Mastiff

Take the picture from the KC Breed Std

Official Breed Standard of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Head, in general outline, giving a square appearance when viewed from any point. Breadth ~~greatly~~ desired~~;~~ in ratio to length of whole head and face as 2 : 3. Body massive, broad, deep, long, powerfully built, on legs wide apart and squarely set. Muscles sharply defined. Size ~~a great desideratum~~ is desirable, but only if combined with quality and if absolute soundness is maintained. Height and substance important if both points are proportionately combined.

CHARACTERISTICS

Large, ~~massive,~~ powerful, ~~symmetrical,~~ well knit frame. A combination of grandeur and courage.

TEMPERAMENT

Calm, affectionate to owners but capable of guarding. Usually indifferent with strangers; timidity is unacceptable.

HEAD AND SKULL

Skull broad between ears, forehead flat, but wrinkled when attention is excited. Brows (superciliary ridges) slightly raised. Muscles of temples and cheeks (temporal and masseter) well developed. Arch across skull of a ~~rounded,~~ flattened curve, with depression up centre of forehead from median line between eyes, to halfway up sagittal sature. ~~Face or~~ Muzzle short, broad under eyes, and keeping nearly parallel in width to end of nose; truncated i.e. blunt and cut off squarely, thus forming a right angle with upper line of face, of great depth from point of nose to under-jaw. Under-jaw broad to end. Nose broad, with widely spreading nostrils when viewed from front, flat (not pointed or turned up) in profile. Lips diverging at obtuse angles with septum, and slightly pendulous so as to show a square profile. Length of muzzle to whole head and face as 1 : 3. Circumference of muzzle (measured mid-way between eyes and nose) to that of head (measured before the ears) as 3 : 5. Whilst in repose any exaggeration of wrinkle or excess of loose skin is unacceptable in mature adults.

EYES

~~Small~~ Moderate size, wide apart. ~~divided by at least space of two eyes.~~ Stop between eyes well marked but not too abrupt. Colour hazel brown, darker the better, showing no haw.

Loose eyelids highly undesirable. Free from obvious eye problems.

EARS

Small, thin to touch, wide apart, set on at highest points of sides of skull, so as to continue outline across summit, and lying flat and close to cheeks when in repose.

MOUTH

Canine teeth healthy; powerful and wide apart; incisors level, or lower projecting beyond upper but never so much as to become visible when mouth is closed.

NECK

Slightly arched, moderately long, very muscular, and measuring in circumference about 2.5-5 cms (1-2 ins) less than skull before ears.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder and arm slightly sloping, heavy and muscular. Legs straight, strong and set wide apart; bones being large. Elbows square. Pasterns upright. Balanced and in harmony with hindquarters.

BODY

Chest wide, deep and well let down between the forelegs. Ribs arched and well rounded. False ribs deep and well set back to hips. ~~Girth one-third more than height at shoulder.~~ Back and loins wide and muscular; flat and very wide in bitch, slightly arched in dog. Great depth of flanks. Topline level and maintained whilst on the move. Length of body taken from point of shoulder to point of buttocks greater than height at withers.

HINDQUARTERS

Broad, wide and muscular, with well developed second thighs, hocks bent, wide apart, and quite squarely set when standing or walking. Strength in hindquarters is of paramount importance; cow hocks in mature adults unacceptable.

FEET

Large ~~and~~ round and tight. Toes well arched. Nails black.

TAIL

Set on high, and reaching to hocks, or a little below them, wide at its root and taping to end, hanging straight in repose, but forming a curve with end pointing upwards, but not over back, when dog is excited.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Powerful, easy extension driven from the rear, fluent, sound, with ground-covering strides. Tendency to pace is undesirable. Absolute soundness essential.

COAT

Short and close-lying, but ~~not too fine~~ coarser over neck and shoulders. ~~neck and back.~~

COLOUR

Apricot-fawn, ~~silver-fawn, fawn~~ or ~~dark fawn-~~brindle. In any case, muzzle, ears and nose should be black with black ~~round orbits~~ around eye rims and extending upwards between them. Excessive white on body, chest or feet is unacceptable.

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 on health ~~&~~ and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE

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

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