

FCI standard No. 340
Cao Fila de Sao Miguel
Azores Cattle Dog; Saint Miguel Shepherd Dog



Classification:

Group: I Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

Section: 2. Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

Without working trial

ORIGIN: Portugal

Info: Date of publication of the standard: 1984

Utility: Cattle dog

Cattle dog of the Sao Miguel Island (Azores) also known as Cow Dog

History: His history is linked to the already extinct Fila da Terceira. There are references to the Fila de Sao Miguel dog starting from the beginning of the last century.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: A little longer than higher, strong and rustic

TEMPERAMENT AND APTITUDE: A working dog by excellence but also a good guard dog of the property or as a protection dog. A dog with a very sharp temperament but docile to his master. Very intelligent with a great capacity to learn. Due to his function as a cattle dog he bites low with the objective not to harm the redds of the cows. Nevertheless he may bite higher when handling stray cattle.

DESCRIPTION:

HEAD: Strong, square, with the superior longitudinal axis parallel to the cranial/facial axis **Skull** - Wide, slightly curved, with the occipital protuberance slightly apparent **Stop** - Well pronounced **Nose** - Wide, black **Muzzle** - The top of the muzzle is straight from a side view but slightly curved from a front view being a little shorter than the length of the skull. **Lips** - Well pigmented, neatly fitted, firm, not pendant, covering completely the inferior gums, with a slightly curved underline. **Maxilars** - Very strong, well developed, with good setting **Teeth** - Complete dentition in a scissors or pincer bite **Eyes** - Of oval shape, expressive, slightly deep, of dark chestnut color, horizontally positioned, of medium size **Ears** - Should be attached high above the medium level. When not cropped they are of medium size, triangular, pendant, a little away from the cheeks. They are correctly cut rounded **Neck** - Well constructed, strong, of medium length. Does not have dewlaps.

BODY: Strong, muscular, with an ample chest **Chest** - Wide and well descended **Back line** - Straight **Loin** - Of medium length, wide, well muscled. **Inferior line** - With an ascending line, belly and flank proportional to the body **Croup or Rump** - Of medium length in relation to the body, with a slightly higher croup than the withers

FOREQUARTERS: Strong, straight, correctly apart. Front angulation slightly open. Strong legs of medium size, well muscled. **Forearm** - Heavy and well muscled. **Carpus** - Heavy boned. **Metacarpus or Pastern** - broad of medium length.

Feet - Oval. Strong toes and nails

HINDQUARTERS: Strong, correctly apart. **Thighs** - long, well muscled with a good angulation at the stifle. **Legs** - of medium length, well muscled. **Tarsus** - of medium length. May show dewclaws. **Feet** - Oval, with strong toes not too curved. Strong nails. **Tail** - Set on high, thick, of medium size and slightly curved. It is to be docked at the 2 1/4 or 3 1/4 vertebrae

COAT: Short, smooth, dense, with strong texture, slightly fringed at the tail, anal region and hindlegs. **Colors** - fawn, grey or yellow in light or dark tonalities but always brindle. It is permissible to have white markings on the frontal region or on the chest and also on the front and hind feet. **Skin** - Is thick and pigmented

GAIT: The movement is easy and flexible. While moving the dog twists slightly his hindquarters in a sway motion.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT: Height - 50 to 60 cms for males (19.5 to 23.4 inches) 48 to 58 cms for females (18.77 to 22.62 inches)

FAULTS: *Should be penalized: slight undershot bite*

Convergent skull/facial axis (should be parallel)

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Severe overshot bite

Divergent skull/facial axis (should be parallel)

Any other deviation from this standard is considered a fault that will be penalized in accordance to its extension.

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