

KANGAL SHEPHERD DOG

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2026

ORIGIN

Turkey.

UTILISATION

Shepherd Dog used for guarding sheep. Active breed, originally used as a guard dog for sheep; hard-working; capable of enduring extremes of heat and cold.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Although each nation eagerly designates a breed history for their national breeds, rarely is it possible to come up with an accurate one, especially when it comes to livestock-protection dogs. The Kangal Dog's history is also one of them. However, it is a breed deeply embedded in today's Turkish culture. It is Turkey's highly praised National Dog. It wouldn't be too unrealistic to say that the Turkish people migrating from Central Asia, whose livelihood primarily relied on nomadic animal husbandry, brought their strong livestock-protection dogs along with them. It is a well-known fact that the dogs protecting sheep and goats in Central Asia are of various colours. The question regarding the origins of the Kangal Dog we know today, should be about what caused them to have a more unifying standard in terms of type, and especially colour, in Turkey. It is believed this lies with the area where they are highly populated – in Eastern Turkey – and the breed of sheep they are known to protect – the Akkaraman Sheep. They both seem to share the same black mask on a dun-coloured coat across the vast steppes of Eastern Turkey, surrounded by high mountains, creating relatively an isolated population. This suggests a perfect camouflage and adaptation for both. The breed name, Kangal, seems to come from the town of Kangal, off Sivas, where the breed attracted worldwide attention with exceptionally high quality and uniform specimens.

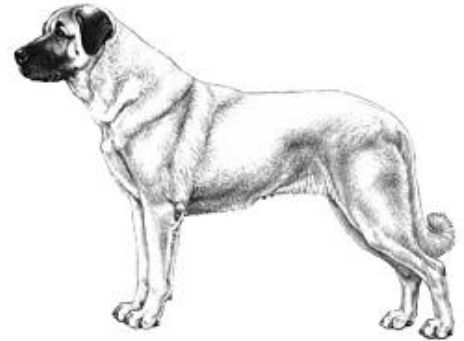


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Large, upstanding, powerfully built, livestock-guarding dog with dark mask. Not aggressive but a good guardian. Capable of great speed. The Kangal is a molossoid-type dog. Its constitution is robust. Compact body is covered with thick and medium-length hair. Body is of rectangular shape.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Profile lines of the muzzle and the skull are divergent.
- Body length is 10% – 12% longer than height at the withers.
- Depth of chest is approximately 50% of height at the withers.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Steady and bold without aggression, naturally independent, very intelligent and tractable. Proud and confident. Loyal and affectionate to owners, but wary of strangers when on duty.

HEAD

Large, but in proportion to the body.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Broad between ears, slightly narrowing toward the stop. Slightly rounded. Length of the skull is greater than width of the skull.

Stop: Slight.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black.

Muzzle: Shorter than the skull. Muzzle length is 40% – 44% of head length. Profile blunt, tapering slightly to the end. Muzzle line from stop towards the nose is gently sloped.

Lips: Very slightly pendulous, black-edged. Edge of upper lip not lower than the profile of the underjaw. Corner of mouth tight.

Cheeks: Well-muscled, cheek bones are visible but not pronounced.

Jaws and teeth: Teeth strong, scissor bite is preferred, level or reverse scissor bite accepted, lack of P1 and M3 not to be penalised.

Eyes:

Almond-shaped, medium to large, size in proportion to size of skull, set well apart, showing no haw. Dark brown to light brown, the darker, the better. Eye-rims black.

Ears:

Medium-sized, triangular in shape, rounded at tip, pendant with front edge close to cheek, higher when alert. Cropped ears (where allowed) are evaluated as the non-cropped ones.

[*refer note below]

NECK

Slightly arched, powerful, muscular, length is almost equal to length of head, rather thick. Can have very slight dewlap. Neck is not carried in upright position.

BODY

Powerful, well-muscled, never flat in the sides.

Topline: Slightly arched over loins. Croup a bit higher than height at the withers.

Withers: Powerful, slightly prominent.

Back: Medium length, strong, well-muscled.

Loin: Slightly arched.

Croup: Of medium length. Muscular, well-connected to the loins. Sloping at almost 30°.

Chest: Deep, reaching the point of the elbows, ribs well-sprung, ribcage sufficiently long.

Underline and belly: Belly slightly tucked-up.

TAIL

Long, reaching a bit under the hock. Upper line of the tail forms a continuous line with the croup line. When relaxed, carried low with close curl at the tip; when alert, carried high and curled over the back, especially on males.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Set well apart, straight and well-boned; of good length.

Shoulder: Well-muscled, oblique.

Upper arm: Must be muscular and strong. Close to the body

Elbow: Close to the sides, but allowing free movement.

Forearm: Harmonic length with body, strong-boned, straight.

Metacarpus (pastern): Strong, slightly sloping when viewed from the side.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Powerful, not overloaded with muscles. Hind legs vertical when seen from behind.

Upper thigh: Long.

Stifle (knee): Well-angulated.

Lower thigh: Muscular, strong.

Hock joint: Firm, wide. Moderate angulation.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Well-developed, moderate length, and stand vertical to the ground. Parallel to each other.

FEET

Forefeet:

Strong, with thick pads and well-arched toes. Nails short and preferably black.

Hind feet:

Strong, with thick pads and well-arched toes. Nails short and preferably black. Presence of dewclaws is accepted.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Very noticeable; line of head, neck, and body at the same level when walking; movement even, supple and long-reaching, giving impression of stalking, with great power. Pacing acceptable at slow speed.

SKIN

Of medium thickness, well-adhering to the head and body. Slight dewlap is tolerated. Skin colour depends on hair colour, but skin must be pigmented.

COAT

Hair:

3cm to 7cm, thick, and harsh guard coat, dense undercoat. Length variations in coat may be possible according to weather conditions. Longer and thicker on neck, shoulders and thighs.

Colour:

Whole body should be one colour. Can be from fawn to wolf sable.

Hair 3cm to 7cm, thick, and harsh guard coat, dense undercoat. Length variations in coat may be possible according to weather conditions. Longer and thicker on neck, shoulders and thighs.

* White or lighter colour on chest is not considered a fault if is not larger than 10cm in width. White colour on throat is not preferred. White colour on paws and feet can be seen. Less white is preferred.

* Must have black mask. Mask covers the muzzle and it is lighter on the skull.

* Ears are dark.

* There can be a dark line on half or one-third of tail from tip to base. White tip on tail is accepted.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 72cm – 78cm (approx. 28” – 31”) with a tolerance of \pm 2cm.

Females: 65cm – 73cm (approx. 25½” – 29”) with a tolerance of \pm 2cm..

Weight:

Males: 48kg – 60kg

Females: 40kg – 50kg

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

Note: Cropped ears – KUSA Schedule 2 Regulation 7:

“Any dog with cropped ears born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA, imported into it and cropped within it, shall not be registered or recorded by the Kennel Union, and if any such dog is registered or recorded in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration or recording shall be cancelled.

7.1. Any dog with ears cropped before importation into the KUSA area of jurisdiction is not eligible for competition at any Kennel Union event.”

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Severe faults:

- Skull wider than the length from occiput to stop.
- Lower croup height than height at the withers.
- Too light or too heavy construction for working condition.
- Atypical tail shape.
- White patch on the neck.
- White line on the muzzle and mask.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Atypical specimen.
- Overshot bite.
- Undershot exceeding reverse scissor bite.
- Muzzle too short (one-third of the total length of the head).
- Coat very short and smooth, devoid of undercoat.
- No mask on muzzle.
- Brown nose and pigmentation.
- Different coloured eyes.

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FCI Standard No 331: KANGAL ÇOBAN KÖPEĞİ (KANGAL SHEPHERD DOG)

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoid type dogs, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs

Section 2.2. Molossian breeds; Mountain type

Without Working Trial