KUSA

Official Breed Standard

# Italian Pointing Dog (Gundog 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.*

## **ITALIAN POINTING DOG** (Bracco Italiano)

(Effective 31.03.2016)

**UTILIZATION**:
Pointing dog.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY**:
This dog of ancient Italian origin used for bird hunting has modelled itself and developed over the ages; from the hunting of yesteryear by means of nets, he has adapted himself to the present hunting and shooting. Frescoes from the 14th century are proof of the indisputable timelessness of the Italian pointer over the centuries, whether either regarding his morphology or his aptitudes at hunting as a pointing dog.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE**:
Of strong and harmonious construction, powerful appearance. The preferred subjects are those with lean limbs, well developed muscles, well defined lines with a markedly sculpted head and a very obvious lower orbital chiselling, elements which all contribute to give distinction to this breed.

**IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS**:
Length of the body is the same or a little more than the height at the withers. Length of head is equal to 4/10 of the height at the withers; its width, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches, is less than half its length. Skull and muzzle are of equal length.

**BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT**:
Tough and adapted to all types of hunting, reliable, endowed with an excellent ability to understand, docile and easy to train.

**HEAD**:
Angular and narrow at the level of the zygomatic arches; its length corresponds to 4/10 of the height at the withers; the middle of its length is at the level of a line which unite the inner angles of both eyes. The upper longitudinal axes of the skull and muzzle are divergent, i.e. if extending the top line of the muzzle, this one must emerge in front of the occipital protuberance, ideally at mid-length of the skull.

CRANIAL REGION:
Skull: Seen in profile, the skull is in the shape of a very open arch. Seen from the top, it forms lengthwise an elongated ellipse. The width of the skull, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches, should not exceed half of the length of the head. The bulge of the forehead and the supraorbital ridges are perceptible. The frontal groove is visible and ends at mid-length of the skull. The interparietal crest is short and not very prominent. The occipital protuberance is pronounced.
Stop: Not pronounced.

FACIAL REGION:
Nose: Voluminous, with large well opened nostrils, protrudes slightly over the lips with which it forms an angle. Colour: More or less pink to flesh-colour or brown, depending on the colour of the coat.
Muzzle: Foreface either slightly arched or straight. Its length is equal to half of the length of the head and its depth measures 4/5 of its length. Seen from the front, the lateral sides of the muzzle converge slightly, still presenting a foreface of good width. The chin not very apparent.
Lips: Upper lips well developed, thin and floppy without being flaccid, covering the jaw; seen in profile, they overlap the lower jaw slightly. Seen from the front, they form an inverted « V » below the nose; the corner of the lips must be marked without being droopy.
Jaws/Teeth: Dental arches well adapted, with the teeth square to the jaw; scissor bite - pincer bite is also acceptable.
Cheeks: Lean.
Eyes: Semi-lateral position with a soft and submissive expression, neither deep set nor prominent. Eyes fairly large, eyelids oval shaped and close fitting (no entropion or ectropion). The iris is of a more or less dark ochre or brown colour depending on the coat colour.
Leathers: Well developed, in length they should, without being stretched, reach the tip of the nose. Their width is at least equal to half their length; raised only very slightly; base rather narrow, set rather backwards at level of zygomatic arches; a supple ear with a front rim well turned inwards and really close to the cheek is appreciated; the lower extremity of the ear ends in a slightly rounded tip.

**NECK**:
Powerful, in truncated cone shape, length not less than 2/3 of the length of the head, well detached from the nape. The throat shows a soft double dewlap.

**BODY**:
Topline: The upper profile of the back is made up of two lines: one, almost straight, slopes from the withers to the 11th dorsal vertebra; the other is slightly arched, joining with the line of the rump.
Withers: Well defined, with the points of the shoulder-blades well separated.
Loin: Wide lumbar region, muscled, short and slightly convex.
Croup: Long (about 1/3 of the height at the withers), broad and well muscled; the ideal pelvic angulation (angle formed by the pelvic girdle with a horizontal line) is 30°. Pelvis wide.
Chest: Broad, deep and well let down to level of elbows, without forming a keel, with well sprung ribs, particularly in their lower part, and sloping.
Underline: Lower profile almost horizontal in its ribcage part, rising slightly in its abdominal part.

**TAIL**:
Thick at the base, straight, with a slight tendency to taper; hair short. When the dog is in action and especially when questing, is carried horizontally or nearly like that. Should be docked at 15-25 cm from the root.

**LIMBS**
FOREQUARTERS:
Shoulders: Strong, well muscled, long and sloping, very free in their movement.
Upper arm: Sloping, fitting to the ribcage.
Elbow: The point of the elbow should be on perpendicular line from the rear point of the shoulder-blade to the ground.
Forearm: Strong, straight, with strong and well marked sinews.
Pasterns: Well proportioned, lean, of good length and slightly sloping.
Front feet: Strong, slightly oval shaped; well arched and tight toes, with strong nails well curved towards the ground. Colour of nails is white, yellow or brown, of a more or less dark shade depending on the colour of the coat; pads elastic and lean.

HINDQUARTERS:
Upper thigh: Long, parallel, muscular, with a rear edge almost straight.
Lower thigh: Strong.
Hocks: Wide.
Metatarsus: Relatively short and lean.
Hind feet: With all the characteristics of the front feet; they have dewclaws, the absence of which is not a fault. Double dewclaw is tolerated.
**GAIT / MOVEMENT**:

Extended and fast trot, with powerful impulsion from the hindquarters; head raised, nose held high in such a way that, when hunting, the nose is higher than the topline.

**SKIN**:
Tough but elastic; finer on the head, the throat, the armpits and on the lower parts of the body.
The visible mucous membranes must be of a corresponding colour with the coat, but never show black spots. The mucous membranes of the mouth are pink; in the roans or white and chestnut coloured dogs they sometimes show brown or pale chestnut spotting.

**COAT**
HAIR: Short, dense and glossy, finer and shorter on the head, the ears, front part of the legs and feet.

COLOUR:
- White.
- White with patches of varied size of an orange or more or less dark amber colour.
- White with more or less large chestnut patches.
- White speckled with pale orange (melato).
- White speckled with chestnut (roano-marrone). In this last combination, a metallic sheen is appreciated, and a warm shade of chestnut is preferred, recalling the colour of a monk's frock. A symmetrical facial mask is preferred, but the absence of a mask is tolerated.

**SIZE AND WEIGHT**:
Height at the withers: Between 55 and 67 cm.
Preferred size for males: 58 - 67 cm.
Preferred size for females: 55 - 62 cm.
Weight: Between 25 and 40 kg depending on size.

**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.

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS**:
- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- Convergence of cranial-facial axes.
- Split nose.
- Accentuated undershot mouth, overshot mouth.
- Wall eye.
- Coat black, white and black, tricolour, fawn, hazel, unicolor, with tan markings.
- Absence of pigmentation (Albinism).
- Mucous membranes, skin and annexes with traces of black.
- Size of 2 cm above or below the limits indicated in the standard.

**N.B.**:
- 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.

**Copyright FCI 07/08/1998 – Reprinted with permission**

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

FCI-Standard N° 202 (Gp7)
Fedco 12-2015/NP/Updated 02/2016

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 31-03-2016