

BOERBOEL

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 04/11/2008

ORIGIN

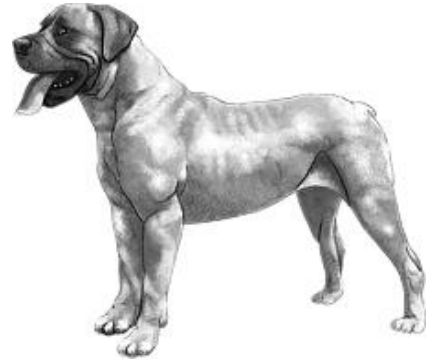
South Africa.

UTILISATION

Farm guard dog and tracking dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Historically the Boerboel developed as a general farm dog for the pioneers who settled in South Africa since the 17th century. These dogs often were a first line of defence against predators and were valuable in tracking and holding down wounded game. Old farmers told many a tale of the strength, agility and courage of the Boerboel. The dangers and harsh conditions of southern Africa allowed only the fittest to survive. The protective character of the Boerboel is today still evident and is much sought after, as is the calm, stable, and confident composure of the breed. It remains the guarding breed of choice amongst current-day farmers and is also very popular for the same reason in the urban communities. The origin and purpose of the Boerboel should be understood in order to preserve the unique identity and qualities of the breed as a South African-developed Mastiff. Type, conformation, functional efficiency, and mentality are equally important in the evaluation of the Boerboel as a whole. The aim with the breed standard is to provide clear guidelines for breeders and judges to promote a singular vision of the ideal Boerboel.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Boerboel:

- is large, with a strong-boned structure and a well-developed musculature. The profile of the head and body appears blocky
- has an impressive demeanor, created by the combination of conformation, carriage, confidence, and powerful movement
- has powerful, buoyant, and unencumbered movement, notwithstanding its size
- is symmetrical and perfectly balanced within the desired proportions for the breed
- has a distinct sexual dimorphism, with the bitch less prominently developed

TEMPERAMENT

The Boerboel:

- is intelligent, trainable and manageable.
- has a strong, protective instinct and is loyal to members of the family.
- is steadfast and calm, with a balanced and confident nature when approached.
- is fearless and shows courage when threatened.
- requires training and firm handling from an early age.

HEAD AND SKULL

The head is impressive and a distinctive feature of the Boerboel.

- It is blocky, broad, deep, fairly short and in proportion to the body.
- It is muscular with well-filled cheeks.
- The roof of the cranium (skull) is square, flat and muscular.
- The zygomatic arch (cheek bone) is well-muscled, but not too prominent.

HEAD (Contd.)

- The **stop** is definite, but not prominent; gradually sloping and well-filled between the eyes. It should not be steep or an almost straight line between the nose and the occiput.
- The **muzzle** is broad, deep, well-attached, filled below the eyes, narrowing slightly towards the nose. The topline is straight and almost on a parallel plane with the cranial roof. The muzzle measures slightly more than a third of the total length of the head (approx. 10cm (approx. 4") for the male and 8cm (approx. 3") for the female of ideal height).
- The **nostrils** are large and widely spaced, with the septum (vertical line) of the nose perpendicular to the lower jaw.
- The **jaws** are strong, deep, and wide, tapering slightly to the front.
- The **teeth** are white, strong, correctly spaced, with complete dentition and a scissor bite (limited undershot discriminated against; overshot unacceptable)
- The **upper lip** is loose and fleshy. It just covers the lower lip and teeth in the front but should not hide the underline of the lower jaw on the sides.
- The **lower lip** is moderately tight without excessive jowls.
- The **eyes** are medium-sized, round, forward facing and widely spaced, with an intelligent expression. It is well-protected against the environment by firm and black-pigmented eyelids, showing no structural weaknesses. The colour of the eye is preferably dark brown, but all shades of brown (preferably darker than the pelt) are acceptable.
- The **ears** are set wide and high and are carried close to the head. They are V-shaped with a broad base tapering to a rounded point that reaches almost down to a line extending from the mouth. When the dog is attentive the top of the ears and the skull, in between, should form a straight line.
- The **facial expression** should be intelligent, attentive and confident (not evasive, shy or threatening).

NECK

- The neck is powerful, of medium length, strong-muscled, with a pronounced crest. (In the female, the muscles are less accentuated but should remain in balance with the head and body).
- It is set medium high, flows smoothly into the sloping withers and forms a unit with the head and shoulders.
- The dewlap is noticeable but disappears towards the sternum.

BODY

- The body is approximately 15% longer than the height and is measured horizontally, from the point of the shoulder to a vertical line at the rear of the rump. (The length of the chest, loin, and rump is approximately proportioned 2 : 1 : 1).
- It is blocky, muscular, solid, and has good depth and width.
- The back is broad and straight, with pronounced muscles that form an imperceptible arch in the topline over the lumber region.
- The brisket reaches down to the point of the elbow, which is approximately half the total height at the withers.
- The transitions between the chest, loin and rump are well-filled and flowing.

CHEST

- The chest is long, broad and deep, with well-sprung ribs and strong, developed pectoral muscles. It is filled behind the shoulder blades.
- The point of the sternum is level with the point of the shoulder.
- The shoulder blades should be well-attached (not loose)

LUMBAR REGION, LOIN

Powerful.

RUMP, CROUP

- The rump is broad, strong, muscular, and in proportion to the rest of the dog.
- Its height should not exceed the height at the withers. The topline drops slightly towards the tail.
- The croup is broad and flat to provide a fulcrum (axel) towards powerful reach of the hind legs

LEGS AND FEET

Weak and malformed limbs jeopardise the physical functionality that is required of the Boerboel and should be discriminated against.

FORELIMBS

- Strong-boned, with well-defined muscles and sturdy joints.
- Should be correctly angulated from the well-sloped shoulder blade down to the metacarpus (pastern).
- Should form a vertical line from the point of the shoulder down to the paws, with the elbows held close and parallel to the chest when viewed from the front.
- Seen from the side, the forearm should be vertical from the elbow to the carpus. The metacarpus is short, thick, and strong, and angles very slightly forward.
- The forepaws point straight forward, are large, round, strongly boned, and compact. The toes are well-arched, with curved black toenails, protected by hair in between. The pads are thick, tough, and black.

HINDLIMBS

- Strong boned, sturdy, and muscular
- The joints should be sound, strong, and correctly angulated to support the powerful propulsion from the hindquarters during movement.
- The upper thighs are broad, deep, and muscular, as seen from the side and the rear.
- The lower thighs have well-defined muscles and show substance down to the hocks.
- The metatarsus is broad, relatively short, and perfectly upright. The front is in a vertical line with the rear of the rump. From the rear, the profile of the hindquarters should form an inverted U, with the stifles pointing straight forward and the hocks straight backwards.
- The hind paws point straight forward, are slightly smaller than the forepaws, but have the same quality.

TAIL

- The tail is thick and set fairly high. It should be well-covered with hair and without kink.
- Tails are traditionally docked but undocked tails are acceptable. Docking takes place at the 3rd or 4th caudal vertebrae.
- The natural tail should reach approximately to the hocks when the dog is standing.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

- The movement is strong, purposeful, buoyant, and fluent, with comfortable reach in front and rear.
- The legs and body should move in line front to rear. The feet move closer to a center line as speed increases, forming a V-shape in the observer's mind.
- Whilst converging towards the center line of travel, the legs should never cross.
- At all gaits the topline is firm and strong, without swaying, or dipping in the middle, and without excess body roll.
- Weak, unsound, or plodding movement should not be tolerated.

SKIN

- The skin is thick and loose but fits smoothly
- A small dewlap is permissible and moderate wrinkles over the forehead when the dog shows interest.

PIGMENTATION

- The Boerboel is well-pigmented, especially on the lips, palate, the skin, and hair around the eyes, nose bulb, paw pads, toenails, the anus, and the skin and hair around the genitals.
- Only dogs with black eumelanin pigmentation are acceptable.

COAT

The coat is short, dense, smooth, and shiny.

COLOUR

The recognised colours / colour patterns are (with or without a mask):

- all shades of red, brown, yellow (fawn)
- brindle – a colour pattern with irregular vertical lines of only black hair on red, brown, or yellow base
- Irish markings are permissible to breed with, but should be discriminated against in the show ring.

* All these colours and colour patterns should be accompanied by good pigmentation.

* No other colours or colour patterns and tan markings are acceptable.

SIZE

Size is determined by the ideal height at the withers and desirable ratios between the height and the measurements of the various parts of the external anatomy.

Height at withers:

Males: 66cm (approx. 26"). Lower than 60cm (approx. 23½") is unacceptable

Females: 61cm (approx. 24"). Lower than 55cm (approx. 21½") is unacceptable

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.

*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:

- A dog that is too small (smaller than the minimum heights stipulated in the breed standard).
- A dog that is too big and out of balance.
- An overly aggressive dog.
- A too small and atypical head.
- A lack of pigmentation.
- Excessively undershot bite.
- Excessively overshot bite.
- Blue eyes.
- Pricked ears.
- A piebald or black dog.
- Any dog clearly showing any physical or behavioural abnormalities.

Copyright The Kennel Union of Southern Africa/Zimbabwe Kennel Club

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

There is no FCI standard for this breed.

