



GROUP III: WORKING DOGS

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN VLČIAK

RECOGNIZED: N/A

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 primary purpose of the original breedings was to create a dog suitable to the climate of the region, with increased awareness for border patrol and security. Dogs that were suspicious and sharp were the temperamental preference in the military-only-use years.

The breed originated from a biological experiment in 1955 within the former Czechoslovakia, where German Shepherds were crossed with Carpathian wolves to create a dog suited for border patrol and security in the region's harsh climate. The goal was to combine the wolf's strength and endurance with the trainability of a German Shepherd. The first successful litter was born in 1958, and by the third and fourth generations, these hybrids were utilized by the military for their sharp instincts and capacity for training.

The development of the breed continued through the 1960s and 70s, with further crossings and careful selection to unify the breed's traits. A third wolf, Sarik, was introduced to enhance the population, and the breed eventually gained recognition under the name Czechoslovakian Wolfdog. Despite initial resistance from kennel organizations, the breed was officially recognized in 1982.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Bred as an all-purpose military dog, the Czechoslovakian Vlčiak is known for its wolf-like appearance. The breed is alert, intelligent and loyal, with exceptional eyesight, endurance and olfactory abilities. Its flexible, narrow chest and lithe build allow for efficient movement, including long-distance trotting and powerful leaps. Males are distinctly masculine, and females are feminine. The breed has a natural size range but should always appear balanced. The overall conformation should suggest depth and solidity without bulkiness, emphasizing wolf-like strength, endurance and agility.

TEMPERAMENT

The Czechoslovakian Vlčiak is a lively, alert and intelligent breed, known for its quick reactions and independent thinking. This breed excels in scent work, tracking, guarding and rescue. Fearless and courageous, they can be wary of strangers but are deeply loyal to their owners. **Faults:** Excessive timidity with a tendency to flee.

SIZE

Height at the withers: Dogs, at least 65 cm (25.5 in); bitches, at least 60 cm (23.5 in)

Weight: Dogs, at least 26 kg (57.25 lb); bitches, at least 20 kg (44 lb)

COAT

The skin is elastic and tight, without wrinkles or dark pigment. The coat is straight and close, with a significant difference between the winter and summer coats. In winter, a dense undercoat combines with the upper coat to

cover the entire body, including the abdomen, upper thighs, inner ear, scrotum and between the toes. The neck is well-furred.

COLOUR

The coat can be yellow grey, brown grey, silver grey, dark grey, or sable, with a characteristic light mask on the lower face and under the chin. Light hair also appears on the underside of the neck and chest.

HEAD

The head is symmetrical, forming a well-muscled blunt wedge when viewed from the side and above. The sex of the dog should be distinguishable. **Eyes:** Small, slanting, with colour ranging from amber to yellow. Lined with black, tight-fitting rims. **Ears:** Pricked, thin, triangular and short, set moderately wide with the outer corner of the ears aligning with the outer corner of the eyes. **Back skull:** Slightly arched when viewed from the front, with a visible occiput and a slight to moderate stop. Cheeks are clean and muscled without protrusion. **Muzzle:** The muzzle is clean and narrow, with a straight nasal bridge and a back skull-to-muzzle ratio of 3:2. **Nose:** Black. **Lips:** Tight-fitting with full black pigment. **Jaws/teeth:** Strong and symmetrical, with well-developed teeth and notable canines. Full dentition is preferred, though the absence of two PM1 (premolar 1) or both M3 (molar 3) is not penalized. **Bite:** Scissors or level, with deviations faulted based on severity

NECK

Dry, well muscled and long enough for the nose to touch the ground effortlessly. At rest, the neck forms an angle of up to 40° to the horizontal.

FOREQUARTERS

The **shoulders** are well muscled and pronounced, but they must not interrupt the flow of the topline. **Front legs** are straight, strong and close together, with slightly turned-out feet. The well-muscled shoulder blade is positioned to the front of the torso, forming an angle of about 65° with the horizontal plane. The strongly muscled **upper arm** forms an angle of 120-130° to the shoulder blade. The well-defined, flexible elbows fit close to the chest and turn neither in nor out. The forearms are long, clean, and straight. The length of the forearm and pastern is 55% of height at withers. Dewclaws on the forelegs should not be removed. The **pastern joint** is solid and flexible. The **pastern** is long and forms an angle of at least 75° to the ground. Light and springy in movement. The **forefeet** are large and turned slightly outwards with long arched toes and strong dark nails. Foot pads are elastic and dark.

BODY

The breed is large with a rectangular frame, with a length-to-height proportion of 10:9 and legs making up 55% of the total height. The **chest** is roomy, pear-shaped, narrowing toward the sternum, and does not reach the elbows. The prosternum does not extend beyond the point of the shoulder. **Topline:** Smooth transition from the neck to the body, sloping slightly. The **back** is firm and straight with a short, well-muscled loin that slopes slightly to a moderately sloped croup. The **croup** is well-muscled but not broad. **Underline:** Taut with a moderately tucked-up abdomen.

HINDQUARTERS

Powerful and stand parallel. An imaginary vertical line drawn from the point of the ischium would run midway through the hock joint. Dewclaws on hind legs are undesirable and if present should be removed. The **upper thigh** is long, well muscled, and forms an angle of 80° to the pelvis. The **hip joint** is sturdy and flexible. The **stifle** is strong and flexible. The long, clean, and well-muscled lower thigh forms an angle of about 130° with the hock. The **hock joint** is solid and flexible. The long, clean hock is almost vertical to the ground. The **hind feet** are long and have arched toes with strong dark nails.

TAIL

High set, hanging straight down. The ideal length of the tailbone is to the hock. Carried in a sickle shape when the dog is at attention.

GAIT

Harmonious, light-footed, ground-covering trot in which the limbs skim over the ground as closely as possible. The head and neck incline to the horizontal. Pacing when walking.

FAULTS

Any deviation from the aforementioned points should be considered a fault, with its severity assessed based on its impact on the dog's health and overall well-being.

- Open or curly coat
- A poorly defined mask
- Massive build
- Dark almost black and black eyes
- Presence of dewlap

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Aggressive behaviour
- Any solid-coloured coat