

## CANAAN 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 01/01/2019

### ORIGIN

Israel.

### UTILISATION

Watchdog and security dog.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. for interest – from Wikipedia: The Dalmatian]:

Since time immemorial, the Bedouins have used this dog for guarding their herds and camps. At the time of the Diaspora, the Israelites were forcefully removed from their land and, according to tradition, had to leave behind their dogs, which reverted to the wild. Dr Rudolphina Menzel (1891 – 1973) used these intelligent scavenger dogs, mainly found in the desert, as guard dogs. In the 1930s, Menzel was asked by the Haganah to build up a service-dog organisation. She captured a select group of semi-wild individuals, tamed, trained, and bred them. Menzel found the dogs highly adaptable, trainable, and easy to domesticate. She began a breeding programme in 1934, providing working dogs for the military and she gave pups to be pets and home guard dogs. She initiated a selective breeding programme to produce the breed known today as the Canaan Dog.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

A medium-sized, well-balanced, strong, and square dog resembling the wild-dog type. Strong distinction between the sexes.

### BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Alert, quick to react, distrustful of strangers, strongly defensive, but not naturally aggressive. Vigilant not only against man, but also other animals. Extraordinarily devoted and amenable to training.

### HEAD

Well-proportioned, blunt wedge shape of medium length, appearing broader due to low set ears.

#### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** Somewhat flattened. Some width allowed in powerful male heads.

**Stop:** Shallow but defined.

#### Facial Region:

**Nose:** Black.

**Muzzle:** Sturdy, of moderate length and breadth.

**Lips:** Tight.

**Jaws and teeth:** Jaws should be strong. Full dentition with scissor or level bite.

#### Eyes:

Dark brown, slightly slanted, almond-shaped. Dark rims essential.

#### Ears:

Erect, relatively short and broad, slightly rounded at the tip and set low.

### NECK

Muscular, of medium length.

## BODY

Square.

**Withers:** Well-developed.

**Back:** Level.

**Loin:** Muscular.

**Chest:** Deep and of moderate breadth. Ribs well-sprung.

**Underline and belly:** Well tucked up.

## TAIL

Set high, thick brush carried curled over the back.

## LIMBS

Moderate angulation. Balance is essential.

### Forequarters:

**General appearance:** Forelegs perfectly straight.

**Shoulder:** Oblique and muscular.

**Elbow:** Close to the body.

### Hindquarters:

**General appearance:** Powerful.

**Thigh:** Strong, lightly feathered at the rear side.

**Stifle (knee):** Well-bent.

**Hock joint:** Well let down.

## FEET

Strong, round, and cat-like, with hard pads.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Quick, light, and energetic trot. Should demonstrate marked agility and stamina. Correct movement is essential.

## COAT

Outer coat dense, harsh, and straight, of short to medium length. Undercoat close and profuse.

## COLOUR

- Sand to red-brown, white, black, or spotted, with or without mask.

\* If masked, mask must be symmetrical. Black mask permitted on all colours.

\* White markings are permitted on all colours: "Boston Terrier" patterns are common.

\* Grey, brindle, black-and tan, or tricolour are unacceptable.

\* Desert colours – sand, gold, red, cream – are most typical of the breed.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

50cm – 60cm (approx. 19½" – 23½").

Males can be considerably larger than females.

### Weight:

18kg – 25kg

**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.

## 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.

### Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

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**FCI Standard No 273: CANAAN DOG**

**FCI Classification: Group 5: Spitz and Primitive types**

Section 6.2. Primitive type

Without Working Trial