



## Canaan Dog

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

A medium sized, well balanced, strong and square dog resembling the wild dog type. Strong distinction between the sexes.

### Head

Well proportioned, blunt wedge shape of medium length, appearing broader due to low set ears. **Skull** somewhat flattened. Some width allowed in powerful male heads. Stop shallow but defined. **Muzzle** sturdy, of moderate length and breadth. Jaws should be strong. **Lips** tight. **Nose** black. **Ears** erect, relatively short and broad, slightly rounded at the tip and set low. **Eyes** dark brown, slightly slanted, almond shaped. Dark rims essential. **Mouth** full dentition with scissors or level bite.

### Neck

Muscular, of medium length.

### Body

Square, withers well developed, back level, loins muscular, chest deep and of moderate breadth, ribs well sprung. Belly well tucked up. Moderate angulation. Balance is essential.

### Forequarters

The shoulder should be oblique and muscular, elbows close to the body. Forelegs perfectly straight.

### Hindquarters

Powerful, well bent stifles. Hocks well let down. Strong buttocks, lightly feathered.

### Feet

Strong, round and catlike with hard pads.

### Tail

Set high, thick brush carried curled over the back.

### Coat

Outer coat dense, harsh and straight, of short to medium length. Undercoat close and profuse.

### Colour

Sand to red-brown, white, black, or spotted with or without mask. If masked, mask must be symmetrical. Black mask permitted on all colours. White markings are permitted on all colours; “Boston Terrier” patterns are common. Grey, brindle, black-and-tan, or tricolour are unacceptable. Desert colours and gold, red, cream are most typical of the breed.



### **Weight and Size**

**Height** 50-60 cm ( 19 ½-23 ½ in), males may be considerably larger than females.

**Weight** 18–25 kg (40-55 lb)

### **Gait**

Quick, light and energetic trot. Should demonstrate marked agility and stamina. Correct movement is essential.

### **Character**

Alert, quick to react, distrustful of strangers, strongly defensive but not naturally aggressive. Vigilant not only against man but other animals as well. Extraordinarily devoted and amenable to training.

### **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. All faults in body structure which constitute a deviation from the norm of a well-built dog; anything that would detract from his potential for survival as a desert animal.

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

Breed Name: Canaan Dog  
Year of Recognition: 1992  
Effective Date: January 2004