

PYRENEAN MOUNTAIN DOG

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 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Pastoral guardian in the mountains.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 137]

Present in the Pyrenees from time immemorial, known in the Middle Ages, and used as a guardian of castles, it is mentioned by Gaston Phoebus, Count of Foix, in the 14th century. Already appreciated as a companion dog in the 17th century, it reached glorious heights at the court of Louis XIV. The first detailed description of this breed dates from 1897.

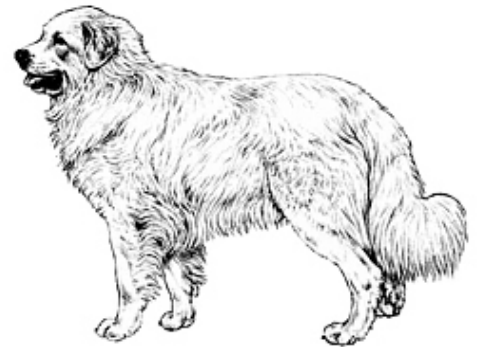


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A powerful and imposing dog with a certain elegance. Great size, strongly built but not cumbersome. Well-balanced and of noble bearing.

CHARACTERISTICS

A natural guard dog protecting shepherd and sheep.

TEMPERAMENT

Quietly confident. Nervousness and unprovoked aggression highly undesirable.

HEAD

Strong head without coarseness, not too large in relation to size of dog. Skull curved when viewed from front and sides. Breadth at widest point about equal to length from occiput to stop. Head as viewed from above forms a blunt V-shape, well-filled in below the eyes. Sides nearly flat and of good depth. No obvious stop or excessively protruding eyebrow ridges; only a slight furrow, so that skull and muzzle are joined by a gentle slope. Strong muzzle, medium length, slight taper near tip. Black nose and eye-rims. Liver or pink pigmentation highly undesirable.

Eyes:

Almond-shaped, dark amber-brown. Close-fitting eyelids set somewhat obliquely, bordered with black. Drooping lower eyelids undesirable. Intelligent and contemplative expression.

Ears:

Fairly small, triangular, rounded tips. Root level with eyes. Normally lie flat against head, may be slightly raised when alert.

Mouth:

Complete dentition, healthy, strong, and even. Scissor bite correct, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws, but pincer bite tolerated. Two central lower incisors may be set a little deeper than others. Close-fitting lips, upper just covering lower. Roof of mouth and lips black or heavily marked with black.

NECK

Strong, fairly short. Little or no dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Powerful shoulders lying close to body. Medium angulation between shoulder blade and upper arm. Forelegs straight, strongly boned, well-muscled. Elbows not too close to chest, nor too far off, giving adequate width of stance and free-striding movement. Pasterns flexible without weakness.

BODY

Broad chest reaching just below elbows; sides slightly rounded, ribcage extended well to rear. Good length of back; broad, muscular, straight, and level. Dogs usually have more pronounced waist than bitches, giving greater curve to lower body.

HINDQUARTERS

Broad muscular loins, fairly prominent haunches, slightly sloping rump, topline curving smoothly into tail. Strong, well-muscled thighs tapering to strong hocks. Stifle and hock of medium angulation, seen from side. Strongly made double dewclaws on each hind leg; lack of this identifying characteristic totally undesirable. The hind feet may turn out slightly but legs themselves must be straight.

FEET

Short and compact, toes slightly arched, strong nails.

TAIL

Thick at root, tapering gradually towards tip, preferably slightly curled; reaching below hocks, thickly coated with fairly long hair forming attractive plume. Carried low in repose, with tip turned slightly to one side. Tail rises as dog becomes interested: curled high above back in a circle, if fully alert.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Very free, unflagging, and never ponderous. Unhurried, driven by powerful hindquarters. Moving well within its capacity, yet able to produce bursts of speed. Tends to pace at slow speeds.

COAT

Profuse undercoat of very fine hairs; outercoat longer, coarser-textured, thick, lying flat and straight, or slightly wavy. Longer towards tail and forming mane around neck and shoulders. Forelegs fringed. Long, very dense, woollier hair on rear of thighs, giving pantaloons effect. Bitches tend to be smoother-coated than dogs and have less-developed mane.

COLOUR

- **White** or **White with patches** of badger, wolf-grey, paler shades of lemon, orange or tan. The colour patches may be on the head, ears, or base of the tail, and few permissible on the body.
- * Other colours undesirable.
* Black patches going right down to the roots highly undesirable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: Minimum: 70cm (approx. 27½").

Females: Minimum: 65cm (approx. 25½").

Most will considerably exceed this, great size is essential provided type and character are retained.

Weight:

Males: Minimum: 50kg.

Females: Minimum: 40kg.

Weight always in proportion to height, giving a powerful dog of great strength, but excess weight due to fat undesirable.

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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 137: CHIEN DE MONTAGEN DES PYRÉNÉES (PYRENEAN MOUNTAIN DOG)

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schanuzer, Molossoid, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs.

Section 2.2.: Molossian breeds: Mountain type
Without working trial.