

SPANISH MASTIFF

GROUP: Working

GENERAL APPEARANCE: this a large dog, of medium proportions and of sub-long line structure. He is well-balanced, very powerful, and muscular. The bone structure is compact. He has a massive head and is covered with a semi-long coat. Balance and functional harmony are the most important, both when the dog is standing and when he is moving. He is covered with a semi-long coat.

SIZE: There is no upper limit to size. The biggest dogs are the most highly sought after, providing the proportions are correct and harmonious. Minimum height at withers is 30 inches for males and 28 for females. In the most desirable dogs, males will exceed 32 inches and females 30.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The length of the body should exceed the height at the withers. The relation between the length of the skull and that of the muzzle must be 3/2.

COAT: Hair is dense, thick, of medium length, smooth and distributed all over the body down to the interdigital spaces. Two types of coat are distinguished, covering coat on the back and protecting type on the ribcage and the flanks. It is shorter on the legs and longer and silky on the tail. The skin should be elastic, thick, abundant, and pink colored with darker pigmented areas. All mucous membranes must be black.

COLOR: Color is immaterial. The colors most appreciated are the self colored like yellow, fawn, red, black, wolf color, and deer color; also allowed and appreciated are brindle and parti colored and dogs with a white color.

HEAD: Big, strong and shaped like a truncated pyramid with a broad basis. The skull and muzzle, seen from above, must be square and well linked, without a marked diminution of width between the base of the muzzle and the temporal bones..

SKULL: Broad, strong, with a sub-convex muzzle. The width of the skull should be equal to or longer than its length. The frontal sinus is accented, and the occipital crest is marked. The stop is slightly sloping, not very accentuated.

NOSE: Black, wet, big and broad

MUZZLE: Straight nasal bridge. Seen from above, the muzzle appears moderately rectangular, tapering gradually in width towards the nose, but still keeping an appreciable width. It should never be pointed.

LIPS: The upper lip largely covers the lower lip. The lower lip has slack mucous membranes that form a loose labial structure. The mucous membranes must be black.

JAWS/TEETH: Scissor bite with white, solid, sound teeth. Large pointed canines that would assure a good hold on prey. Molars are solid and powerful, with incisors rather small. All premolars should be present. Inside mouth should be black with will marked ridges on the palate.

EYES: Small in comparison to the skull, almond shaped, preferably dark, of hazel color. The look is attentive, noble, soft and intelligent, very hard in the presence of strangers. The lower lid allows a part of the conjunctiva to be seen.

EARS: Of medium size and hanging; triangular, flat. Attached above the eye line. At rest, they hang close to the cheeks, without being too close to the skull. At attention, they come away from the cheeks and are partially pricked in the back part of their top third. They should not be cropped.

NECK: Trunk shaped, broad, solid, well muscled but flexible. The skin is thick and loose. There is a double dewlap that is well developed.

BODY: Body is rectangular, stocky, and robust, showing great power. It should be supple and agile, however.

TOPLINE: Straight, horizontal, including when moving

WITHERS: Well marked

BACK: Powerful, muscled

LLOIN: Long, broad, and powerful; its dimensions decrease down towards the flank

CROUP: Broad and solid. The height at the croup is equal to the height at the withers.

CHEST: the chest is broad, deep, muscled, and powerful. The point of the sternum is marked. Ribs are rounded, not flat.

BELLY & FLANK: Very moderately tucked up with the flank let down and quite ample.

TAIL: Very thick at the root and set at medium height. It is solid, supple, covered with hair longer than that of the rest of the body. It is carried low at rest, reaching the hock, sometimes forming a curve in the last quarter. In motion, the tail is raised in saber fashion, with a curve at the tip, but never curved in all its length, nor carried over the croup.

FOREQUARTERS:

Forelegs are perfectly vertical, straight and parallel when viewed from the front. The length of the forearm should be triple of that of the pastern. The bone structure is solid and powerful.

Shoulder is oblique, very muscular, longer than the forearm. The scapular-humeral angle is near 100 degrees.

Upper arm is strong and of similar length to that of the shoulder blade.

Elbows are close to the thorax. Humeral-radial angle close to 125 degrees.

Pasterns, viewed from the side, are slightly oblique. They are practically an extension of the forearm.

Forefeet are cat feet with toes close, solid, and well arched. Nails and pads are strong and resistant. Membranes between toes are of medium development and covered with hair.

HINDQUARTERS

Powerful, muscular; When limbs are correct, seen from behind and the side, hocks are not deviated; they must be capable of carrying the dog in motion with ease, strength, and elegance.

Thighs are solid and muscular. Femoral-coxal angle nearly 100 degrees.

Stifle has a femur to tibia angle of nearly 120 degrees.

Lower thigh is long and muscular with solid bone structure.

Hocks have an open angle of nearly 130 degrees.

Metatarsus is well marked, with the Achilles tendon clearly visible.

Hind feet are very slightly oval cat feet. Dewclaws, if present, may be single or double.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: The preferred gait is the trot, which must be harmonious, powerful, and with no tendency towards lateral rolling. No ambling

TEMPERAMENT: The Spanish Mastiff is a very intelligent dog whose eyes should reflect that intelligence. He is rustic, affectionate, kind, and noble. He is very determined when facing dangerous animals and in front of strangers. He projects confidence in himself.

FAULTS: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault. The seriousness of the fault should reflect the degree of deviation from the standard.

SLIGHT FAULTS

Roman nose, without excess

Pincer bite, lack of any premolar

Weak top line, having lost its straight line and undulating at motion

Weak pasterns and feet

Timidity that is not too accentuated

SERIOUS FAULTS

Exaggerated, frail, or lethargic appearance

Pointy muzzle

Moderately overshot bite

Absence of various molars or canines that are not the result of accidental origin

Tail resting on the croup

Sway back

Height at the croup noticeably superior to the height at the withers

Incorrect legs, weak or deviated

Lateral displacement of legs when moving

Wavy coat, curly or of excessive length

Unbalanced temperament, timidity or aggressiveness

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Overly aggressive or overly shy

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities

No pigment on nose or mucous membranes

Split nose

Undershot mouth

Excessively overshot

Light eyes

Cryptorchid