



Standard n° 01-1/002

WDF Apuan Sheperd

ORIGIN: Italy

UTILITY: Shepherd dog for leading the flock.

CLASSIFICATION: Group 1 Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Dog of the Apuan Alps (also commonly defined, more simply: "Apuan shepherd", but also "Apuan lupine", "Lunigianese wolf" and "local shepherd") has always been present in the territories of upper Tuscany and of Liguria, employed in the work as conductor mainly of sheep, goats and cattle. Like other dog populations spread along the Italian Alpine arc, the Dog of the Apuan Alps descends directly from the ancient Shepherd of the Alps, progenitor of all breeds of European herding dogs; evident historical traces document its very ancient origins, ever since the Ligurian-Apuan people began the practice of transhumant pastoralism: in the representations of the god Silvanus, in fact, a medium-sized wolf dog with the same current features is always present. After having risked extinction due to the general reduction in grazing, the Dog of the Apuan Alps is today widespread throughout the mountain area of Eastern Liguria and Upper Tuscany, with a prevalent density in the areas of Lunigiana and Lucca, where the ancient pastoral trades have been preserved the most.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Dog of the Apuan Alps is a medium-sized dog, rustic, strong, with a robust but not heavy bone. The structure is solid, harmonious and well proportioned; the expression is attentive and alert.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The length of the body is slightly higher than the height at the withers. The length of the muzzle is approximately equal to that of the skull; the craniofacial axes tend towards parallelism.

TEMPERAMENT AND ATTITUDES: the Dog of the Apuan Alps is a watchful, active and lively dog, always ready to go into action. To the innate ability to handle flocks, he adds the precious qualities of guarding the property and defending the livestock from small predators (such as foxes) and possible intruders. Of a docile and balanced disposition, in some subjects there is a "natural" distrust towards strangers typical of sheepdogs.

HEAD: Viewed from above, conical in shape, well proportioned to size, without being either squat or too narrow. The length of the skull is approximately equal to that of the muzzle.

CRANIAL REGION: Skull of medium size, with width equal to its length; the metopic suture is just mentioned, as are the eyebrow and zygomatic arches.
Stop: slightly marked.

FACIAL REGION:

Black truffle.

Muzzle: Cone-shaped, broad at the base, tapering gradually towards the nose, without however ending in a point, of medium length and well chiselled under the eyes; straight nasal bridge.

Lips: thin, close fitting, pigmented.

Jaws and Teeth: Teeth strong and white, set regularly in well developed jaws. Scissor bite and pincer bite, complete dentition (tolerated the absence of two PM1 and M3).

Cheeks: Not full or round.

Eyes: Of medium size, neither prominent nor deep set, slightly almond shaped, set somewhat obliquely; the eye color is brown, of which a darker shade is always preferred. Admitted, but not desired, the blue eye or wall (in one or both eyes, even in partial colouring), but this exclusively in merle subjects. The expression is intelligent and direct.

Ears: Set high on the skull, of medium size, triangular in shape and carried erect at medium distance.

NECK: Of medium length, strong and muscular, gradually widening towards the shoulders and free from dewlap.

BODY: Powerful and athletic, without being heavy; slightly longer than the height at the withers.

Topline: horizontal.

Withers: Moderately marked.

Back: Well muscled.

Loin: solid, medium size, well muscled.

Croup: muscular and of good width and length; slightly inclined.

Chest: Descending to the elbows, high and deep, of good width, but not exceeding. Ribs moderately arched.

Underline: Slightly rising. TAIL: inserted on the extension of the dorsal line, it is wider at the base; of medium length, it must reach anatomically (last vertebra) at least up to the hock. At rest, it is carried leaning, while when the dog is in movement or in excitement, it is carried raised, without however going beyond the line of the back. Well furnished with fur, it elegantly completes the silhouette of the dog.

FORELIMBS:

Overall view: solid but not heavy bone; dry and strong muscles; the forelegs are upright when viewed from the side, and perfectly parallel when viewed from the front.

Shoulder: moderately sloping; well adherent to the body, equipped with solid musculature.

Arm: approximately as long as the shoulder and moderately inclined.

Elbow: Close fitting.

Forearm: Long and straight.

Carpus: still.

Pasterns: Firm and slightly sloping.

Feet: rounded; fingers curved and tightly closed; the thick, elastic and pigmented pads. Tough, dark nails.

HINDQUARTERS:

Overall view: solids without be heavy; parallel when viewed from behind.

Thigh and Leg: About the same length; strong and muscular buttocks.

Knee: moderately angulated.

Hock: Medium low and robust, moderately angulated.

Metatarsus: descends perpendicularly under the hock; frequent presence of dewclaws, even double.

Feet: slightly narrower than the forelegs; toes curved and close together; the thick, elastic and pigmented pads. Tough, dark nails.

GAITS: Lively and loose movement in all gaits; the fore and hind limbs move parallel to each other, with good drive from the hindquarters and long reach from the front. Topline remains firm during movement.

SKIN : Elastic, but tight all over the body.

COAT : Straight and medium long top coat, with dense and close undercoat. The hair is longest on the neck, tail and buttocks, while it is shortest on the head and outside of the ears, on the front of the legs and on the feet.

ALLOWED COLOURS: Grey, black, fawn, merle, brindle. Tan or carbonation may be present; the coat can be one-color, two-color, tri-color.

In merle subjects, white, if present, must not exceed 30% of the total body surface; not too extensive white markings on the muzzle, chest and legs are accepted in all coats.

CUT IT:

Height at the withers:

- 60cm. for males;

- 55cm. for females.

Tolerance: 7 cm more or less.

DEFECTS:

Any deviation from the above points must be considered as a defect, and penalized according to its seriousness, its diffusion and the consequences on the health, well-being of the dog and the ability to carry out its traditional work.

SERIOUS DEFECTS:

Missing one or more teeth (excluding PM1 and M3);

Incorrect position of the lower canines;

Muzzle too short;

prognathism;

Very marked stop; very pronounced cheekbones;

Excessively light or heavy structure.

DISQUALIFICATION DEFECTS:

Aggressive or too shy dogs;

overshot;

Albinism;

Jaws deviated;

Absence of typicality;

Any dog clearly indicating physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified.

NB:

Males should have two normal-looking testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

