

MUDI

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 01/01/2024

ORIGIN

Hungary.

UTILISATION

Herding dog. Because of their courageous disposition, they are very popular with the shepherds for the use of herding large and difficult livestock. They are even used for the battue [*fed. the driving of game towards hunters by beaters.*] of wild boar. Excellent guard and companion dog. Alarm- and watchdog. Lovable house pet. Because of their relatively short coat and excellent adaptability, they can be kept in the house too.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The breed came into being during the 18th to the 19th century from crossbreeding Hungarian herding dogs, most probably, with various prick-eared German herding dogs.

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.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Length of body/height at withers:103-105/100
- Depth of brisket/height at withers:40-45/100
- Width of chest/height at withers:30/100
- Length of head/height at withers:40-45/100
- Length of muzzle/length of head:40/100
- Length of ears/length of head:45/100
- Width of head/length of head:58-63/100

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

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

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.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Skull and forehead are slightly domed. Occiput not pronounced. Superciliary ridges only slightly developed.

Stop: Barely pronounced.

Facial Region:

Nose: Narrow, rounded at front, with moderately wide nostrils. Colour is black, except for liver (brown), ash liver and its merle varieties the colour is brown; 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 and teeth: Complete scissor 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, are 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. Ears are approximately 10% – 15% longer than their width at the base.

NECK

The slightly high-set neck forms an angle of 50° – 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.

BODY

Topline: Slightly sloping towards croup.

Withers: Pronounced, long, and muscular.

Back: Straight, medium length.

Loin: 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 and belly: Slightly tucked-up.

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. The tail is abundantly coated; the hair on the underside can even be 10cm to 15 cm long. Dogs born with or without a natural stump tail are not regarded as a fault.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: 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.

Elbow: Close-fitting to the body.

Carpus (wrist): Firm, dry.

Metacarpus (pastern): Steep.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: The hind legs are only slightly overstretched beyond the rear.

Upper thigh: Long, well-muscled.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Short and steep.

FEET

Forefeet: Round with well-knit toes. Little hair between and under the toes. Pads springy. Nails slate grey and hard.

Hind feet: Like front feet. Dewclaws not desirable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

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

SKIN

Tight, without wrinkles.

COAT

Head and front of limbs are covered with 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 3cm to 7cm long. At some spots, cowlicks and ridges are formed. The coat is longest on the back of the forearms and the upper thighs, and the bottom edge of the tail, where it forms pronounced feathering.

COLOUR

- Black
- White
- Fawn (from beige to red)
- Ash (blue)
- Liver (brown)
- Ash-brown (diluted brown/Izabella)
- 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 in diameter, and small white stitching on the toes are tolerated but not desired.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 41cm – 47cm; (approx. 16" – 18½").

Ideal height 43cm – 45cm (approx. 17" – 18").

Females: 38cm – 44cm; (approx. 15" – 17½").

Ideal height 40cm – 42cm (approx. 16" – 17").

***N.B.** Males 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.*

***Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.**

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.
- Spotted or flesh-coloured nose leather (except for a small amount of spotting in merle colours)
- A bite other than scissor bite. Absence of any other teeth besides P1 and M3
- Yellow eyes in black dogs.
- Drop ears.
- Short, smooth, flat coat on the whole body; long hair on the head. Coat tending towards matting.
- Wire hair.
- A colour or marking other than the colours listed in the standard.
- Deviation from the proportions and sizes recorded in the standard.
- Toy characteristics (short head, round skull, strong stop, round eyes)

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FCI Standard No 238: MUDI

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

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial