

Spanish Alano

Asociación Nacional de Criadores del Alano Español (ANCAE)



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Long molosser of a straight profile, rustic and well proportioned. Mainly functional animal showing a runner's structure with a great agility, speed and resistance on the run, his movements are elastic and recall those of felines. His head is brachycephalic, of square shape, with a wide and strong cranium and a very well marked stop. The muzzle is short, wide and deep. His bite is very strong and firm. Temperamentally serious and very well balanced.

ORIGINS: Original to the Iberian Peninsula, references of its existence are known from the Fourteenth Century. Probably a descendant from the molossers brought into Spain by the barbarian invaders at the time of the fall of the Roman Empire.

TEMPERAMENT AND FUNCTIONALITY: Traditionally, the Spanish Alano has been used in three basic functions:

- 1) Bovine cattle management
- 2) Big game hunting
- 3) Guard and defense

In all of these disciplines, the Spanish Alano counts on his most notorious characteristic, its strong bite. The mouth gripping of the Spanish Alano is known and admired since the ancient times. The Spanish Alano bites with the whole mouth, even with its molars. Its bite is fixed very firmly and it holds for a long period of time. The temperament is very serious and self secure, watching the strangers. The mouth gripping in wild or half wild animals is focused into selected areas, like ears, neck and snout (the snout, specially when hunting). His psychological development is slow, not reaching maturity until the two years of age. Until that age the dog can show himself insecure and it is not advisable to force his temperament. When maturity is reached, he won't be afraid of anything, reacting with self security if menaced. With his master, he is submissive and receptive to learn. His distrust towards the stranger makes him an excellent dog of guard and defense, psychologically very stable and tranquil.

MORPHOLOGY:

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT: Male 58-63 cm 30-40 kg Female 55-60 cm 25-35 kg.

Note: there should be balance between height and weight; a 2 cm difference is tolerated under the minimum height.

HEAD: Brachycephalic constitution, cubical shape, large and powerful not reaching the point where it looks massive. Cranium/face ratio of 63/37. Its skin should be straight, not wrinkly, except for the wrinkles formed in between the ears when the dog is alert.

CRANIUM: Of a convex profile, flat between the ears, wide and strong, with prominent and rounded frontal sinuses. It shows a depression between the eyes which follows thru half way over the cranium. Very well marked stop. Temporal muscles very well developed, the occipital crest is unseen due to the great muscular development, well developed jaw muscles, but never exaggeratedly developed. Prominent zygomatic arches. The cranium-facial lines must run parallel to each other, being a very slight convergence allowed, although this is not desirable. They must never diverge.

MUZZLE: Shorter than the cranium, looking square, very wide and deep, it normally represents 37% of the total length of the head, a shorter muzzle is allowed as long as it is not under a 35% of the total length of the head. It must not show any wrinkles nor folds.

DEWLAPS: Moderately thick, the upper dewlap hangs slightly and covers the lower one, the former being practically unseen when the mouth is closed. Pigmentation must always be black.

EYES: Of a medium size, separated between each other, rounded. They are light brown, amber or yellow, depending on the coat coloration. Eye lids are adhered to the eyes and they are remarkably pigmented in black. The serious expression and the penetrating look is characteristic in the breed, individuals with a sweet and melancholic look not being desirable.

EARS: Of a medium insertion, very separated between each other, normally cropped from their base. When cropped, they are slightly rounded and pointy, small in size. When not cropped they are folded over the face and medium in size.

MAXILLARIES: Well developed. Strong and healthy dentition, the incisive teeth must be large and correctly aligned, canine teeth must be short and wide, very separated from each other. The ideal bite is the so called inverted scissors bite, the external face of the upper, incisive teeth touch the internal face of the lower incisive teeth. The chin is wide and strong, easily seeable when looking forward, it must not be ingoing nor outgoing.

NOSTRIL: Very large, wide, with well opened nasal orifices. Always pigmented in black.

NECK: Very strong, of a cylindrical structure, relatively short and wide. The skin, somewhat looser than in the rest of the body, forms a slight double chin that will never become exaggerated.

TRUNK: Normally, its length outgoes the height at the withers by a 10% or a 12%.

BACKBONE LINE: Straight or slightly ascending, never descending.

WITHERS: Defined, of a medium insertion, in a descending line towards the backbone. Wide, long and strongly muscled.

UPPER BODY: Straight, muscled. The lumbar area must be relatively long, wide and of a strong musculature.

BACK END: Wide, strong and slightly fallen.

TAIL: Of a medium insertion, thick in its base it thins out progressively until its end. Its length goes until the hocks. In action it is carried up with arching it slightly towards the back not becoming rolled in. The hair can be some more dense than in the rest of the body, not forming fringes.

THORAX: Ribs area is arched out, not cylindrical, looking at it sideways the chest reaches the elbows. The thoracic perimeter is approximately the same as the height at the withers plus a 25% more than the former. The chest is medium in width, deep, very muscled. The internal chest width, between the front legs' insertion, is equivalent to a 28% or a 30% of the height at the withers.

LOWER PROFILE LINE: Looking at it sideways, the thorax presents a line that, gradually, ascends towards the abdomen. The belly must retract inwards, but never become like that of a Greyhound's.

BACK: Long, wide and oblique. It is provided of a strong musculature. The scapular humeral angle is of about 100°

EXTREMITIES:

BACK: Long, straight and well standing upright, whether looked at frontward or sideward. Well developed, strong bones.

ARM: Hummer is long and strong, provided of a well developed musculature. It must be parallel to the half plane of the body.

ELBOW: Parallel to the half plane of the body, it is not too side by side to the thorax.

UPPER ARM: Long, straight, when looking at it from the front or from the side. Of strong bone and accented musculature.

CARPUS: Short and strong.

METACARPUS: Long and strong, its average perimeter is 13 cm in males and 12 cm in females. It must be somewhat angled, never vertical.

PAWS: Large, with strong and thick cushions, toes are arched and firm not becoming "cat feet". Nails are short and strong.

FRONT FEET: Strong, with an elongated and well developed musculature, but not reaching the point where it looks exaggerated. Reaching solidly, and well angled, the ground.

LAP: Long, of a well defined musculature.

RODILLA: El ángulo que forma con el fémur y la tibia es de unos 120 grados.

LEG: Long, of strong bone and muscle structure. Strong, well visible tendons.

HOCKS: High, its average height equals a 29% or a 30% of the height at the withers. The tibial tarsical Alto, su altura media equivale a un 29 ó 30% de la alzada a la cruz. The tibio-tarsical angle is about 130 degrees.

METATARSUS: Long and strong, landing perfectly straight on the ground, slightly thinner than the metacarpus. Without dewclaws.

BACK FEET: Of a similar conformance to the front feet but a bit smaller.

MOVEMENT:

WALKING: When walking it carries the weight over the head and shoulders giving a feline cadence impression. The head is carried low.

TROTting: Ample and long, of a similar conformance to its walk

GALLOPING: Fast and elastic with large trunk extensions and flexions. Very fast and resistant.

SKIN.COLOR.HAIR.:

SKIN: Thick, adhered to the both but somewhat elastic, being looser in the neck and the head.

HAIR: Short and abundant, somewhat thick, without an undercoat.

COLOR: Brindled in all the different variances. With or without a black mask. **Fawn** in all the different variances, from sand to red, "carbonado" (the tip of the hairs is carbon like giving an overall different aspect to the coat) being possible in all these color variances. With or without a black mask. **Black and brindle**, which is the same type of coloring distribution as a black and tan colored breed (like Dobermans or Rottweillers are) but in the specially different case of the Spanish Alano, the tan markings are, in this case, brindled. All coats could be stained in white, in the extremities, chest and neck. However it is desirable that there is the least presence of white as possible.

***DEFECTS:** In general, any characteristic that is different from the previously defined ones, being its weight directly proportional to the level of deviation from this Standard.*