



Standard n° 04-02/051

WDF Turkmen Alabai

ORIGIN: Turkmenistan

UTILITY: Guard and watch dog.

CLASSIFICATION: Group 2 Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Alabai or Turkmen Alabai is a molosser dog breed of the mountain dog type with very ancient origins, originating from Turkmenistan and recognized by the WDF.

It is a large dog whose main function is to protect flocks from predators. The Russians include it among the "Volkodav" or "wolf destroyers". The Soviets created the so-called Central Asian Shepherd or Central Asian Ovtcharkarka by merging the ancestral lines of Asian molossers such as the Tobet of Kazakhstan and the Alabai of Turkmenistan. Both the Tobet and the Alabai represent the original strain of the Asian molosser, while the Central Asian Shepherd is a creation of modern dog breeding.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Large and strong dog, it is mostly found in dark versions, from gray to black, with brown variants, but always piebald. Often there is ocular dichromia. The only officially recognized variety is the short-haired one, although it is also found with long hair.

The Turkmen Alabai is of harmonious build and large stature, moderately long (neither long nor short in body).

Robust and muscular body, voluminous, but with no visible muscles. Sexual dimorphism is clearly defined. Males are more massive and courageous than females with more pronounced withers and a larger head. Full maturity is reached at the age of 3 years.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The length of the body only slightly exceeds the height at the withers. A moderately large stature is desirable, a proportionate constitution must remain. The length of the forelimbs to the elbow is 50-52% of the height at the withers. The length of the muzzle is equal to half the length of the head, but more than 1/3.

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT: As an adult, he spends all his time working as a guard dog. He has been included in the list of breeds to be monitored, he is certainly not a dog to be adopted lightly or without having specific experience with guard dogs of large livestock. Before adopting, it is advisable to contact a dog trainer who can help in choosing the breeder and the litter and who can detect any critical issues in the adoption process.

Self-confident, balanced, calm, proud and independent. The dogs are very brave and have a high working capacity, resistance and a natural instinct for the 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.

Croup: Moderately long, broad, well muscled, slightly sloping to tail set. The height at the withers exceeds the height over rump by 1-2 cm.

Chest: Deep, long, broad, distinctly developed, ribcage broadening towards the back. False ribs are long.

Lower part of the chest is level with the elbow or slightly below. Fore chest extends slightly in front of the humerus/scapula joint.

Underline and belly: Belly is moderately tucked up.

TAIL: Thick at the base and set fairly high. The natural tail is carried in a sickle curve or curled in a loose ring that begins at the last third of the tail. When alert the tail rises to the line of back or slightly above. Hanging at rest. Traditional tail docking, in the fashion illustrated on the cover, is still practiced in country of origin and in countries where it is not prohibited by law.

Natural tail is of equal value to a docked tail.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Forelegs are straight with strong bone, seen from the front parallel and not close together. Seen from the side, the forearms are straight.

Shoulder: Shoulder blade long, well laid back, forming an angle with the upper arm about 100°. Well muscled.

Upper arm: Oblique, long, and strong.

Elbow: Correctly fitting, turning neither in nor out.

Forearm: Straight, very strong bone, long, oval cross-section.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Moderate length, broad, strong, upright pasterns.

Forefeet: Large, rounded, arching toes, pads are voluminous and thick; nails could be of any color.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Viewed from the rear straight and parallel, set a little wider than forequarters.

Thigh: Broad, moderately long and strongly muscled.

Stifle (Knee): Turning neither in nor out. The knee angulation is moderate.

Lower thigh: Of almost the same length as upper thigh.

Hock joint: Moderate angle.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Very strong of moderate length, perpendicular. No dewclaws.

Hind feet: Large, rounded, arching toes, pads are voluminous and thick; nails could be of any color.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Well balanced and elastic. Trot with free reach in the forequarters and with powerful drive from the hindquarters. Top line is steady while moving. All joints to bend without effort. The angulations in hindquarters is more distinct when moving than in standing pose.

SKIN: Thick, sufficiently elastic loose lying to prevent injuries if in combat with predators.

COAT:

Coat: Abundant, straight, harsh, with well-developed undercoat. The hair on the head and front of the legs is short and dense. The hair on the withers is often longer. The guard hair may be short or medium. Depending on the length of the outer coat, there may be shorter hair (3-5 cm), covering the entire body, or longer hair (7-10 cm) forming a mane on the neck, feathers behind the ears and on the backs of the legs and on the tail.

Color: Any, except genetic blue and genetic brown in any combination and black on tan.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height at the withers: Males: 60-80 cm.

Females: Minimum 60-75 cm.

Large size desirable, but proportional constitution must remain.

Weight: Males: 60-110 kg.

Females: 60-80 kg.

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.

- Slight deviations from the breed type.
- Female tending male type.
- Rounded skull, narrow muzzle & narrow lower jaw, small nose.
- Eyes obliquely or close set, loose eyelids.
- Ears high set.
- Thin or loose hanging lips.
- High over the croup. Slightly short croup.
- Narrow front.
- Exaggerated angulations in hindquarters.
- Splayed feet and long toes.
- Hackney gait, slightly un-balanced movement.
- Very short coat

SEVERE FAULTS:

- Highly strung.
- Significant deviation from required type and constitution.

- Leggy appearance; light in bone, soft muscles.
- Eyes too light or bulging eyes.
- Top line falling away.
- Croup much higher than the withers.
- Narrow, short and steep croup.
- Natural stubbed tail, kinked tail.
- Pasterns too high, down in pastern.
- Hindquarters set too far under body.
 1. • Height at withers 2 cm less than stated minimum. • Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
 2. • Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

1. • Timid, overexcited.
2. • Male of female type.
3. • Overshot or distinctly undershot bite.
4. • Eyes of different colour, blue or green eyes; squint.
5. • Loose joints.
6. • Coat of any combination of genetic brown or genetic blue
7. • Colour that is tan with distinctive black mantle.
8. • Coat that is curly or soft.
9. • Unbalanced movement

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.

The Standard Commission

