

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Anatolian Shepherd Dog (Herding Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

UTILIZATION:

Shepherd Dog used for guarding sheep. Active breed originally used as a guard dog for sheep; hard working; capable of enduring extremes of heat and cold.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SURVEY

The Anatolian Shepherd is a shepherd's guard dog of ancient lineage, probably descended from the large hunting dogs existing in Mesopotamia. The breed has evolved over the ages to suit a specific set of circumstances. Of these the most formative are the climate - hot and very dry summers, very cold winters - the people's lifestyle - settled, semi and wholly nomad- and the work assigned to the dogs. They guard flocks travelling great distances on the Central Anatolian Plateau. They stay out whatever the weather may be.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Large, upstanding, tall, powerfully built, livestock guarding dog with broad, strong head and dense double coat. Must have size and stamina. Capable of great speed.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

Foreface slightly shorter than skull.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Steady and bold without aggression; naturally independent; very intelligent and tractable. Proud and confident. Loyal and affectionate to owners but wary of strangers when on duty.

HEAD

CRANIAL REGION

Skull: Large but in proportion to body; broad between ears; slightly domed with slight stop. Mature males have broader head than females.

Stop: Slight

Nose: Black, except in livers, where it is brown.

Muzzle: Seen from above almost rectangular. Profile blunt, tapering very slightly to end.

Lips: Very slightly pendulous, black edged. Edge to upper lip not lower than the profile of the underjaw.

Corner of mouth tight.

Jaws/Teeth: Teeth strong, with a perfect scissor bite i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaw. Complete dentition.

Eyes: Rather small in proportion to size of skull, set well apart, deep set, showing no haw. Golden to brown in colour according to coat colour. Eye rims black except in livers.

Ears: Medium sized, triangular in shape, rounded at tip, pendant with front edge close to cheek, higher when alert.

NECK: Slightly arched, powerful, muscular, moderate in length, rather thick. Slight dewlap.

BODY: Powerful, well muscled, never flat sided.

Top line:, Horizontal, slightly arched over loins.

Back: Rather short in proportion to leg length.

Loin: Slightly arched.

Chest: Deep to point of elbow, ribs well sprung, ribcage sufficiently long.

Underline and belly: Belly well tucked up.

Tail: Long, reaching to hock, set on rather high, when relaxed carried low with slight curl; when alert carried high and curled over back, especially by males.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Set well apart straight and well boned; of good length

Shoulders: Well muscled, oblique.

Elbows: Close to sides, free moving.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Strong slightly sloping when viewed from side.

Forefeet: Strong, with thick pads and well arched toes. Nails short.

HINDQUARTERS

General appearance: Powerful, not overloaded with muscles. Hindlegs vertical when seen from rear.

Thigh: Long.

Stifle (Knee): Good turn of stifle.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: Very noticeable level line of body, head and neck when walking; movement even, supple and long reaching, giving impression of stalking, with great power. Pacing acceptable at slow speed.

COAT

Hair: Short or half-long, dense with thick undercoat. Great variations in coat length according to climate. Longer and thicker at neck, shoulders and thighs. The coat tends to be longer in winter.

Colour: All colours acceptable.

SIZE AND WEIGHT

Height at the withers: Males: 74 - 81 cm **Females:** 71 - 79 cm

Weight **Mature Males:** 50 -65 kg

Mature Females: 40 -55 kg.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

SEVERE FAULTS:

Low to ground, heavy and slow, too massive, too light in build,
Flat skull.

Hackney action, mincing gait, stiffness.

Coat too long and hanging.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

Aggressive or overly shy dogs.

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

Overshot or undershot bite.

Muzzle too short (one third of the total length of head)

Coat very short and smooth, devoid of undercoat.

NB:

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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