

UKC & TMCA 2006

Tibetan Mastiff

Do-Khyi; Dogue du Tibet; Tibet-Dogge; Dogo del Tibet



HISTORY: The Tibetan Mastiff, or Do-Khyi, is a large working dog from the Himalayas. Tracing the breed's history back to antiquity, it acted as the guardian and companion of the Tibetan villagers and nomads, as well as being the traditional guardian of the Tibetan monasteries. Documented accounts by Marco Polo, who went to Asia in 1271, praise the breed's natural strength and physical and mental impressiveness. Even its deep bark has been described as a unique and highly treasured feature of the breed. Many cynologists consider the Tibetan Mastiff the forefather of all large mountain and mastiff breeds. The Tibetan Mastiff was recognized by the United Kennel Club in 2006.

GENERAL APPEARANCE & CHARACTERISTICS: Large, sound and powerfully built. Well-boned and muscled, never light or refined, always agile. The impressive head provides a noble and dignified look, enhanced by a mane around the head and neck. The head is balanced by a curled tail carried over the back. Males are larger than the females, with heavier features and carrying more coat. The Tibetan Mastiff is still widely used in its traditional role as a natural guardian of family and flock, and has an aloof and independent nature.

A loyal companion and natural guardian. Highly intelligent, strong-willed, independent, aloof and protective when necessary. Patient and tolerant, may be wary of strangers. Any reserve, protectiveness or lack of enthusiasm when exhibited should not be penalized provided the dog can be properly evaluated

HEAD & SKULL: The head is broad, heavy and strong. The skull is massive with a strongly defined occiput and marked stop. Proportions from occiput to stop and stop to the end of the nose range from equal lengths (1 to 1) to a muzzle that is somewhat shorter than the length of the top skull (2 to 3). Muzzle fairly broad, well padded, blunt and square when viewed from all sides. Broad nose, well opened nostrils. Lips well developed with moderate flews. Some wrinkling, with maturity, on the head extending from above the eyes to the corner of the mouth. Hair is short on the face developing into a distinct mane, from the crown to the withers, surrounding the head and neck. .

Eyes: Very expressive, medium size, various shades of brown color preferred, other colors acceptable. More sunken than prominent, set well apart, oval, and slightly slanting. A slight haw may be present.

Ears: Medium size to somewhat larger, triangular, pendent, carried rather high, hanging close to the head when in repose. When at attention, level with the top of skull and brought forward, appearing to broaden the skull. Ear leathers covered with soft short hair.

Teeth: Full dentition fitting tightly to maintain strong chin. Jaws and teeth strong with regular scissors bite, set square to the jaw. Level bite acceptable. Overshot and undershot bites, missing teeth are to be faulted to the degree present. Broken teeth are not to be faulted.

NECK: The neck is strong, arched and well muscled. There may be some dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS: Well laid shoulders, muscular and strongly boned. Straight legs with strong, slightly sloping pasterns.

BODY

Topline: is level with straight back.

Body: The chest is rather deep and of moderate breadth. Broad muscular loins, very slightly sloping croup. Ribs are well-sprung, not barreled. Brisket reaching to or just below the elbows.

HINDQUARTERS: Powerful, muscular with moderate angulation and strong lower-set hocks. Hind legs seen from behind are parallel.

Feet: The feet are fairly large, strong, with thick pads, rounded and compact. There may be some feathering between the toes.

Tail: The tail is medium to long, well feathered, set high and carried over the back. A tail with a single curl is preferred, but other configurations are acceptable.

Coat: Double coated. Long, coarse guard hairs with a heavy, wooly undercoat that becomes sparse in warmer months and warmer climates. Quality and correctness of coat is of greater importance than quantity. Hair hard and straight, slight wave at the topline, never curly. Neck and shoulders heavily coated, giving a mane-like appearance that is more pronounced in mature

males. Tail and upper rear parts of hindlegs well feathered. The Tibetan Mastiff is exhibited in a natural condition with no trimming. Seasonal shedding is not to be penalized.

Color: Black, chocolate brown and slate gray, all with or without tan markings, as well as various shades of gold. The shades of gold and the tan markings may range from cream to dark red/gold, with or without sable/black tipping. White markings may occur on chest, neck and feet. Pigmentation on lips, nose and eye rims is black except on dilute colors (chocolate, blue and gold dilute) where the pigmentation is also diluted.

HEIGHT & WEIGHT:

Size: Dogs: minimum 26 inches (ranging to over 30 inches). **Bitches:** minimum 24 inches (ranging to over 28 inches). Though appearing square, the body is slightly longer than high (10 to 9), front and rear angulation is balanced.

Weight: Slow to mature, dogs range from 100-160+ lbs., bitches range from 75-120+ lbs. Preference is given to dogs of greater height provided that their proportions are harmonious, and that proper type, substance, structure and breed characteristics are present.

GAIT: Powerful, moves with purpose and agility and is capable of considerable speed. Measured and deliberate when walking. At speed will tend toward, and may reach a single track.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS – *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.*