoting speed. Elbows are close to the body. Forelegs should be perfectly straight, strong, and heavily boned.

HINDQUARTERS:

Muscles of hind legs are clean and well defined with the hocks being well let down.

Feet: The feet should be compact with well-arched toes; round, tough, elastic pads protected by hair between the toes and pads. **Dewclaws should be removed. *Serious Fault:* Hare feet**

Tail: Strong at the root, tapering gradually toward the tip. Should be free from coarseness, carried with a slight upward curve; should not be inserted too high or too low on the body. ***Faults:* Curled tail; set too high or too low.**

MOVEMENT:

At a trot, the back is held level and the stride is efficient, long, and free.

TEMPERAMENT:

Dignified and even tempered. Reserved with strangers.

The above description is that of the ideal Rhodesian Ridgeback. Any deviation from the above must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

Disqualifications

**Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid
Viciousness or extreme shyness
Overshot or undershot bit
Albinism**