



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

MUDI

RECOGNIZED: 2020

Effective: July 2026

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

The breed came into being during the 18th to the 19th century from cross breeding Hungarian herding dogs with various prick-eared German herding dogs. Because of his courageous disposition, he is very popular with the shepherds for the use in herding large and difficult livestock. He is even used for the hunting of wild boar. Excellent guard and companion dog.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium-sized herding dog with a wedge-shaped head. Prick ears. Body topline is distinctly sloping towards the rear. The head and the limbs are covered by short, smooth coat. The other parts of the body have a somewhat longer, very wavy to slightly curly coat. There are different variations of colour.

TEMPERAMENT

The Mudi is extremely able to learn, of lively temperament, courageous, watchful, keen to work, alert and adaptable.

SIZE

Height at the withers:

Dogs, 41 to 47 cm (16.25 to 18.5 in); ideal height 43 to 45 cm (17 to 17.75 in)

Bitches, 38 to 44 cm (15 to 17.25 in); ideal height 40 to 42 cm (15.75 to 16.5 in)

COAT

Hair: Head and front of limbs are covered by short, straight and smooth hair. On other parts of the body, the coat is uniformly very wavy or slightly curled. It is dense and always shiny, about 3 to 7 cm (1.25 to 2.75 in) long. At some spots, cowlicks and ridges are formed. The coat is longest on the back of the forearms, the upper thighs and the underside of the tail, where it forms pronounced featherings. **Skin:** Tight, without wrinkles.

COLOUR

White, fawn (from beige to red), black, ash (blue), brown, ash brown (diluted brown/Isabella) and Cifra (merle) – i.e., pigmented patterns of the above-mentioned colours diluted by the merle factor. Small-sized white markings are tolerated but not desired. A white patch on the chest, less than 5 cm (2 in) in diameter, and small white markings on the toes are tolerated but not desired.

HEAD

The most breed typical part of the Mudi is undoubtedly the head. To the observer it should give the impression of an alert, always energetic, cheerful and intelligent animal without any trace of timidity or aggressiveness. The head is wedge-shaped, tapering evenly towards the nose. Important proportions (ratios): Length of head to height at withers is 4-4.5:10. Length of muzzle to length of head is 4:10. Width of head to length of head: 6:10. **Skull:** Skull and forehead are slightly domed. Occiput not pronounced. Superciliary ridges only slightly developed. **Stop:** Barely pronounced. **Nose:** Narrow, rounded at front with moderately wide nostrils. Colour is black, except for liver (brown), ash liver and its merle varieties, nose colour is brown; for ash (blue grey) and its merle varieties, nose colour is blue; for fawn and white, black nose is favourable but blue and brown is accepted. **Muzzle:** Moderately strong. Bridge of nose straight. **Lips:** Tight-fitting to the teeth. Corner of mouth slightly jagged. The lip pigment corresponds with the pigment of the nose leather. **Jaws/teeth:** Complete scissors bite according to the dentition formula. Regular teeth of medium size. **Eyes:** Almond-shaped and set slightly oblique. The eyes should be as dark as possible. For merle colours, partially or solid blue eye colour is not a fault. Rims of lids are tight, close-fitting to the eyeball and evenly pigmented. **Ears:** High-set prick ears which are of a reverse V-shape and covered with abundant hair reaching beyond the edges of the external ears. The response of the ears to stimulation is very lively. The dog can turn the ears independently of each other like a radar screen. Important proportions: Length of ears to length of head is 4.5:10. Ears are approximately 10-15% longer than their width at the base.

NECK

The slightly high-set neck forms an angle of 50° to 55° to the horizontal. It is of medium length, barely arched and well muscled. Without dewlap or pronounced neck ruff. In male dogs there can be a barely developed mane; this must, however, never be noticeable.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders: The shoulder blade is moderately sloping and well muscled. The forechest is curved, the point of the sternum only slightly protruding. **Upper arm:** Of medium length. At 45° with the horizontal. **Elbows:** Close-fitting to the body. **Carpal joint:** Firm, dry. **Pastern:** Steep. **Forefeet:** Round and well-knit toes. Little hair between and under the toes. Pad springy. Nails slate grey and hard.

BODY

Important proportions: The Mudi is slightly (about 3-5%) longer than tall. The ratio of the brisket to the height at the withers is 3:10. The ratio of the width of the chest to the height at the withers is 3:10. **Topline:** Slightly sloping towards croup. **Withers:** Pronounced. **Back:** Straight, medium length. **Loins:** Short. Firmly coupled. **Croup:** Short, very slightly sloping, of medium breadth, muscular. **Chest:** Forechest slightly curved, reaching the elbows. Ribs somewhat broad and rather flat. **Underline:** Slightly tucked up.

HINDQUARTERS

The hind legs are only slightly overstretched beyond the rear. **Upper thigh:** Long, well muscled. **Metatarsus:** Short and steep. **Hind feet:** Like front feet. Dewclaws may be removed.

TAIL

Set on at medium height. In repose, hanging, with lower third raised almost to horizontal. When alert and during active movement, the tail is carried in sickle shape, above the topline. Docking of tail is undesirable but is not regarded as a fault. If the tail is docked, two or three of the tail vertebrae must be visibly left. Dogs born without or with a natural stump tail are rare; this is not regarded as a fault. The tail is abundantly coated; the hair on the underside can even be 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 in) long.

GAIT

The Mudi's characteristic movements are mincing steps, with a vigorous trot.

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.

Serious Faults:

- Deviation from the proportions and sizes recorded in the standard
- Toy characteristics (short head, round skull, strong stop, round eyes)

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Aggressive or overly shy
- Spotted or flesh-coloured nose leather (except for a small amount of spotting in merle colours)
- A bite other than a scissors bite. Absence of any other teeth, except up to four missing P1 and/or M3 is permissible.
- Yellow eyes in black dogs
- Drop ears
- Short, smooth, flat coat on the body; long hair on the head. Coat tending towards matting.
- Wire hair

