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FCI-Standard N° 335

CENTRAL ASIA SHEPHERD DOG

(Sredneasiatskaya Ovtcharka)

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ORIGIN: USSR (Regions of Central Asia)

PATRONAGE: Russia.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 13.10.2010.

UTILIZATION: Guard and watch dog.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 2 Pinscher & Schnauzer type,
Molosoid Breeds, Swiss Mountain- and Cattle Dogs.
Section 2.2. Molosoid Breeds, Mountain type.
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Central Asia Shepherd Dog (CASD) is one of the most ancient breed of dogs. They were formed as a breed from natural selection during more than four thousand years in the vast territory, which spreads nowadays from the Caspian Sea to China and from Southern Ural to Afghanistan. Its heritage is from the most ancient dogs of Tibet, Cattle Dogs from various nomad tribes' dogs that are closely related to the Mongolian Shepherd Dog and the Tibetan Mastiff. The CASD were mainly used to protect cattle, caravans and the owner's dwellings, and being exposed to rigid natural selection. Hard living conditions and constant struggle against predators have had influence on the shape as well as the dog's character and it has made it strong, fearless, and taught it to save its energy. In the places of primordial habitation, the CASD were used mainly to protect herds from predators and also as guard dogs.

The work with the breed started in the USSR in the 1930s.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Central Asian Shepherd Dog is of harmonious build and large stature, moderately long (neither long nor short in body).

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Robust, muscular body, voluminous, but not with visible muscles. Sexual dimorphism is clearly defined. The males are more massive and courageous than females with more pronounced withers and a larger head. Full maturity is reached by the age of 3 years.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The length of body only slightly exceeds the height at withers. Larger stature is desirable but proportional constitution must remain. Length of forelegs up to the elbow is 50-52 % of the height at the withers. The length of muzzle is less than 1/2 the length of head, but more than a 1/3.

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT: Self assured, balanced quiet, proud and independent. The dogs are very courageous and have high working capacity, endurance and a natural instinct of territory. Fearlessness towards large predators is a characteristic feature.

HEAD: Massive and in balance with general appearance. Head shape is close to rectangular, seen from above and side.

CRANIAL REGION: Deep in skull. The forehead is flat and the skull part is flat and long. Occiput is well defined but hardly visible, because of well developed muscles. Supraorbital ridges are moderately defined.

Stop: Stop is moderately defined.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Large, well developed but not exceeding the general contour of the muzzle. - Colour of the nose is black but in white and fawn coloured dogs the nose can be lighter.

Muzzle: The muzzle is blunt and of moderate length, it is almost rectangular viewed from above and sides and narrowing very slightly towards the nose. Muzzle is voluminous, deep and well filled under the eyes. Bridge of muzzle is broad, straight and sometimes with a slight down face. Chin is well developed.

Lips: Thick, upper lips tightly covering the lower lips when the mouth is closed. Full black pigmentation is preferable.

Jaws / Teeth: The jaws are strong and broad. Teeth are large, white and close to each other, 42 in total. Incisors are set on a line. Scissors bite, pincer bite and also reversed scissors bite is accepted. Canines are set well apart. An injury to the teeth that does not affect the use of the bite is of no consequence.

Cheeks: The Cheekbones are long and well developed, without interfering with the rectangular shape of head.

Eyes: Medium sized, with oval form, set well apart, looking straight ahead, and moderately deep set. The colour of the eyes from dark brown to hazel. The darker colour is preferable. The eyelids are thick and preferably with lower eye lid not too loose. No visible third eyelid. Fully pigmented eyes rims are preferred. Whatever the colour of coat, eye rims should be black. Expression is confident and dignified.

Ears: Medium sized, triangular shape, thick, low set and hanging. Lower part of ear base is level with, or slightly below the eyes. Traditional ear-cropping, in the fashion illustrated on the cover, is still practiced in country of origin and in countries where it is not prohibited by law.

NECK: The neck is of medium length, very powerful, oval at cross-section, well muscled, and low set. Dewlap is a specific breed feature.

BODY:

Top line: Well proportioned and well sustained, and must keep typical topline in stance.

Withers: Well defined, especially in males, muscular, long and high, with well defined transition to the back.

Back: Straight, broad, well muscled, the actual length is about ½ of the length from the withers to tail set.

Loin: Short, broad, muscled, slightly arched.

