

Anatolian Shepherd Dog

Origin & Purpose

The Anatolian Shepherd is a shepherd's guard dog of ancient lineage, probably descended from the large hunting dogs existing in Mesopotamia. Over the ages, the breed has evolved to suit a specific set of circumstances; guarding flocks traveling great distances on the Central Anatolian Plateau; staying out whatever the weather may be.

An active breed originally used as a guard dog for sheep; hard working; capable of enduring extremes of heat and cold.

General Appearance

Large, upstanding, tall, powerfully built, livestock guarding dog with broad strong head and dense double coat. Must have size and stamina. Capable of great speed. Foreface slightly shorter than skull.

Temperament

Steady and bold without aggression, naturally independent, very intelligent and tractable. Proud and confident. Loyal and affectionate to owners, but wary of strangers when mature.

Size

Height:

Dogs 74-81 cm (29-32 inches) at the shoulders

Bitches 71-79 cm (28-31 inches) at the shoulders

Weight:

Mature dogs 50-65 kg (110-145 lbs)

Mature bitches 40-55 kg (85-120 lbs)

Coat & Colour

Coat

Hair: Short or mid-length, dense, with thick undercoat. Great variations in length according to climate. Longer and thicker at neck, shoulders and thighs. The coat tends to be longer in winter.

Colour

All colours acceptable

Head

Skull: Large, but in proportion to the body, broad between ears, slightly domed, with slight stop. Mature males have broader head than females. **Foreface:** Seen from above almost rectangular. Profile blunt, tapering very slightly to end. **Nose:** Black, except in livers, where it is brown. **Lips:** Very slightly pendulous, black-edged. Edge of upper lip not lower than the profile of the underjaw. Tight lip-corners. **Eyes:** Rather small in proportion to size of skull, set well apart, deep set, showing no haw. Golden to brown in colour according to coat colour. Eye rims black except in livers. **Ears:** Medium sized, triangular in shape, rounded at tip, pendant with front edge close to cheek, higher when alert. **Mouth:** Teeth strong, with a perfect scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaw. Complete dentition.

Neck

Slightly arched, powerful, muscular, moderate in length, rather thick. Slight dewlap.

Forequarters

Shoulders: Well muscled, oblique. Forelegs: Set well apart, straight and well boned; of good length. Elbows: Close to sides, free moving. Pasterns: Strong, slightly sloping when viewed from side.

Body

Powerful, well muscled, never fat. Topline: Rather short in proportion to leg length, horizontal, slightly arched over loins. Underline: With the belly well tucked up. Chest: Deep to point of elbow, ribs well sprung, ribcage sufficiently long.

Hindquarters

Powerful, not overloaded with muscles. Hindlegs vertical when seen from rear. Thighs: Long. Stifle: Good turn of stifle. Feet: Strong, with thick pads and well arched toes. Nails short.

Tail

Long, reaching to hock, set on rather high, when relaxed carried low with slight curl; when alert carried high and curled over back, especially by males.

Gait

Very noticeable level line of body, head and neck when walking; movement even, supple and long reaching, giving impression of stalking, with great power. Pacing acceptable at slow speed. Mincing or hackney action highly undesirable.

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault

Note:

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

