

# Miniature Australian Shepherd

NAMASCUSA - May, 2002



Merle bitch with Tri dog in background  
Trim color is optional and not to be preferred

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** The Miniature Australian Shepherd is a well-balanced herding dog of small to medium size. Bone is also moderate and in proportion to body size. He is attentive and animated, showing strength and stamina combined with unusual agility. Slightly longer than tall, he has a coat of moderate length and coarseness with coloring that offers variety and individuality in each specimen. An identifying characteristic is his natural or docked bobtail. In each sex, masculinity or femininity is well defined. **Disqualifications:** *Toy like features (i.e. domed head, bulging eyes, fine bone)*

**CHARACTER:** The Miniature Australian Shepherd is intelligent, primarily a working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts. He is an exceptional companion. He is versatile and easily trained, performing his assigned tasks with great style and enthusiasm. He is reserved with strangers, but does not exhibit shyness. Although an aggressive, authoritative worker, viciousness towards people or animals is intolerable. **Disqualification:** *Viciousness* **Fault:** *Undo shyness*

**HEAD:** Clean-cut, strong, dry, and in proportion to the body. The top skull is flat to slightly rounded, its length and width each equal to the length of the muzzle, which is in balance and proportioned to the rest of the head. The muzzle tapers slightly to a rounded tip. The stop is moderate, but well defined.

**TEETH:** A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in a scissor bite. An even bite is a fault. Teeth broken or missing by accident are not penalized. **Disqualification:** *Undershot bites; overshot bites exceeding one-eighth (1/8) inch*

**EYES:** Very expressive, showing attentiveness and intelligence. Clear, almond-shaped, and of moderate size, set a little obliquely, neither prominent nor sunken, with pupils dark, well defined and perfectly positioned. Color is brown, blue, amber or any variation or combination thereof including flecks and marbling.

**EARS:** Set on high at the side of the head, triangular and slightly rounded at the tip, of moderate size with length measured by bringing the tip of the ear around to the inside corner of the eye. The ears, at full attention, break slightly forward and over from one-quarter (1/4) to one-half (1/2) above the base. **Severe Faults:** *Prick or hound-type ears*



**NECK AND BODY:** The neck is firm, clean and in proportion to the body. It is of medium length and slightly arched at the crest, setting well into the shoulders. The body is firm and muscular. The topline appears level at a natural fore-square stance. The chest is deep and strong with ribs well sprung. The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top. The bottom line carries well back with a moderate tuck-up. The croup is moderately sloping, the ideal being thirty (30) degrees from the horizontal. Tail is straight, not to exceed three (3) inches, natural bobtail or docked.

**FOREQUARTERS:** **Shoulder blades (scapula)** are long and flat, close set at the withers, approximately two fingers width at a natural stance, and are well laid back at an angle approximately forty-five (45) degrees to the ground. **Upper arm (humerus)** is attached at an approximate right angle to the shoulder line with forelegs dropping straight, perpendicular to the ground. **Elbow** joint is equidistant from the ground to the withers. **Legs** are straight and powerful. **Pasterns** are short, thick and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. **Feet** are oval shaped, compact, with



close-knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Dewclaws may be removed.

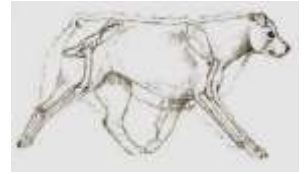
**HINDQUARTERS:** Width of hindquarters approximately equal to the width of the forequarters at the shoulders. The angulation of the pelvis and upper thigh (femur) corresponds to the angulation of the shoulder blade and upper arm forming an approximate right angle. **Stifles** are clearly defined, hock joints moderately bent. **Metatarsi** are short, perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. **Feet** are oval shaped, compact, with close-knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Rear dewclaws are removed.

**COAT:** Of medium texture, straight to slightly wavy, weather resistant, of moderate length with an undercoat. The quality of undercoat varies with climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head, outside of ears, front of forelegs and below the hocks. Backs of forelegs are moderately feathered; breeches are moderately full. There is a moderate mane and frill, more pronounced in dogs than bitches. **Severe fault:** *Non-typical coats*

**COLOR:** All colors are strong, clear and rich. The recognized colors are blue merle, red (liver) merle, solid black, and solid red (liver) all with or without white markings and/or tan (copper) points with no order of preference. The blue merle and black have black pigmentation on nose, lips and eyerims. Reds and red merles have liver pigmentation on nose, lips and eye rims. Butterfly nose should not be faulted under the age of one year. On all colors the areas surrounding the ears and eyes are dominated by color other than white. The hairline of a white collar does not exceed the point at the withers. **Disqualifications:** *Other than recognized colors, white body splashes. Dudley nose*

**GAIT:** Smooth, free and easy; exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced, ground-covering stride. Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of the body; as speed increases, the feet, both front and rear, converge toward the center line of gravity of the dog, while the topline remains firm and level.

**SIZE:** Height for dogs and bitches is 14 inches up to 18 inches at the top of withers. **Severe Fault:** Under 14 inches and over 18 inches. Quality not to be sacrificed in favor of size within the guidelines of this breed standard.



**Disqualification's:**

- *Monorchidism and Cryptorchidism*
- *Toy like features (i.e. domed head, bulging eyes, fine bone)*
- *Other than recognized colors, white body splashes, Dudley nose.*
- *Viciousness*
- *Undershot bites; overshot bites exceeding one-eighth (1/8) inch*

*"Drawings from Victoria and Christina Mistretta's book The Structure and Movement of the Australian Shepherd. Permission to use granted 01/01. All drawings are Copyright protected. All rights reserved. No picture may be reused or copied without written permission from authors."*