

Official Breed Standard
South African Boerboel
South African Boerboel Association



Background – In the harsh environment of the pioneers, they were strongly dependant upon their dogs as protection. The dog was the first warning of any signs of danger. These dogs are not noisy or yappy for this could be a huge liability. The dogs would have to protect the farmers and livestock against wild animals such as leopard, lion, and large reptiles as well as hostile people stealing from the farm. The Boerboel is strong, agile and a very watchful dog, he had to be to fulfill his duties. The Boerboel is reliable, obedient, and intelligent. He should also be self confident.

General Appearance - The Boerboel is a perfectly balanced dog. He has well developed muscle he should have strong, smooth movement. He is an impressive, imposing dog of strength. Males should be more masculine than females.

Size- Males- 25-30" at the withers **Females-** 22-26" at the withers

Head - This is the most important Characteristic of the breed, it represents the whole character of the Boerboel. **Occiput "top of the head"**- Wide, flat, and musculature. **Face-** Must melt symmetrically together with the head. With or Without mask. Mask preferred. **Stop** - Visible but not prominent. **Muzzle** - Straight and in line with the top of the head. The muzzle is deep, wide and should slightly narrow at the sides towards the front. Muzzle should be in proportion to the size of the dog and can range from 3-4 inches in length. That measurement does not include the actual "Nose". **Nose** - Black ONLY, large, widely spaced nostrils. **Lips** - Top lip is loose and fleshy and does not hang past the bottom jaw. Top lip must cover the bottom lip which should not be loose and fleshy. **Jaws** - Strong, Deep, Wide in the back and slightly narrow at the sides towards the front. **Teeth** - Well developed, correctly spaced, with no missing teeth. Dog should have a Scissor Bite. **Eyes** - Any shade of brown. Widely spaced with well pigmented eyelids. Eye color should be darker than the coat color. **Ears** - Medium sized, V-shaped and in proportion to the head. Ears are set high and wide. When alert the top of the ears must form a straight line with the top of the head.

Neck - Average length, Neck forms a noticeable muscle arch attaches high at the shoulders. Scruff of the neck is loose under the chin and tightens up as it reaches the chest.

Topline – Straight. **Back** - straight, wide, and in proportion to the body. Prominent back muscles with a short loin. **Croup** - Wide, strong, with well defined muscle.

Tail - set high, straight, does not curl over back, cut short, long tails are accepted.

Forequarters - Shoulders - Very muscular and set so elbows are not angled out. **Legs** - strong and straight with well defined muscle. **Pasterns** - thick, strong, medium in length. **Front Paws** - large, ball shaped with strong, dark toenails.

Hindquarters - Hocks - short, strong and thick, parallel with each other. Dewclaws must be removed. **Back Paws** - Slightly smaller than the front, well formed, strong dark toenails.

Movement - The gait is balanced and smooth, powerful, with ground covering strides showing strong driving action in hindquarters with corresponding reach in front. Topline remains firm and level. **Movement Faults** - Any suggestion of clumsiness, tossing and/or rolling of the body, short or stilted steps, twisting of joints, paddling. Similar movement faults will be penalized according to the degree to which they interfere with the ability of the dog to work.

Skin - thick, loose and well pigmented with slight wrinkles on the brow when dog is alert.

Coat - Short, Dense, and smooth. **Color** - Yellow, tawny, reddish-brown, and all shades of brindle. We are looking for little to no white. White is accepted on chest, toes (should have black toenails) and a small stripe on muzzle. It will be considered a fault if anywhere on dog's upper thighs or legs, back, or neck. **Pigmentation** - Should be well pigmented especially the lips, eyes, footpads, toenails, and genitals.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

- 1) Dogs that are deaf
- 2) Males without two testicles clearly descended
- 3) Dog too small
- 4) Dog too big
- 5) An overly aggressive dog
- 6) An overly shy dog
- 7) Blue eyes
- 8) Vertical ears
- 9) Serious Cow Hock
- 10) A piebald Dog
- 11) A Blue dog
- 12) Any sign of another breed