

THAI RIDGEBACK DOG

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 31/03/2016

ORIGIN

Thailand.

UTILISATION

Hunting and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Thai Ridgeback Dog is an old breed that can be seen in the archeological documents in Thailand that were written about 360 years ago. It was used mainly for hunting in the eastern part of Thailand. People also used it to escort their carts and as a watch dog. The reason why it has kept its own original type for so many years is due to poor transportation systems in the eastern part of Thailand; it had fewer chances to crossbreed with other breeds.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium-sized dog with short hair forming a ridge along the back. The body is slightly longer than its height at withers. Muscles are well-developed, and its anatomical structure is suitable for activities.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Length of body: Height at the withers = 11 : 10
- Depth of chest : Height at the withers = 1 : 2

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Tough and active with excellent jumping ability. A loyal family dog.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: The skull is flat between the ears but slightly rounded when seen from the side.

Stop: Clearly defined, but moderate.

Facial Region:

Forehead: Wrinkles when the dog is attentive.

Nose: Black. In blue dogs, the nose is bluish.

Nasal bridge: Straight and long.

Muzzle: Wedge-shaped, slightly shorter than skull.

Lips: Tight with good pigmentation.

Mouth: Black marking on the tongue is preferable.

Jaws and teeth: Upper and lower jaws are strong. Teeth white and strong with scissors bite.

Eyes:

Medium-sized and almond-shaped. The eye colour is dark brown. In blues, amber-coloured eyes are permitted.

Ears:

Set-on sides of the skull. Medium-sized, triangular, inclining forward and firmly pricked. Not cropped.

NECK

Medium length, strong, muscular, slightly arched, and holding head high.

BODY

Back: Strong and level

Loin: Strong and broad.

Croup: Moderately sloping.

Chest: Deep enough to reach the elbows. The ribs are well-sprung, but not barrel-shaped.

Underline and belly: The belly is well tucked-up.

TAIL

Thick at base with gradual tapering toward the tip. The tip can reach hock joints. Carried vertically and slightly curved.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Well laid back.

Forearm: Straight.

Metacarpus (pastern): Straight when seen from the front and very slightly sloping when seen from the side.

Hindquarters:

Upper thigh: Well-developed with well-bent stifles.

Hock joint: Strong and well let down

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Straight and parallel when seen from the rear.

FEET

Forefeet: Oval. Nails black but can be lighter depending on coat colour.

Hind feet: Oval.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Reachy stride with no pitching or rolling of the body. Parallel tracking at normal speed. When viewed from the front, the forelegs move up and down in straight lines so that the shoulder, elbow, and pastern joints are approximately in line with each other. When viewed from the rear, the stifle and hip joints are approximately in line. Movement in a straight line forward without throwing the feet in or out; thus enabling the stride to be long and drive powerful. The overall appearance of the moving dog is one of smooth, flowing, and well-balanced rhythm.

SKIN

Soft, fine, and tight. Throat: no dewlap.

COAT

Hair short and smooth. The ridge on the top region is formed by the hair growing in the opposite direction to the rest of the coat. It should be clearly defined from other parts of the back. There are various shapes and lengths of ridge, but must be symmetrical on either side of the backbone and within the width of the back. Crowns or whirls at the head of the ridge are acceptable.

COLOUR

- Solid colour: red, black, blue, and very light fawn (isabella).

* Black mask is preferable in reds.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 56cm – 61cm (approx. 22" – 24").

Females: 51cm – 56cm (approx. 20" – 22").

There is a tolerance of plus or minus 2.5cm (approx. 1").

***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.*

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, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- Any bite other than scissors bite.
- Unbalanced ridge.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Dogs without ridge
- Long hair.

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FCI Standard No 338: THAI RIDGEBACK DOG

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types.

Section 7. Primitive Type – Hunting Dogs.

Without working trial.