



GROUP III: WORKING DOGS

MASTIFF

RECOGNIZED: 1889

Effective: January 2004

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Large, massive, symmetrical, and well-knit frame. A combination of grandeur and good nature, courage and docility.

SIZE

Minimum height at the withers: Dogs, 76.25 cm (30 in); bitches, 69.75 cm (27.5 in)

COAT

Outercoat moderately coarse. Undercoat dense, short and close-lying.

COLOUR

Apricot, silver fawn or dark fawn brindle. Fawn brindle should have fawn as a background colour, which should be completely covered with very dark stripes. In any case, muzzle, ears and nose must be dark in colour, the blacker the better, with similar colour tone around the orbits, extending upwards between them.

HEAD

In general outline giving a massive appearance when viewed from any angle. Breadth greatly to be desired. **Skull:** Broad and somewhat rounded between the ears, forehead slightly curved, showing marked wrinkles, which are particularly distinctive when at attention. Brows (superciliary ridges) moderately raised. Muscles of the temples well developed, those of the cheeks extremely powerful. Arch across the skull a flattened curve with a furrow up the centre of the forehead. This extends from between the eyes to halfway up the skull. **Muzzle:** Short, broad under the eyes and running nearly equal in width to the end of the nose. Truncated – i.e., blunt and cut off square, thus forming a right angle with the upper line of the face. Of great depth from the point of the nose to underjaw. Underjaw broad to the end and slightly rounded. Lips diverging at obtuse angles with the septum and sufficiently pendulous so as to show a modified square profile. Muzzle dark in colour, the blacker the better. Muzzle should be half the length of the skull, thus dividing the head into three parts – one for the foreface and two for the skull. In other words, the distance from tip of nose to stop is equal to one-half the distance between the stop and the occiput. Circumference of muzzle (measured midway between the eyes and nose) to that of the head (measured before the ears) as 3 is to 5. **Nose:** Broad and always dark in colour, the blacker the better, with spread, flat nostrils (not pointed or turned up) in profile. **Mouth:** Canine teeth healthy, powerful and wide apart. Scissors bite preferred but a moderately undershot jaw permissible providing the teeth are not visible when the mouth is closed. **Eyes:** Set wide apart, medium in size, never too prominent. Expression alert but kindly. The stop between the eyes well marked but not too abrupt. Colour of eyes brown, the darker the better and showing no haw. **Ears:** Small, V-shaped, rounded at the tips. Leather moderately thin, set widely apart at the highest points on the sides of the skull continuing the outline across the summit. They should lie close to the cheeks when in repose. Ears dark in colour, the blacker the better, conforming to the colour of the muzzle.

NECK

Powerful and very muscular, slightly arched, and of medium length. The neck gradually increases in circumference as it approaches the shoulder. Neck moderately “dry” (not showing an excess of loose skin).

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder: Slightly sloping, heavy and muscular. No tendency to looseness of shoulders. **Legs:** Straight, strong and set wide apart, heavy bones. **Elbows:** Parallel to body. **Pasterns:** Strong and bent only slightly. **Feet:** Heavy, round and compact with well-arched toes. Black nails preferred.

BODY

Back: Muscular, powerful and straight. **Chest:** Wide, deep, rounded, and well let down between the forelegs, extending at least to the elbow. **Forechest** should be deep and well defined. **Ribs:** Extremely well rounded. False ribs deep and well set back. **Loins:** Wide and muscular, slightly rounded over the rump. There should be a reasonable, but not exaggerated, cutup.

HINDQUARTERS

Hindquarters broad, wide and muscular. Second thighs well developed, hocks set back, wide apart and parallel when viewed from the rear.

TAIL

Set on moderately high and reaching to the hocks or a little below. Wide at the root, tapering to the end, hanging straight in repose, forming a slight curve but never over the back when dog is in action.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed’s traditional purpose.

SCALE OF POINTS

General character and symmetry.....	10
Height and substance	10
Skull	10
Face and muzzle.....	12
Ears	5
Eyes.....	5
Chest and ribs.....	10
Forelegs and feet.....	10
Back, loins and flanks	10
Hind legs and feet.....	10
Tail.....	3
Coat and colour.....	5

TOTAL **100**