

## **MASTIFF**

GROUP: Working

### **SIZE:**

Males, minimum, 30 inches at the shoulder; females, minimum 27½ inches at the shoulder. **Fault: Either below the minimum standard; the farther below the standard, the greater the fault.**

Rectangular, the length of the dog from forechest to rump is somewhat longer than the height at the withers; height of the dog should come from depth of body rather than from length of leg.

Massive, heavy boned, with powerful muscle structure; great depth and breadth desirable. **Fault: lack of substance or slab-sided.**

### **COAT:**

Moderately coarse outer coat; short and close-lying dense undercoat; should not be so long as to produce “fringe” on the belly, tail, or hind legs. **Faults: Long or wavy coat.**

### **COLOR:**

Fawn, apricot, or brindle; fawn may be silver fawn or dark fawn-brindle; fawn-brindle always has fawn as a background color completely covered with very dark stripes; brindle may have fawn or apricot as background color with very dark stripes; muzzle, ears and nose must be dark in color, the blacker the better, with similar color tone around the eye orbits and extending upward between them; small patch of white on chest is permitted. **Faults: Excessive white on chest or white on any other part of body; mask, ears or nose lacking dark pigment.**

### **HEAD:**

The head gives a massive appearance from any angle; breadth is greatly desired; broad skull somewhat rounded between ears; slightly curved forehead showing wrinkles which are most distinctive when dog is at attention; moderately raised brows; well-developed temple muscle; extremely powerful cheek muscles; skull arch is a flattened curve with a furrow up center of forehead extending from between eyes to half-way up the skull; face and muzzle are blunt and cut off square with broad muzzle under the eyes; under the jaw is broad to the end and slightly rounded; well-marked stop, but not too abrupt; distance from nose to stop is equal to one-half distance between the stop and occiput; muzzle is dark in color.

Eyes: Medium size, set wide apart, but never too prominent; showing no haw; brown color, the darker being preferred.

Ears: Small, V-shaped, rounded at tips, set widely apart at highest points on side of skull; moderately thin leather; dark in color, the darker the better, conforming to muzzle color; lying close to the head.

Nose: Broad and dark, the blacker the better, with wide, flat nostrils.

Teeth & bite: Scissors bite or a full complement of strong white teeth; Moderately undershot bite is permissible providing teeth are not visible when mouth is closed.

Muzzle: Should be half the length of the skull, dividing the head into three parts—one for the foreface and two for the skull; i.e., the distance from the tip of the nose to stop is equal to one-half the distance between the stop and the occiput; circumference of muzzle (measured midway between the eyes and nose) to that of the head (measured between the ears) is a ratio of 3 to 5; short, broad under the eyes and running nearly equal in width to end of nose; should be blunt and cut off square, forming a right angle with upper line of face; great depth from point of nose to underjaw; broad underjaw to the end and slightly rounded; dark in color, the darker the better. **Fault: Snipiness of the muzzle.**

### **NECK:**

Slightly arched, powerful, very muscular of medium length; gradually increases in circumference as it approaches the shoulder; moderately “dry,” not showing an excess of loose skin.

**BODY:**

Muscular, straight, and powerful back; viewed from rear, there is a slight rounding over the rump; wide and muscular loins.

Topline: Viewed from side, the topline is straight, level and firm, not swaybacked, roached, or dropping off sharply behind high point of rump.

Chest: Wide, deep, rounded, and well let down between forelegs, extending at least to the elbow; deep, well-defined forechest with breastbone extending in front of foremost point of shoulders; well-rounded ribs with deep false ribs well set back.

Underline: Reasonable, but not exaggerated, tuck-up.

**FOREQUARTERS:**

Moderately sloping shoulders, powerful and muscular, with no tendency to looseness; front angulation matches degree of correct rear angulation; straight legs set wide apart, heavy boned; elbows parallel to body; strong pasterns slightly bent.

**HINDQUARTERS:**

Broad, wide and muscular; well-developed second thighs leading to strong hock joint; moderately angulated stifle joint matching front; rear legs set wide apart and parallel when viewed from rear. ***Fault: Straight stifles.***

Feet: Large, round, and compact with well arched toes; black nails preferred; front dewclaws may be removed; rear dewclaws must be removed.

Tail: Set moderately high and reaching to or little below the hock, tapering to the end and forming a slight curve, but never carried over the back when dog is in action; wide at root and tapering to the end.

**MOVEMENT:**

Gait denotes power and strength with rear legs having drive while forelegs should track smoothly with good reach; legs move straight forward in motion; feet move in toward centerline of body to maintain balance as speed increases from a walk to a trot.

**TEMPERAMENT:**

A combination of grandeur and good nature, courage and docility, exhibiting dignity, rather than gaiety, which is the dog's correct demeanor.

**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 or severe undershot.**

**Lack of correct pigmentation of nose or eyelids.**

**White color except as allowed in standard.**

**Albinism.**