

FCI Standard No. 225

Fila Brasileiro



Classification:

Group: II Pinscher and Schnauzer - Molossians and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs.

Section: 2. Molossian Type

Subsection: 1. Mastiff Type

Origin: Brazil

Description: Typically mastiff type, powerful bones, rectangular structure, compact but symmetrical and proportional.

Characteristics: Agile, courageous, determined, brave and aloof, which is a main characteristic, particularly towards strangers.

Temperament / Behavior: Of calm disposition, self-assured and confident when faced with new situations. Not aggressive.

DESCRIPTION:

Head and Skull: Head heavy, massive and pear-shaped but proportionate to body. Muzzle should be strong, broad and deep and approximately of equal proportions to the skull. Stop low, sloped and virtually formed only by the well-developed eyebrows with a smooth curve from the occiput. Free of wrinkle in repose. Nose well-developed broad nostrils, black. **Eyes:** From medium to large size, almond shaped, spaced well apart, medium to deep-set. Color: Dark brown to yellow. Due to the profusion of loose skin eyelids are often drooping which is not considered a fault as it increases the typically melancholy expression of the breed. Rims ideally pigmented. **Ears:** Pendant, large, thick and V-shaped, set on well back. Broad at the base, tapering to rounded tips. When alert the ears are lifted high possibly reaching the level of the occiput. In repose ears droop at the cheeks to reveal the under surface of the leather. **Mouth:** Teeth wider than longer, strong and white. Upper incisors are broad at their rot and sharp at their edges. Scissor bite preferable but level bite acceptable.

Neck: Extraordinarily strong and muscled giving the impression of a short neck. Slightly curved at the upper side. Dewlaps at the throat.

Forequarters: The shoulder structure should be composed of two bones of equal length. The scapular at 45° to the horizontal and the humerus 90° from the scapular and the articulation forms the point of shoulder which is situated at the level of the prosternum but a little behind it. Ideally the point of shoulder should be halfway from elbow to withers. Legs - strong bones parallel and straight to the pasterns, length of the leg from ground to elbow should be equal to the length from elbow to withers.

Body: Strong, broad and deep covered by thick loose skin particularly at the neck - a major breed characteristic. Well-sprung ribs though not so much as to interfere with the position of shoulder. Deep and large chest reaching down to the level of the elbows. Well pronounced brisket. **Loins** shorter and not so deep as the thorax. In bitches the lower part of the loins are more developed. The loins are narrower than the thorax and croup but should not form a waist line. **Croup** broad, long with an approximately 30° angulation from the horizontal line showing a smooth curve. The croup is set a little higher than the withers.

Withers in a sloping line are set well apart from each other due to the distance between the scapula and are set lower than the croup. **Topline:** From the withers the topline ascends smoothly to the croup showing no tendency to sway or roach back. Tuck-up slightly in ascension but never whippet. **Hindquarters:** Less heavily boned than the forequarters and slightly higher than the forequarters. **Angulation** not very pronounced with the hocks only slightly bent. **Hind legs** parallel with strong upper thigh muscles. **Feet:** Strong and well-arched toes not too close together with hind feet which should not present dew claws, a little more oval than the forefeet. Strong dark nails, white nails permissible when this is the color of the feet and toes.

Tail: Very wide at the root, medium set tapering very rapidly when reaching the hock. Should not be carried over the back but when alert is raised high and the curve and the extremity is more accentuated.

Gait / Movement: A long reach and elastic gait with a smooth cat-like stride. The main characteristic is the **PACE**, a two-beat lateral gait with the legs of each side moving in unison. This created a rolling or rocking motion of the body accentuated along the topline to the tail. During the walk the head is carried lower than the back region. Smooth, free and effortless trot with powerful stride. The gallop is speedy and powerful and typical of the mastiff type, is capable of instant and very rapid changes of direction.

Coat: Short, smooth, dense and tight to the body. **Color:** All solid colors, except white, mouse-gray, patched or dappled coat. Brindles with a solid coat may have stripes of less intensity or very strong dark stripes. A black mask desirable but not essential. In all permitted colors white marks are allowed on the feet, chest, and tip of the tail, otherwise undesirable.

Size/Weight: Males: 65 - 75 cm (27 - 29.5 in) at shoulder. **Minimum Weight:** 50 kg (100 lb). **Females:** 60 - 70 cm (24 - 27.5 in) at shoulder. **Minimum Weight:** 40 kg (90 lb).

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. However, aggressiveness should not be tolerated.

Note: male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.