



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

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 redders 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.*