

KUVASZ

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/02/2017

ORIGIN

Hungary.

UTILISATION

The Kuvasz is used as a watch- and guard dog for houses, property, and other valuables, as well as for people. He has also been used as a hunting and scenting dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Kuvasz is a long-established, ancient Hungarian Shepherd Dog. His ancestors came into the Carpathian basin at the time of occupation by the Magyars. These dogs were needed to watch and guard their flocks against beasts of prey and thieves. Because of his hunting instinct, the Kuvasz was the preferred hunting dog at the time of King Matthias Corvinus. Since the decline in stock-herding, he has been used much less for his original duties and he has settled in villages and, later, even in towns.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The dogs of this breed are strong and large, and carry a dense, wavy, white coat. Their pleasing appearance radiates nobility and strength. The individual body parts fit together harmoniously, the limbs being neither too short nor too long. The bone structure is strong but not coarse. The strong muscles are lean, the joints show clear outlines. Seen from the side, the body forms a prone rectangle, almost a square. Well-muscled, he shows a strong build, a lively temperament, and great agility. His appearance embodies a tireless working ability.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The body length slightly exceeds the height at the withers.
- The deepest point of the brisket is approximately on a level with half of the height at the withers.
- The muzzle is slightly shorter than half of the length of the head.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The Kuvasz is brave and fearless. He defends the people entrusted to his care and protection, and their property, even with his life. He is self-confident and may become aggressive if ill-treated. He is faithful, dependable, and loves his master and his surroundings. He needs plenty of exercise and must be kept busy. He is undemanding. His care is easy and he can stand very severe weather conditions. He appreciates any love and solicitude given to him.

HEAD

The Kuvasz's head is typically wedge-shaped, in harmony with his body, pleasing, noble, and it shows a considerable strength. The Kuvasz can mainly be distinguished from other breeds by his head shape. The head is characteristically lean and dry. In dogs, the head is slightly more massive than in bitches.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Broad, forehead slightly protruding. In the middle of the forehead, there is a distinct furrow.

Stop: Barely pronounced.

Facial Region:

Broad, long, well-muscled.

Nose: The black nose leather is cut-off blunt.

Muzzle: The bridge of nose is straight. The muzzle tapers gradually but is never pointed.

Lips: Black, tightly fitting. The corner of the mouth has jagged rims.

Jaws and teeth: Well-developed, strong, regular, complete scissor bite, according to the dentition formula.

Eyes:

Set in slightly slanting, almond-shaped, dark brown. The rim of the eyelids is black and close-fitting to the eyeball.

Ears:

Set on at medium height. One-third of the ears lifts from the base away from the skull in a curve, then drops, lying close to the head. The leathers are V-shaped with rounded tips. When alert, the ears are slightly raised. Never prick or twisted.

NECK

Rather short than of medium length and well-muscled. Forms an angle of 25° to 30° to the horizontal. Crest of neck is short. Skin on throat taut, no dewlap. In male dogs, collar and mane are significant.

BODY

Seen from the side, the body forms a prone rectangle, only slightly differing from a square.

Withers: Long, rising markedly above level of back.

Back: Of medium length, straight, broad, well-muscled and taut.

Loin: Short, in taut continuation of the back.

Croup: Slightly sloping, well-muscled, broad. The very dense coat gives the croup the appearance of being slightly overbuilt.

Forechest: Because of the strongly developed muscles, the forechest is rounded, the point of the sternum only slightly protruding.

Chest: Deep, long, and slightly arched.

Underline and belly: In continuation of the ribcage, tucked-up towards the rear.

TAIL

Set on low, following the lightly sloping croup in a straight line. Vertically down with the tip curved slightly upwards, but not crooked. When the dog is alert or roused, it may, at most, be raised to the level of the topline.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: The front legs, supporting the body, are vertical down to the carpal joints. They are parallel and moderately far apart. Seen from the front, the position of the front legs is correct if a vertical line drawn from the shoulder joint runs along the axis of the front legs and meets the feet between the 3rd and 4th toes.

Shoulder: Shoulder blade long, sloping, muscled. Close-fitting and tight to the ribcage, but flexible.

Upper arm: Of medium length, well-muscled. The upper arm and the shoulder blade form an angle of 100° to 110°.

Elbow: Dry, close-fitting to the ribcage, turning neither in nor out. Upper and lower arm form an angle of 120° to 130°.

Forearm: Relatively long, straight, compact, with lean muscles. With strong sinews reaching down to the carpal joint.

Carpus (wrist): Well-developed, taut, with sinews of steel.

Metacarpus (pastern): Relatively short, lean, sloping slightly (angle to vertical 10° to 15°).

Hindquarters:

General appearance: The position of the hind legs, seen from the side, is correct if the stifle joint is positioned vertically below the iliac crest [*ed. the uppermost part of the pelvis*] and the foot under the hip joint. A vertical line from the ischiatic tuberosity [*ed. point of buttock*] touches the heel bone [*ed. hock joint*]. Seen from the rear, the position of the hind legs is correct if a vertical line from the ischiatic tuberosity runs along the axis of the limbs, being parallel to both sides, and meets the ground moderately wide apart.

Upper thigh: With long, broad, massive muscles closely connected to the pelvis. Pelvis and upper thigh form an angle of 100° to 110°.

Stifle: Voluminous. The angle between upper thigh and lower thigh is 110° to 120°.

Lower thigh: The long massive muscles extend to the hock joint with strong sinews. Seen from the rear, vertical and parallel on both sides, also to the axis of the body.

Hock joint: Broad, voluminous, dry, sinewy. Angle of hock joint 130° to 140°.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Long, vertical.

FEET

Forefeet: Round or slightly oval; taut. Toes are short and highly arched so that their middle part does not touch the ground. Elastic, well-knit. Pads are springy, black. Nails are hard, strong, black, or slate grey in colour.

Hind feet: Oval, otherwise like the forefeet.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Wide, slow steps. When trotting, the movement is light-footed, springy, ground-covering, lively, constant, and tireless. Elbows turning neither in nor out.

SKIN

Well-pigmented, slate grey, and tight.

COAT

Hair is moderately harsh, wavy, slightly stiff, not tending to mat. Under the coarser topcoat, there is a finer downy undercoat. The head, ears, and feet are covered by short (1cm – 2cm long), dense, smooth hair. The front and sides of the front legs, as well as the hind legs below the stifles, are covered by equally short (1cm – 2cm long) straight hair. There are featherings of 5cm – 8cm in length on the back of the legs; on the hind legs, they reach to the hocks. The neck has a ruff that extends to a mane reaching to the chest. This is particularly pronounced in male dogs. On the body, upper thigh, and upper arm, the coat is of medium length (4cm – 12cm long), abundantly wavy, and it forms crests, ridges, and tassels. The tail is covered along its entire length by dense, wavy coat that can even reach a length of 10cm – 15cm at the base of the tail.

COLOUR

- White.
- Ivory colour is permitted.

* Nose-leather, rim of eyelids, and lips are black.

* Pads are black or slate grey.

* A dark colour is desired for roof of mouth but pink patches are permissible.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 71cm – 76cm (approx. 22½" – 24½").

Females: 66cm – 70cm (approx. 21" – 23").

Weight:

Males: 48kg – 62kg.

Females: 37kg – 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.*

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.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Pronounced stop.
- Lack of pigment on nose-leather, lips, rims of eyelids.
- One or more teeth missing (Incisors, Canines, Premolars 2-4, Molars 1-2). More than 2 PM1 missing. The M3 are disregarded.
- Under- or overshot; wry mouth. Gap between upper and lower incisors of more than 2 mm.
- Entropion, Ectropion.
- Prick ears.
- Tail that is raised above topline even in repose or curled towards rear.

- Coat tending to be shaggy, curly, or not wavy or wiry.
- Legs covered by long hair.
- Any departure from the permitted colour.

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FCI Standard No 54: KUVASZ

FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial