

PRESA CANARIO

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2024

ORIGIN

Spain.

UTILISATION

Guard dog used for protection of cattle.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

A Molossoid-type dog, originating from Tenerife and Gran Canaria (Canary Islands). It is believed to be the result of matings between the “majorero”, a pre-hispanic dog indigenous to these islands, and other molossoids introduced to the Canary Islands. These matings produced an ethnical group of catch dogs, of medium size, brindle, fawn or black with white markings, with a specific molossoid morphology but yet agile and powerful, having a strong temperament, robust and lively, loyal character. During the 16th and 17th centuries, the number of these dogs increased considerably and numerous references to them in pre-Conquest historical texts, especially in the “Cedularios del Cabildo” (municipal registers), which explain their duties essentially as guard dogs and protectors of cattle.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A medium sized molossoid dog, with a rectilinear profile and black mask. Robust and well-proportioned.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The body is longer than the height at the withers; this characteristic is more noticeable in the female.
- Skull to -foreface proportion is 60% – 40%.
- The width of the skull is three-fifths of the total length of the head.
- The distance from elbow to ground should be 50% of the height at the withers for males and a little less for females.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Severe look; attentive expression. Especially suited to guarding, and traditionally used for herding cattle. Balanced temperament and very self-confident. Low and deep bark. Obedient and docile with family members, very devoted to its master, but can be suspicious of strangers. Confident attitude, noble and a little distant. When alert, the stance is firm with a vigilant attitude.

HEAD

Massive, brachycephalic, and compact in appearance, covered with thick skin. The shape tends towards a slightly elongated cube. The cranial-facial lines are parallel or slightly converging.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Slightly convex in antero-posterior [*ed. from front to back*] and transversal direction [*ed. across*]. Frontal bone tends to be flat. The width is almost identical to the length. Pronounced zygomatic arch, with well-developed cheek and jaw muscles, but not prominent, covered with loose skin. The occipital protuberance is only slightly marked.

Stop: The stop is pronounced, but not abrupt. The furrow between the frontal lobes is well-defined and is about two-thirds the size of the skull.

Facial Region:

Nose: Wide, strong, black pigmentation. In line with the muzzle. The nostrils are large to facilitate breathing.

Muzzle: Shorter than the skull, normally about 40% of the total length of the head. The width is two-thirds of that of the skull. Very wide base, narrowing slightly towards the nose. Bridge of the nose is flat and straight, without ridges.

Lips: The upper lip is pendulous, although not excessively. Seen from the front, the upper and lower lips come together to form an inverted V. The flews are slightly divergent [*fed. moderately hanging with opened corners*]. The inside of the lips is a dark colour.

Jaws and teeth: Scissor bite or slightly undershot bite (maximum 2mm). The dental arch is wide at the canines. The teeth are wide and solidly set. Large molars, small incisors, well-developed canines. The absence of premolars P1 is not subject to penalisation, given that the catch is made with incisors and canines, which must be properly aligned and anchored.

Eyes:

Slightly oval in shape, from medium to large in size. Set well apart, but neither sunken nor protruding. Eyelids are black and tight-fitting, never sagging. The colour varies from dark to medium brown, depending on the colour of the coat. They should never be light.

Ears:

Medium-sized, set well apart, with short, fine hair. They fall naturally on each side of the head. If folded, they are in the shape of a rose. They are set on slightly above eye level. Ears set too high and very close on the head are considered unusual. In countries where cropping is allowed, they must stand erect.

NECK

Shorter than the length of the head. Skin on the underside is loose, forming a slight dewlap. Solid and straight, it tends to be cylindrical and muscular. Average length: between 18 and 20cm.

BODY

Long, broad, and deep. Its length is normally 18 or 20% longer than its withers height.

Topline: Straight, without deformations, and sustained by well-developed but barely visible muscles. Rising slightly from the withers to the croup. Back apparently hollow, just behind the withers. The height at the croup is 1.5cm more than the height at the withers.

Croup: Medium length, broad, and rounded. Should not be long as this would limit movement. The female is usually broader.

Chest: With great capacity and well-defined pectoral muscles. Seen from both the front and the side, it should be well let down to at least the elbow. Thoracic perimeter is usually equal to the height at the withers plus 30% of the latter, although a bigger proportion is desirable. Well-sprung ribcage.

Underline and belly: Slightly tucked-up, never sagging. The flanks are only slightly pronounced.

TAIL

Thick base, tapering to the tip, down to the hock but no longer. High set-on. In action, it rises like a sabre, but without curling or leaning towards the back. At rest, it hangs straight with a slight curve at the tip.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Well laid back.

Upper arm: Well-angulated, oblique.

Forearm: Well-balanced, straight. Strong boned and well-muscled.

Elbow: Must be neither too close to the ribs nor sticking out.

Metacarpus (pastern): Very solid and slightly sloping.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Seen from behind, strong, and parallel, without deviation.

Upper thigh: Long and well-muscled thighs.

Stifle (knee): Angulation not very pronounced but should not be insufficient.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Always well let down.

FEET

Forefeet:

Cat feet with rounded toes, not too close together. Well-developed, black pads. Nails are dark, white nails should be avoided, although they can occur in function of coat colour.

Hind feet:

Slightly longer than the front feet, otherwise identical.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

On the move, the Presa Canario is agile and supple and should cover a lot of ground. Long reach. The tail is carried low and the head is carried only a little above the level of the back. When alert, the head and tail are carried high.

SKIN

Thick and elastic. More loose on and around the neck. When alert, the skin on the head forms symmetrical wrinkles that fan out from the furrow between the front lobes.

COAT

Hair short, coarse, flat, with no undercoat (it can appear on neck and on back of the thighs). Rather coarse to the touch. Very short and fine on the ears; slightly longer on the withers and on the back of thighs.

COLOUR

- All shades of brindle up to sand colour.
- All shades of fawn up to sand base colour.
- Black

* White marks are acceptable on the chest, at the base of the neck or throat, forefeet, and ~~toes~~ of hind feet, but these should be kept to a minimum.

* The mask is always black (in fawn and brindle specimens) and should not spread above eye level.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 61cm – 66cm (approx. 24”– 26”).

Females: 57cm – 62cm (approx. 22” – 24½”).

Weight:

Medium

Males: 45kg – 57kg

Females: 40kg – 50kg

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

Note: Cropped ears – KUSA Schedule 2 Regulation 7:

“Any dog with cropped ears born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA, imported into it and cropped within it, shall not be registered or recorded by the Kennel Union, and if any such dog is registered or recorded in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration or recording shall be cancelled.

7.1. Any dog with ears cropped before importation into the KUSA area of jurisdiction is not eligible for competition at any Kennel Union event.”

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Minor faults:

- Pincer bite.
- Too many wrinkles in the craniofacial region.
- Presence of claw.

Severe faults:

- Any fault is considered severe when affecting the expression and limiting the dog's type of the dog.
- Specimens with greyhound appearance.
- Incorrect head proportions.
- Extremely convergent facial-cranial lines (over-pronounced stop)
- Loins and withers of the same height.
- Incorrect position of limbs.
- Square profile.
- Triangular head, narrow (not cube shape).
- Thin, curled, or deformed tail. Set on low.
- Too pronounced saddle or roach back.
- Light eyes (yellow), very close together or oblique, sunken, or protruding.

- Excessive undershot mouth.
- Insufficient mask.
- Butterfly nose.
- Too floppy chaps
- Missing teeth (except P1).

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Total depigmented nose.
- Unacceptable white marks.
- White marking on more than 20%
- Overshot mouth.
- Croup lower than withers.
- Sloping topline.
- Blue eyes or unmatched in colour.
- Cropped tail.

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FCI Standard No 346: PRESA CANARIO (PERRO DE PRESA CANARIO)

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoid type dogs, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs

Section 2.1. Molossian breeds; Mastiff type
Without Working Trial