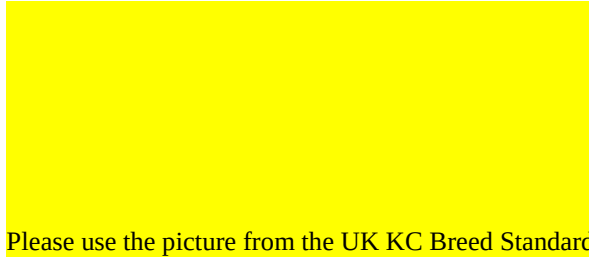


Pyrenean Mountain Dog



Please use the picture from the UK KC Breed Standard

Official Breed Standard of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A powerful and imposing dog with a certain elegance. Great size, strongly built but not cumbersome. Well balanced and of noble bearing.

CHARACTERISTICS

A natural guard dog protecting shepherd and sheep.

TEMPERAMENT

Quietly confident. Nervousness and unprovoked aggression highly undesirable.

HEAD AND SKULL

Strong head without coarseness, not too large in relation to size of dog. Skull curved when viewed from front and sides. Breadth at widest point about equal to length from occiput to stop. Head as viewed from above forms a blunt 'v' shape, well filled in below the eyes. Sides nearly flat and of good depth. No obvious stop or excessively protruding eyebrow ridges; only a slight furrow, so that skull and muzzle are joined by a gentle slope. Strong muzzle, medium length, slight taper near tip. Black nose and eye rims. Liver or pink pigmentation highly undesirable.

EYES

Almond-shaped, dark amber-brown. Close-fitting eyelids set somewhat obliquely, bordered with black. Drooping lower eyelids undesirable. Intelligent and contemplative expression.

EARS

Fairly small, triangular, rounded tips. Root level with eyes. Normally lie flat against head, may be slightly raised when alert.

MOUTH

Complete dentition, healthy, strong and even. Scissor bite correct i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws, but pincer bite tolerated. Two central lower incisors may be set a little deeper than others. Close-fitting lips, upper just covering lower. Roof of mouth and lips black or heavily marked with black.

NECK

Strong, fairly short. Little or no dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Powerful shoulders lying close to body. Medium angulation between shoulder blade and upper arm. Forelegs straight, strongly boned, well muscled. Elbows not too close to chest, nor too far off, giving adequate width of stance and free-striding movement. Pasterns flexible without weakness.

BODY

Broad chest reaching just below elbows; sides slightly rounded, ribcage extended well to rear.

Good length back, broad, muscular, straight, level. Dogs usually have more pronounced waist than bitches, giving greater curve to lower body.

HINDQUARTERS

Broad, muscular loins, fairly prominent haunches, slightly sloping rump, topline curving smoothly into tail. Strong, well muscled thighs tapering to strong hocks. Stifle and hock of medium angulation seen from side. Strongly made double dewclaws on each hindleg; lack of this identifying characteristic totally undesirable. The hindfeet may turn out slightly but legs themselves must be straight.

FEET

Short and compact, toes slightly arched, strong nails.

TAIL

Thick at root, tapering gradually towards tip, preferably slightly curled; reaching below hocks, thickly coated with fairly long hair forming attractive plume. Carried low in repose, with tip turned slightly to one side. Tail rises as dog becomes interested; curled high above back in a circle if fully alert.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Very free, unflagging and never ponderous. Unhurried, driven by powerful hindquarters. Moving well within its capacity, yet able to produce bursts of speed. Tends to pace at slow speeds.

COAT

Profuse undercoat of very fine hairs; outer coat longer, coarser-textured, thick, lying flat and straight or slightly wavy. ~~never curly or fuzzy~~. Longer towards tail and forming mane round neck and shoulders. Forelegs fringed.

Long, very dense woollier hair on rear of thighs giving pantaloons effect. Bitches tend to be smoother-coated than dogs and have less developed mane.

COLOUR

White

- (a) **White**
- (b) White with patches of badger, wolf-grey, paler shades of lemon, orange or tan. The colour patches may be on the head, ears or base of tail and a few permissible on body. Other colours undesirable.
Black patches going right down to the roots highly undesirable.

SIZE

Minimum shoulder height: Dogs: 70 cms (27½ ins); Bitches: 65 cms (25½ ins).

Most will considerably exceed this; great size is essential provided type and character are retained. Minimum weight: Dogs: 50 kgs (110 lbs); Bitches: 40 kgs (88 lbs).

These weights apply only to specimens of minimum height, taller ones should be heavier.

Weight always in proportion to height, giving a powerful dog of great strength but excess weight due to fat undesirable.

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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