



GROUP II: HOUNDS

SHIKOKU

RECOGNIZED: 2020

Effective: January 2021

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.

ORIGIN & PURPOSE

This breed goes back to medium-sized dogs that existed in Japan in ancient times. The Shikoku was bred as a hunting dog, mainly for hunting boar and deer in the mountainous districts of Kochi Prefecture. It is sometimes called “Kochi-ken” (ken = dog). The breed took on the name of the region and was designated as a “natural monument” in 1937.

A study in the 1930s conducted by Japanese cynologist Harvo Isogai classified native Japanese dog breeds into three categories: large, medium and small sized.

These dogs are tough and sufficiently agile to run through a mountainous region and are often referred to as deerhounds. They are characterized by their sesame-coloured coats.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A medium-sized dog with well-balanced and well-developed clean-cut muscles. It has pricked ears and a curled or sickle tail. *Conformation:* Strong, well-boned and compact. *Important proportions:* The ratio of height at withers to length of body is 10:11.

TEMPERAMENT

A dog of marked endurance, keen in sense with a naive feeling, energetic and highly alert; an enthusiastic hunter; docile towards his master.

SIZE

Height at withers: Dogs, 52 cm (20.5 in); bitches, 46 cm (18 in)

There is a tolerance of + 3 cm (1.25 in)

COAT

Outer coat rather harsh and straight, undercoat soft and dense. The hair on the tail is rather long.

COLOUR

Sesame, black sesame, and red sesame. Definition of the colour sesame:

Sesame: Equal mixture of white and black hairs

Black sesame: More black than white hairs

Red sesame: Ground colour of hair red, mixture with black hairs

HEAD

Skull: Forehead broad. **Stop:** Shallow, but defined. **Nose:** Black. **Muzzle:** Rather long, wedge-shaped. Nasal bridge straight. **Lips:** Tight. **Jaws/teeth:** Teeth strong, with a scissors bite. **Cheeks:** Well developed. **Eyes:** Relatively small, triangular, set well apart, dark brown in colour. **Ears:** Small, triangular, slightly inclining forward and firmly pricked.

NECK

Thick and powerful.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders: Moderately sloping with developed muscles. **Elbows:** Set close to the body. **Forearms:** Straight and clean-cut. **Pasterns:** Slightly inclining.

BODY

Withers: High, well developed. **Back:** Straight and strong. **Loins:** Broad and muscular. **Chest:** Deep, ribs well sprung. **Belly:** Well tucked up.

HINDQUARTERS

Powerful, with muscles well developed. **Hocks:** Moderately angulated and very tough. **Feet:** Tightly closed with well-arched toes. Pads hard and elastic. Nails hard and black or dark in colour.

TAIL

Set on high, thick and carried over the back vigorously curled or curved like a sickle. The tip nearly reaches the hocks when let down.

GAIT

Resilient, with rather narrow strides, but light. Action is quick and turning is possible.

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.

- Bitchy dogs, doggy bitches
- Slightly overshot or undershot mouth
- Long hair
- Shyness

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Aggressive or overly shy
- Extremely overshot or undershot bite
- Ears not pricked
- Hanging tail, short tail
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities

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