



GROUP III: WORKING DOGS

CANAAN DOG

RECOGNIZED: 1992

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

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

TEMPERAMENT

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.

SIZE

Height: 50 to 60 cm (19.75 to 23.5 in). Dogs may be considerably larger than bitches.

Weight: 18 to 25 kg (39.75 to 55 lb)

COAT

Outercoat 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 and cream are most typical of the breed.

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.

FOREQUARTERS

The **shoulder** should be oblique and muscular. **Elbows:** Close to the body. **Forelegs:** Perfectly straight.

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.

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.

GAIT

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

FAULTS

All deviations from the standard of the breed. 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.