

## TOSA

*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 01/01/2018

### ORIGIN

Japan.

### UTILISATION

Formerly fighting dog, nowadays watchdog.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Japan has a long history of dog fighting, beginning in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. With such a history in the background, this breed was produced as a hybrid of Shikoku-ken and Western breeds. Named after the area where they were bred, these dogs are sometimes called "Japanese Mastiffs". The Western dogs used for creating the breed were Bulldogs (1872), Mastiffs (1874), German Pointers (1876), and Great Danes (1924), all of which were used to improve the breed by sequential mating. According to some accounts, Saint Bernards and Bull Terriers were also involved. The Tosa's established features of stamina and fighting instinct typically found in Mastiffs may be attributed to the involvements these breeds.

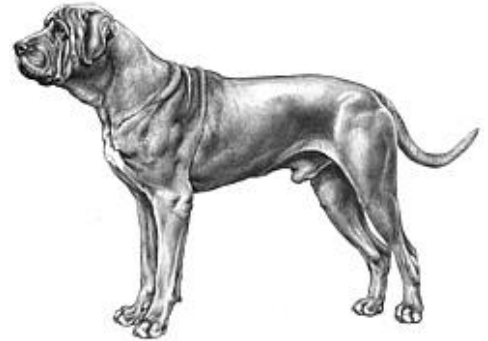


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Large-sized dog with a stately manner and robust build. The dog has hanging ears, short hair, a square muzzle, and a hanging tail, thick at the root.

### BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The temperament is marked by patience, composure, boldness, and courage.

### HEAD

#### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** Broad.

**Stop:** Rather abrupt.

#### Facial Region:

**Nose:** Large and black.

**Muzzle:** Moderately long. Nasal bridge straight.

**Jaws and teeth:** Upper and lower jaws strong. Teeth strong with a scissor bite.

#### Eyes:

Rather small, dark brown in colour, with a dignified expression.

#### Ears:

Relatively small, rather thin, set high on the skull sides, hanging close to the cheeks.

### NECK

Muscular, with a dewlap.

## BODY

**Withers:** High.

**Back:** Level and straight.

**Loin:** Broad, muscular.

**Croup:** Slightly arched at the top.

**Chest:** Broad and deep, ribs moderately sprung.

**Underline and belly:** Well drawn up.

## TAIL

Thick at the root, tapering towards the tip, reaching the hocks when let down.

## LIMBS

### Forequarters:

**Shoulder:** Moderately sloping.

**Forearm:** Straight, moderately long, and strong.

**Metacarpus (pastern):** Slightly inclining and robust.

### Hindquarters:

**General appearance:** Muscles very developed. Joints of stifle and hock moderately angulated, strong.

**Stifle (knee):** Moderately angulated, strong.

**Hock joint:** Moderately angulated, strong.

## FEET

Tightly closed. Pads thick and elastic. Nails hard and preferably dark in colour.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Robust and powerful.

## COAT

Hair short, hard and dense.

## COLOUR

- Red, fawn, apricot, black, brindle.

\* Slight white markings on chest and feet are permitted.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 60cm (approx. 23").

**Females:** 55cm (approx. 21").

***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.

- Thin bone.
- Snipey muzzle.
- Slightly overshot or undershot bite.

### Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Extremely overshot or undershot bite.
- Shyness.

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**FCI Standard No 260: TOSA**

**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