



Standard n° 02-02/015

WDF Cane Corso Italiano

ORIGIN: Italy.

UTILITY: from Guard and Defense

CLASSIFICATION: Group 2 Multipurpose Utility Dog

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Dog of medium-large size, strongly built but elegant, with powerful and long muscles, very distinguished, it expresses strength, agility and endurance. The general conformation is that of a mesomorph whose trunk is longer than the height at the withers, harmonious with respect to the format (heterometry) and disharmonious with respect to the profiles (alloidism).

Dogs are divided into three basic morphological types, which can be deduced from the comparison of the longitudinal diameters with the transversal ones:

- mesomorphic or mediolinal type in which the proportions between “heights” and “widths” are well balanced (e.g. Pointer)
- dolichomorphic or long-limbed type in which “heights” predominate over “widths” (e.g. greyhounds)
- brachymorphic or brevilinear type in which “widths” predominate over “heights” (e.g. bulldog)

This classification can be expressed by indices, i.e. by the ratio in hundredths of one measure with respect to another, taken as a point of reference. These indices are basically three: the corporal index, the thoracic index and the cephalic index. The corporal index expresses the measure of the intensity of the masses in relation to the length of the trunk and has the following formula:

Body Index = trunk length X 100 / chest perimeter

The three morphological types have the following corporal indices:

– brachymorphs from 50 to 70 - mesomorphs from 70 to 85 – dolichomorphs from 85 to 100

In the Cane Corso the corporal index is about 80 (mesomorphic)

The thoracic index expresses the development of the chest with respect to the morphological type and has the following formula:

Chest index = chest width X 100/chest height

The three morphological types have the following thoracic indices:

-brachymorphs from 90 to 100

-mesomorphs from 60 to 90

-dolichomorphs from 50 to 60

In the Cane Corso the thoracic index is about 70 (mesomorphic)

The Cane Corso is harmonious with respect to the size (the size is given by the height and the mass, i.e. by the size) and that is, it has a harmonious ordering of the masses.

The Cane Corso is disharmonious with respect to the profiles, as the profile of the head is concave Lineo (with converging craniofacial axes) and that of the trunk is straight. Habitus is the set of characteristics that distinguish an animal species. The well-known French zootechnician Sigaud distinguishes 4 basic types, based on the prevalence of the volume of a specific anatomical part compared to the whole:

-cerebral (prevalence of the head e.g. bulldog)

-digestive (prevalence of the belly e.g. Neapolitan Mastiff)

-respiratory (prevalence of the thoracic region e.g. greyhounds)

-muscular (prevalence of muscle masses e.g. boxer)

The complexion is instead the type of physical constitution of the body.

If classified according to the efficiency of the muscles in transforming the oxygen particles, carried into the circulation by the cardiovascular system, into motor energy (contraction or extension of the muscle), it can be hypoxidative (poor efficiency), normal (normal efficiency), hyperoxidative (great efficiency).

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

The length of the trunk exceeds the height at the withers by approximately 11%. The total length of the head reaches 3.6/10 of the height at the withers. The length of the muzzle corresponds to 3.4/10 of the total length of the head. The height of the chest is 5/10 of the height at the withers and corresponds to the height of the limb at the elbow.

BEHAVIOR AND TEMPERAMENT

Intelligent, energetic and balanced, it is an unequivocal guard and defense dog. Docile and affectionate with his master, a lover of children and of the family, if necessary he becomes a terrible and courageous defender of people, of the house and of the court. It is easily trainable.

BRACHYCEPHALIC HEAD

Its total length reaches 3.6/10 of the height at the withers. The bizygomatic width, equal to the length of the skull, is more than half of the total length of the head, reaching 6.6/10 of this length. The longitudinal axes of the skull and muzzle are slightly convergent. The perimeter of the head, measured at the cheekbones, is also more than double the length of the head in females. The head is moderately sculpted with outwardly protruding zygomatic arches. Skin firm but rather adherent to the underlying tissues, smooth and quite taut.

The heads of dog breeds can be divided into three basic morphological types, relating the length of the head to its width. To this end, the cephalic index is adopted, expressed by the following formula:

Cephalic index = Head width X 100 / head length

The three morphological types have the following indices:

- brachycephalic: cephalic index greater than 54
- mesocephalic: cephalic index between 50 and 54
- dolichocephalic: cephalic index less than 50

In the Cane Corso the cephalic index varies from 64 to 66 and is therefore clearly brachycephalic.

We have seen how dog breeds can be classified into three types according to the behavior of the upper longitudinal axes of the skull and the muzzle (cranio-facial axes). Normally these axes are traced empirically by eye by the expert, while to precisely establish their course it is necessary to use the compass.

The superior longitudinal axis of the skull goes from the craniometric point "inion" (which is located at the vertex of the protuberantia occipitalis externa) to the craniometric point "nasion" which is located at the meeting point of the sutures of the nasal bones with the frontal bones)

The upper longitudinal axis of the muzzle follows the upper profile of the muzzle from the nose to the stop.

Thus determined the profiles of the craniofacial axes, it will be deduced that they can be between them:

- Parallel: the two axes never meet (rectilinear profile), for example in the German shepherd, in the Great Dane, in the Mastiff and in the Neapolitan mastiff.
- Convergent: the forward projection of the two axes meet (converge). The backward projection of the upper axis of the muzzle always passes behind the occipital crest (Lineo concave profile), for example in the Cane Corso, in the Boxer, in the Dogue de Bordeaux, in the Pointer, in the San Bernardo.
- Divergent: The forward projection of the two axes does not meet (diverges). The backward projection of the upper axis of the muzzle always passes in front of the occipital crest (convex profile), for example in the Bracco Italiano, the borzoi, the bloodhound, the bulterrier.

In the Cane Corso convergence constitutes an essential ethnic character.

There are two types of convergence:

- Mono convergence, in which only the axis of the skull converges on the axis of the muzzle
- Bi-convergence, in which both the axis of the skull and the axis of the muzzle converge with each other.

The Cane Corso, as well as the Pointer, the San Bernardo, the Bull Mastiff, etc., are mono convergent.

The Boxer, the Bulldog, are bi-convergent. In the Corso dog, bi-convergence is typical of the hypertype, vice versa, parallelism is typical of the hypotype and divergence always leads to total downgrading.

CRANIAL REGION

Skull: broad and slightly arched seen from the front, in profile it draws an irregular curve which flattens out aborally along the external sagittal crest. Its width is equal to its length and corresponds to 6.6/10 of the total length of the head. Seen from above, it is square in shape due to the external protrusion of the zygomatic arches and the set of powerful muscular bands that surround it. The frontal bumps are well developed and protrude forward, the frontal fossa is deep and the median furrow is clearly visible. Supraoccipital crest not too prominent. Supraorbital fossae (conche) marked but slightly. Stop: very marked due to the well-developed and protruding frontal bumps and the raised eyebrow arches.

Nasofrontal depression (or stop). How marked the naso-frontal depression or stop is can be easily assessed by eye, observing the head in profile and calculating the degree of the sinus-nasal angle (formed by the junction of the superior longitudinal axis of the muzzle with that of the frontal bumps). However, a correct and precise determination of the stop can only be obtained with the evaluation of the craniofacial angle (formed by the junction of the superior longitudinal axis of the muzzle with that which passes through the median sulcus. This sulcus starts from the frontal nose depression and goes to disappear in the middle of the skull, sagittally dividing the two frontal sinuses near the craniometric point "bregma"). In the Cane Corso the skull-facial angle must be approximately 130°. There are specimens which, despite having a correct sinus-nasal angle (105°-110°) have, due to the inadequate development in the three dimensions of the frontal bumps, a median sulcus that is poorly or too pronounced. These deviations, which involve anomalous craniofacial angles, must be tenaciously fought.

Skull: The skull, like the muzzle, is as broad as it is long. This characteristic is a fundamental element of typicality in the Cane Corso. The excessively flat skull is basically due to two orders of reasons: excessive prominence of the occipital apophysis and of the sagittal crest (generally these characteristics are observed in

dogs with parallel or even divergent skull-facial axes), excessively developed temporal muscle, both laterally and above, from having inhibited the bone development of the skull (the skull is equally swollen at the top, but flat above with frontal bumps and flattened superciliary arches).

The globular skull, typical of hypertypicals, appears when a specimen associates a normal bone development of the cranial box and of the zygomatic arches with a hypertrophic temporal (the skull is full at the parietals, the superciliary arches are rounded, the prescribed slight depression of the conche, giving the head a coarse appearance underlined by an atypical expression).

Excessively sunken conches occur when the temporal and the muscles of the head are generally hypotrophic (the head, in this case, appears bony, gaunt, aging).

FACIAL REGION

Nose: on the same line as the muzzle. Seen in profile, it must not protrude on the anterior vertical margin of the lips but be, with its anterior face, on the same vertical plane as the anterior face of the muzzle. Must be voluminous, rather flat at the top, with large, open and mobile nostrils. The pigmentation is black.

Generally, the small nose is associated with conical muzzles (degrading). It is also possible to find specimens which associate a narrow nose with an excellent squareness of the muzzle (wide and with parallel lateral faces). In this case the head loses its typicality, especially in males, and must be downgraded. The nose must not be lowered or protruding forward (frequent in dogs with parallel or divergent craniofacial axes), nor have the anterior face inclined backwards or be raised with respect to the profile of the nasal bridge (frequent in hypertypical)

Muzzle: Very broad and deep. The width of the muzzle must almost equal its length which reaches 3.4/10 of the total length of the head. Its depth exceeds the length of the muzzle by 50%. The parallelism of the lateral faces of the muzzle and the fullness and width of the body of the mandible cause the anterior face of the muzzle to be square and flat. The muzzle is straight and rather flat. The lower lateral profile of the muzzle is given by the upper lips. The suborbital region shows a very slight chisel.

Given the parallelism of the lateral faces of the muzzle, the muzzle must strictly maintain the same width from its base to its tip. The montinine nasal bridges are often associated with parallelism or divergence of the cranial-facial axes. Sometimes there is a more or less accentuated hump midway along the muzzle, which is not appreciated. The nose bridge with a slightly concave Lineo profile is frequently associated with short muzzles and noses inclined hyper backwards, which express a tendency to hypertype (it should always be penalized because it takes away nobility from the subject). An indispensable element of typicality in the Cane Corso is that the width of the muzzle equals its length and that the muzzle measured at its root is at least 1/3 higher than its length therefore the muzzle is as long as it is wide. The

excess of the chisel in the sub-orbital region gives the head a gaunt and aged appearance". The total lack of chisel deprives the head of its typical expression.

Lips: Quite firm. The upper lips, seen from the front, determine at their disjunction an inverted "U" and, seen from the side, are moderately pendulous. Commissure moderately evident and always representing the lowest point of the lower lateral profile of the muzzle. The pigment is black.

In some subjects the front face of the muzzle is not broad and flat, but tends to merge, drawing a wide curve, with the lateral faces of the muzzle due to insufficiently wide jaws. In this case, if the upper lips are sufficiently developed, these, not finding an adequate support base, at their disjunction determine an inverted V instead of the typical U. This characteristic is typical of subjects with convergent lateral faces of the muzzle, and is severely penalised. Insufficiently developed, drawn, receding lips are to be penalized (generally typical of dogs with a conical muzzle). Excessively developed lips are often accompanied by a general laxity of the skin and modify the typical expression of the breed: they are to be penalised.

Jaws: very wide, robust and thick with very slight shortening of the upper jaw and consequent slight prognathism. The jaw branches, very strong, are rather curved in profile. The body of the jaw, well arched forward, is highlighted in a marked chin. The incisors are set in a straight line.

Cheeks: Masseter region full and evident but not hypertrophic.

"The hypotrophic masseters refine and lighten the head too much, vice versa the hypertrophic masseters (like a bulldog) deprive it of nobility."

Teeth: White, large, complete in development and number. The lower incisors slightly surpass (about ½ cm) their correspondents of the upper arch, therefore a slightly prognathous closure results.

In the Corso dog, the slight prognathism is given by the incisors of the lower arch exceeding their correspondents of the upper arch by 5 mm. The measurement of 5 mm is an optimal average value. The pincer bite (the lily flower of the upper incisors overlaps the lily flower of the lower incisors) and the overlap of 10 mm of the incisors of the lower arch than their correspondents of the upper arch are tolerated. The straight (spatula) mandibular profile is to be banned as it depletes the muzzle of skeletal substrate. Furthermore, the spatula jaw is often accompanied by the receding chin, which is not touched by the upper lips at their point of junction. This leads to a marked lack of incisiveness in the muzzle and is to be banned (typical of subjects with a conical muzzle). Overshot, due to deficient development of the jaw, if serious, is incompatible with survival, so that dogs affected by this malformation must be banned from breeding as well as disqualified. In summary, in a working breed like the Cane Corso, a well-curved jaw profile and therefore a well-marked chin is an essential condition for ensuring a solid and secure grip. On the other hand, excess prognathism becomes counterproductive for the solidity of the grip. The considerable distance from the canines and the wide transversal development of the

jaws cause the lateral faces of the upper lips not to fall perpendicularly, but to project slightly outward, so that the anterior platform of the muzzle tends to form (seen from the front) an isosceles trapezoid with longer side below. As regards the absence of the P1 premolars, on one or both arches, it does not constitute a serious defect, as the Cane Corso is brachycephalic. On the contrary, the absence of major premolars should be severely penalised, as they are almost always the result of an anomalous shortening of the muzzle. It is very important that the teeth are powerful and well related to the volume of the head.

Eyes: of medium size compared to the size of the dog, in a sub-frontal position, well spaced from each other. Oval palpebral fissure, slightly protruding eyeballs, adherent eyelids with black pigmented margins. The eyes must not allow the sclera to be seen. Strongly pigmented nictitator. Iris as dark as possible in relation to the color of the coat. Intelligent and alert look.

Note: (over the years, with recent studies on genetics, it has been observed that the color of the eyes (also of the nose, eyelids and mucous membranes) follows the coloration of the coat when included in the genetic makeup of the homozygous action of the locus Dilution, therefore in for example gray Corso dogs, the color of the skin pigmentation will necessarily be gray).

Sunken eyeballs, small or too protruding, are to be severely penalised, as they alter the physiognomy of the breed. The frontal position of the eyes (which is determined when the palpebral axis forms a right angle with the median axis of the head) should be penalized as it is typical of hypertypical, coarse dogs, and is almost always associated with a round palpebral fissure and exophthalmos (eye of ox). An even more serious defect, also in the females, is the eye in a semi-lateral position, which usually resembles the almond-shaped eye. In good males the eyes are widely spaced. The close-set eyes modify the expression and are often combined with poorly developed transversely developed frontal sinuses and a flat skull. The eyelids must adhere closely to the eyeball and therefore not present ectropion (inward turning of the eyelid margin) typical of lymphatic subjects, or entropion (inward turning of the eyelid margin). Furthermore, regardless of the color of the coat (including pale fawn and light gray), must have margins pigmented in black, as well as the nictant or third eyelid. The color of the iris deserves, in the Cane Corso, some insights, as, by prescribing the standard that it must be as dark as possible in relation to coat colour, its chromatic gradations are as broad as the expected colors (from fawn and light gray to dark brindle and black.) In general, the iris should be the same shade as the darkest parts of the coat, except Therefore the iris should have a dark hazelnut color in black and dark brindle coats and gradually lighter shades in fawn and gray coats. However, even in the lightest coats, however, they must not go beyond the hazelnut color, since the color of the iris is always related to the color of the nose and

the eyelid margins (which in the Cane Corso are black). The walleye (whose iris has a discoloration ranging from slate to light blue) is an indication of arrested development and is always a congenital defect. It therefore strictly entails disqualification.

Ears: of medium size in relation to the volume of the head and the size of the dog, covered with short hair, triangular in shape, with a rather pointed apex and thick cartilage, set high, i.e. much above the zygomatic arch, wide at the base hanging, close to the cheeks without reaching the throat. Protruding somewhat outwards and slightly raised at their attachment point, they are carried semi-erect when the dog is alert. They are usually amputated in the shape of an equilateral triangle.

The habit of amputating the ears often leads breeders to neglect the correct insertion and the right proportions of this anatomical part. However, since amputation could be prohibited, it is all the more necessary to give due prominence to the ears, which contribute so much to typifying and giving expression to the head. With intact ears, if the base of the ear is too wide, the pinnae tend to arrange themselves in a "butterfly" shape, vice versa, if the base is too narrow, the pinnae tend to sag, causing the top of the head to lose the much desired angular and marked shape. In both cases the head loses nobility and typicality.

NECK

Upper profile: slightly convex Lineo; Length: approximately 3.6/10 of the height at the withers, i.e. equal to the total length of the head; Shape: oval in section, strong, very muscular, with marked separation from the nape. The perimeter at half length of the neck is about 8/10 of the height at the withers. Skin: The lower edge of the neck is practically devoid of dewlap.

The marked detachment of the neck from the nape is important as it indicates the good development and tone of the neck muscles (most of which have their insertion in the occipital bone). Likewise, the slightly convex profile of the upper edge of the neck is an indication of adequate muscle development. The presence of dewlap and excessive relaxation of the skin is a sign of lymphatism.

The length of the neck is fundamental due to the function it plays in the mechanics of the dog's movement. In fact, the cephalo-cervical balance (the neck with the head), by moving the center of gravity forward, acts as a regulator of the balance of the body (whose instability gives the measure of speed) and therefore of the gaits. Generally a long neck is a characteristic of the gallopers, while the trotter does not need an equally long neck. The Cane Corso has a relatively long neck, although not as long as that of a pure galloper, and its characteristic is in fact the extended trot. A neck that is not well fused with the withers, shoulders and chest is really to be penalised, as it almost always involves low withers and straight shoulders (the neck fits into the trunk as a tube).

TRUNK

Compact, robust and very muscular. Its length exceeds the height at the withers by 11%, with a tolerance of + or - 1%. Topline: Straight dorsal region with slight lumbar convexity. Withers: clearly raised on the dorsal plane and exceeding the level of the croup. It is tall, long, broad, lean and blends harmoniously with the neck and back.

The withers has the first five dorsal vertebrae and the top of the shoulder blades as its anatomical base and is presented as the highest relief of the upper line of the trunk. Since the height of the spinous processes grows up to the fifth dorsal vertebra and then gradually decreases, it is from this vertebra on the ground that the stature of the dog is determined (height at the withers). A prominent (compared to the dorsal plane) and long withers is an essential quality in a working breed. In fact it indicates the length and the consequent obliquity of the spinous processes of the dorsal vertebrae, which act as a lever of tension for the muscles of the back, for the cervical ligament and for the shoulder muscles (trapezius and rhomboid). Consequently, the higher the spinous processes are, the greater will be the contraction of the shoulder elevator muscles (and consequently the amplitude of the limb's oscillation) and the more effective the action on the cephalocervical balance wheel (the head with the neck) and on the stiffening and solidity of the back and loins (factors which indirectly favor the propulsive efforts of the rear). Furthermore, a well inclined shoulder is generally associated with a high withers, a condition which favors, together with those mentioned above, the optimization of the various gaits. A short and low withers makes the back appear long and, in conjunction with a too closed scapulo-humeral angle or an excessive inclination of the arm, shifts the center of gravity to the front. Consequently the dog tends to be "thrown forward" and to have a little energetic and awkward gait due to the lack of swing amplitude of the forelimbs and the reduction of the impulses of the rear. The high and short withers prevent the harmonious fusion with the neck and the back, as it determines a too clear demarcation with the topline. When the tips of the shoulder blades are too high and close together we have the so-called "sharp withers" (quite rare). If the withers have excess fat (kneaded withers) it is usually also low (serious fault).

Back: the back is broad, muscular, like the entire upper line of the trunk, slightly rampant from back to front and strictly straight in profile. Its length reaches 32% of the height at the withers.

The back has the function of support and the task of transmitting the impulse from the rear to the front. A rigorously straight and slightly ramping back profile from back to front allows optimization of the propulsive impulse from the rear to the front. In fact, allowing this conformation to shift the center of gravity towards the rear, there is a lightening on the front, which allows a more effective forward projection of the trunk. kyphosis or convex or carp back indicates that the vertebral column traces a convex profile in the dorso-lumbar tract and is often related to rickets with consequent calcification of the intervertebral cartilages. Dogs with this pathology are

shorter and less flexible and suffer a reduction in movement and in the ability to develop fast gaits, since the propulsive impulse of the hindquarters finds an obstacle in the kyphotic profile, which attenuates its thrust. The lordosis or concave back indicates that the vertebral column traces a concave profile limited to a portion of the dorsal tract or more often from the withers to the rump and is often related to relaxation of the lower vertebral ligaments, short withers, long back and loins. In the Cane Corso this serious anomaly must be severely penalised. Dogs with this pathology are not very solid and poorly mobile as, in addition to presenting, like kyphotic subjects, conditions that hinder the transmission of the propulsive impulse of the rear, they have to spend energy to oppose the unnatural lowering of the vertebral column.

Loins: the lumbar region is short, wide, well connected to the back and croup, very muscular, very solid and with a slightly convex profile. Its length, slightly superior to the width, corresponds to 20% of the height at the withers.

A short, wide and solid kidney constitutes an irreplaceable functional value in the dog, and can compensate for many other anatomical deficiencies. The loin must be short as a short "bridge" is notoriously more resistant than a long "bridge". A long loin leads to a swinging rear with damage to the transmission of motor impulses. The loin must be large, as if the transverse vertebral apophyses are well developed in length, the muscles that surround them are also equally developed. A tight, frail loin is always not very resistant. An unacceptable defect is the loin sloping to the sides (sharp), to be penalized is the low loin, sunken, not well connected with the back and croup (the same as said about the back is valid, as the propulsive force of the hindquarters tends to break in this region and the subject must consume a large part of the energies to oppose the lowering of the kidneys). The profile of the loin must be slightly convex, arched, as this shape is the one that best suits the extension and retraction movements that the dog performs in the trot and gallop. A flat kidney is ill adapted to modify its profile, making movement "stiff". It is therefore good to always make sure with the hand of the solidity of the loins.

Croup: long, broad, somewhat rounded due to the great development of the muscular masses. Its length, measured from the tip of the hip to the tip of the buttock, corresponds to 32% of the height at the withers. Its inclination on the horizontal according to the ilio-ischiatic line is 28°-30° and from the tip of the hip to the insertion of the tail 15°-16°. It is therefore slightly inclined.

The rump is of fundamental importance in animal mechanics, as it is the fulcrum of transmission of the impulses from the rear (hocks) to the front, and its inclination (according to the coxal axis) is directly correlated to the length of the rear muscles (buttocks and above all ischio-tibial muscles) and therefore to the angle of the same. In fact, the femur forms an angle ranging from 90° to 120° with the pelvis (coxal) and since the metatarsus is always perpendicular to the ground, it is obvious that the inclination of the thigh (femur) and leg (tibia) will depend on the inclination of the

rump. We defer the necessary clarifications to the study of the hind limbs. A horizontal croup, typical of gallopers, presupposes long ischio-tibial muscles with a consequent greater capacity for contraction of the same and therefore amplitude of oscillation of the limb. A sloping croup, typical of trotters, requires shorter muscles. In the Cane Corso the rump is slightly inclined and in fact its typical gait is the extended trot.

The croup must be long, since acting as a fulcrum of transmission, the effectiveness of its action is in relation to its length.

The width of the croup is in relation to the skeletal construction and consequently to the development of the muscular masses. In the Cane Corso the croup must be wide as in its functions the breed must develop power rather than speed.

A very serious defect is the sloping croup (over 35°) since it always involves an insufficiently angulated hindquarters due to the extremely short and weak ischiotibial muscles which cause the dog, in order not to get tired, to rest bone radius on bone radius as vertically as possible (dog standing on hindquarters) with incorrect hip and knee joints. This pathology is often accompanied by a croup higher than the withers and an excessive load of weight on the front, causing difficult and awkward walking. Equally serious, but rarer, is the croup that is too horizontal (below 15°) which causes a femoro-tibial straightening and consequently too open angles (if associated with a short croup, movement is severely limited).

Chest: Broad, well let down and open, with well developed pectoral muscles. Its width, in close relationship with the width of the chest, reaches 35% of the height at the withers. The manubrium of the sternum is at the same level as the tips of the shoulders. In profile the chest is well stretched forward and slightly convex between the forelegs.

The measurement of the width of the chest is carried out by taking the two opposite points of the shoulders as a reference. When, due to a deficient muscular development, the profile of the sternal border appears too evident (sharp chest) the subject is to be penalised.

Chest: Well developed in three dimensions with long, oblique, broad and fairly well sprung ribs with extensive intercostal spaces. The 4 false ribs are long, oblique and open. The chest is well let down to the elbow and its height corresponds to half the height at the withers. Its width, measured at half its height, is 35% of the height at the withers and decreases slightly towards the sternal region without forming a hull. Its depth corresponds to 55% of the height at the withers. Its perimeter exceeds the height at the withers by 35%.

Height. Briefly, it can be assessed whether the chest is adequately developed in height by verifying that the sternal profile and the olecranon top are aligned. However, a properly sized chest may appear too high due to a low withers which, by reducing the distance between the elbow and the withers, lowers the sternal border below the level of the elbows. Sometimes in females, in elderly dogs, particularly

corpulent or with a relaxed shoulder girdle, a perfect rib cage can appear too low. A low chest height compromises the functionality of the animal. As far as the width is concerned: in an empirical evaluation by eye, the width of the chest and that of the chest must almost correspond. To ban the flat chest. The "barrel" chest, which deprives the subject of nobility and hinders movement, is to be penalized as well as the narrow or fair chest. The fairing, caused by the abrupt reduction of the transverse diameter in the lower part of the side, creates a vacuum between the chest and the elbow, so that the latter becomes unglued and sometimes oscillating. This defect occurs above all in young and long-limbed subjects, especially if of large size. When the transverse diameter is more than 35% of the height at the withers, the dog appears broad in front with forearms too far apart, when it is below 35%, the dog appears narrow in front with forearms too close together. The latter defect is more serious than the first and must be severely penalised. Depth. The depth of the chest is of great importance, as it is related to the extent of the intercostal spaces and the obliquity of the ribs. A shallow chest is almost always accompanied by slightly oblique ribs, with a consequent reduction in inspiration capacity. Even a deficient thoracic perimeter affects the functionality of the dog. If the xiphoid appendix is curved inwards, the belly will be retracted, as some abdominal muscles have insertion on the xiphoid apophysis.

Lower profile: the sternal section is dry, long, wide and in profile it draws a semicircle with a very large radius which gently rises caudally to the abdomen. The ventral tract is neither retracted nor relaxed and its profile rises from the sternal border to the groin in a gentle curve. The hollow of the side is not very pronounced.

The profile of the belly is closely related to that of the back. A too tucked up belly is generally accompanied by a convex back and a rectilinear or sunken belly almost always with a concave back. The same considerations made for kyphosis and lordosis of the back therefore apply. However, a sagging, swollen belly can also be due to obesity, poor nutrition, verminosis or lymphatism.

Tail: set rather high on the line of the croup, thick at the root and relatively tapering at the tip, if stretched out it reaches and slightly surpasses the hock. Carried low in rest, horizontal or slightly higher than the back in action, it must never be curved in a ring or raised like a candle. The 4th vertebra is amputated.

In the Cane Corso, when the tail is brought to rest, it must appear similar to a "herringbone". In fact, being thick at the root and then gradually tapering, the adipose tissues covering the caudal vertebrae, lying on the buttocks, give it this characteristic V-shape. A low set tail generally also entails a sloping croup. The thin tail at the root often accompanies a candle tail in action (it should be penalised).

FORELIMBS

Appearances regular both observed in profile and from the front. The height of the forelegs at the elbow is 50% of the height at the withers. Well proportioned to the size of the dog, strong and robust.

Regular profile profile:

1) the vertical lowered from the tip of the shoulder to the ground must graze the tips of the fingers.

2) the vertical line lowered from the center of the elbow joint must divide the limb into two almost equal parts (the greater is the front) and touch the ground just behind the foot.

Regular perpendicularity in front:

1) the vertical line lowered from the tip of the shoulder to the ground must divide the forearm, carpus, metacarpus and foot into two equal parts;

2) the length of the front limb at the elbow is equal to half the height at the withers.

Shoulder: long, oblique, strong, equipped with long, powerful, well-divided and clear-cut muscles, close to the chest but free in movement. Its length, from the top of the withers to the point of the shoulder, corresponds to 30% of the height at the withers and its inclination to the horizontal fluctuates around 48°-50°. The tips of the scapulae are slightly apart from the median plane of the body.

The shoulder is of fundamental importance in the motor mechanics of the dog, as the muscles that act on the arm and forearm and therefore on the width of the step have their insertion in the shoulder blades. For this reason, a long shoulder, with long muscles, is associated with a large step. A short shoulder, which is often associated with a straight shoulder, negatively affects movement and construction, since it is always accompanied by an excessive inclination of the arm, which causes the trunk to lean forward by shifting the center of gravity (trunk thrown forward). In addition to being long and correctly inclined, the shoulder must be mobile and therefore fat shoulders (kneaded), frail, tied in the movements (ankles) or with a relaxed scapular girdle, with too close or spaced or short toes should be penalised.

Upper arm: slightly longer than the shoulder, strong, with excellent bone and muscle development. Well connected to the trunk in its upper two thirds, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the elbow, it has a length corresponding to 31-32% of the height at the withers and an inclination with the horizontal of about 58°-60°. Its longitudinal direction is parallel to the median plane of the body. The scapulohumeral angle oscillates between 106° and 110°.

The length of the humerus is closely related to that of the scapula. Conversely, its inclination acts as a compensating factor for the direction of the scapula. We have already said that "straight" shoulders correspond to too inclined arms (dogs "thrown" on the front" with overloaded feet and limbs that lift little). On the other hand, a too inclined shoulder will correspond to an excessively straight arm, which by moving the center of gravity backwards, overloads the rear with consequent upright posture of the neck. Both defects should be strongly penalised. Therefore, a correct inclination of the arm with respect to the horizon (58°-60°) associated with a correct scapulohumeral angle (106°-110°) is essential.

Elbows: long, very prominent, close fitting but not tight to the sides of the side, covered with dry skin, must, like the humerus, be on a plane rigorously parallel to the sagittal plane of the trunk. The tip of the elbow (olecranon epiphysis) is located on the vertical line down from the caudal (or posterior) angle of the scapula to the ground. Forearm perfectly vertical, with oval section, well muscled especially in the upper third, with very strong and compact bone structure. Its length, from the tip of the elbow to the first carpiar joint, is very little longer than that of the arm and corresponds to 32-33% of the height at the withers. Carpus-cubital groove marked. The back of the forearm is characterized by a groove, called carpo-cubital, determined by the insertion of the tendon of the flexor cubital muscle in the pisiform bone (above Carpiano), which acts as a lever arm. The more the pisiform bone is developed (backwards), the more effective the lever will be (powerful forearm) and the carpo-cubital groove will be marked. Elbows deviated outwards or unglued (open) often lead to crouching, those moved inwards cause left-handedness. The second defect is, in the Cane Corso, more frequent than the first. Avoid short, thin, frail forearms that are often accompanied by a narrow chest, while arched forearms (spongy bone) always denote rickets.

Carpus: seen from the front, follows the straight vertical line of the forearm, lean, broad, mobile, thick. At its posterior border the pisiform bone is strongly projected backwards.

The carpus of the dog corresponds to the wrist of the human hand. Normally in puppies and puppies of Cane Corso it is hypertrophic, with even considerable bone swellings, which however are not due to rickets. This pathology is instead to be penalized in adults. the presence of signs of exostosis (new production of bone tissue) indicates the permanence of irritative states (it is a very serious defect). Sometimes the carpus is moved forward (arrembato) beyond the vertical traced by the forearm, or arched backwards (cavo). Both defects lead to false aplombs. Often the carpus is deviated inward (varus) and consequently the pasterns and feet are brought out (left-handedness) or deviated outwards (valgus) with the pasterns and feet brought inward (cagnolism). The first defect is more frequent in the Cane Corso than the second. If the metacarpus is stiff (gramping) the dog will be led to walk on the "toes". It is a rare defect in the Cane Corso.

Metacarpus: somewhat smaller in thickness than the forearm, it is very robust, lean, elastic, slightly flexed (it forms an angle with the ground of approximately 75°). Its length must, however, exceed one sixth of the height of the fore limb at the elbow. Seen from the front, it follows the perpendicular line of the forearm and carpus.

Among the anatomical parts that make up the forelimbs, the metacarpus can be defined as the "shock absorber". In fact, due to its obliquity and elasticity, it interacts like a spring between the upper anatomical parts of the limb and the foot, every time the latter touches the ground during movement. In young subjects the "long and low jointed" metacarpus is frequent and almost always disappears in mature subjects.

Foot: round in shape, with very arched and gathered toes (cat's foot). Soles dry and hard. Strong, curved and pigmented nails. Good pigmentation also on the plantar and digital pads.

The foot with spread and slightly arched toes shows lymphatism and is hereditary (very serious defect). Flat feet tire the animal, preventing it from moving over long distances. In the Cane Corso the most common deviations from the perpendicularity of the forelimbs can be summarized as follows:

- silhouette:

a) total deviation of the limb:

1- dog "thrown to the front" or "gathered to the front" (the vertical falls at a distance from the toe).

2- dog "stretched out in front" (the vertical falls on the foot), rare in the Cane Corso.

b) partial deviation of the limb:

1- "long jointed" dog (pasterns too long and inclined)

- in front of:

a) total deviation of the limb:

1- dog "closed in front" (limbs converging down inside the vertical)

2- dog "open to the front" (limbs diverging at the bottom outside the vertical)

3- dog with arched forearm ("lyre")

b) partial deviation of the limb:

1- left-handed dog (the forearm is vertical but the limb from the carpus to the foot rotates outwards)

2- doggy dog (the forearm is vertical but the limb rotates inwards from the carpus to the foot)

7.2. Hindquarters Appiombi regular both observed in profile and in front. Well proportioned to the size of the dog, strong and powerful.

Regular profile profile:

1 the vertical lowered from the tip of the buttock must graze the toes

2 the metatarsus is always perpendicular to the ground.

Regular appliqués from behind:

The vertical line lowered from the tip of the buttock to the ground divides the whole limb into two equal parts.

HINDQUARTERS

Appearances regular both observed in profile and from the front. Well proportioned to the size of the dog, strong and powerful.

Regular perpendicularity in profile: 1 the vertical line lowered from the tip of the buttock must touch the toes 2 the metatarsus is always perpendicular to the ground.

Regular perpendicularity from behind: The vertical line lowered from the tip of the buttock to the ground divides the whole limb into two equal parts.

Thigh: Long and broad, with prominent muscles. The tip of the buttocks is well highlighted. Its length exceeds 33% of the height at the withers, the width is never less than 25% of this height. The axis of the femur, somewhat oblique from top to bottom and from back to front, has an inclination of 70° to the horizontal and forms a slightly more than right angle with the coxal axis (coxo-femoral angle) .

The long thigh is an indispensable value, especially in a working dog as it translates into greater oscillation of the limb and long and powerful muscle masses. Likewise to the length, the development in width is the bearer. The narrow, flat thigh, deficient in perimeter ("chicken leg") indicates reduced development or even atrophy of the muscles. Even worse is the thigh with a straight or hollow rear profile, since it is often due to a deficient development of the tip of the buttock which acts as a lever arm for the ischio-tibial muscles, with a consequent greater expenditure of energy for movement. In general, horizontal or slightly inclined croups correspond to long thighs and well-dropped buttocks, while to short thighs and buttocks, inclined or worse, hollow croups. In summary, it is very important that the whole complex of the rump-pelvis-buttocks-thighs muscles is powerful and developed. Otherwise, the functionality of the rear is undermined and the infamous subluxation of the coxo-femoral joint is favoured, in young dogs. The open thigh involves vaccination, the closed one involves "barrel" hindquarters and doggy style.

Leg: long, dry, with strong bone and musculature. (–Free from subcutaneous cellular tissue –) the leg groove is well highlighted. Its length corresponds to 32% of the height at the withers and its inclination from top to bottom and from front to back is 50° on the horizontal.

The length of the leg is slightly shorter than that of the thigh. We have already mentioned how an adequate development of the musculature, of the skeleton, of the length is important for a wide swing of the limb and for the effectiveness of the propulsive thrust of the rear when speaking of the thigh. A poorly highlighted leg groove (longitudinal groove present on the external face of the leg from the hock to its lower half) indicates relaxation and muscle weakness. A correct inclination of the leg indicates a correct angulation of the entire hind limb (straight leg = horizontal croup, oblique leg = inclined croup).

Knee: the femur-patellar-tibial angle is approximately 120°. Its direction is parallel to the median plane of the body.

Hock: wide, thick, dry, clean, with well-marked bony prominences. The well pronounced point of the hock clearly shows the continuation of the leg groove. The distance from the point of the hock to the sole of the foot (on the ground) must not exceed 26% of the height at the withers. Its direction, with respect to the median plane of the body, is parallel. The tibia-metatarsal angle is approximately 140°.

The hock or tarsus is a very important region, not only for its support function, but also because it is the propulsive spring of the hindquarters (the width and thickness of the hock indicate the development of this spring). Since the metatarsus is always

vertical, the tibia-metatarsal angle is the relationship to the inclination of the tibia, which in turn, as we have seen, has an inclination related to the trend of the croup. In summary: horizontal rump = slightly inclined tibia = open hock angle; sloping croup = oblique tibia = closed hock angle. If the metatarsus forms an acute angle with the ground (it is oblique forward) the center of gravity is moved backwards and the hock is overloaded (elbow hock = dog with rear under itself). On the contrary, if the metatarsal forms an obtuse angle with the ground (it is oblique backwards) the motor impulse is compromised (tibia-metatarsal angle too open - dog mad at the back). Both defects are very serious, the second is more common than the first in the Cane Corso. The false positions of the limbs can cause a loosening of the tibia-metatarsal joint with a wobbly hock in motion. In dogs "upright on the rear" there may even be a tendency to invert the angle of the hock.

Metatarsus: very thick, dry, rather short, cylindrical, always perpendicular to the ground, both in profile and backwards. Its length corresponds to about 15% of the height at the withers (tarsus and foot excluded). Its inner face must be without a spur.

Foot: slightly more oval than the front, it has less arched phalanges.

In the Cane Corso, the most common deviations from the perpendicularity of the hind limbs can be summarized as follows:

- silhouette:

a) total deviation of the limb:

1. dog "behind itself at the back" or "together behind" (the foot is in front of the vertical, the hind limbs are moved under the trunk, the croup is sunk)
2. dog "standing upright" (the foot is in front of the vertical, the limbs are moved under the trunk, the leg is perpendicular, the hock is open, the croup is depressed)
3. dog "outside itself at the back" or "stretched out behind" (the foot is considerably behind the vertical without touching it, therefore the hind legs are moved backwards, the croup is horizontal)

b) partial deviation of the limb:

1. closed hock (the deviation starts from the hock and the tarsus, metatarsus and foot are oblique forward)
2. open hock (opposite defect to the previous one)

-back:

a) total deviation of the limb:

1. dog "closed from behind" (limbs converging downwards, therefore inside the vertical)
2. dog "open from behind" (legs diverging at the bottom, therefore out of the vertical)
3. "vaccine" dog (hocks are inside the vertical and feet turned out)
4. dog "cagnolo" (the hocks are out of the vertical and the feet turned in)

GAITS

Long stride, extended trot, canter sections but inclined towards extended trot.

SKIN

Rather thick, with limited subcutaneous connective tissue and therefore practically adherent to the subcutaneous layers in every region. The neck is practically free from dewlap. The head must not have wrinkles. The pigment of the mucous membranes and scleroses is black, that of the soles and nails must be dark.

COAT

Short but not shaved coat, with a vitreous texture, shiny, shiny, adherent, sustained, very dense, with a light layer of undercoat which is accentuated in winter (but without ever emerging on the top coat). Its average length is 2-2.5 cm. On the withers, rump, rear edge of the thighs and on the tail it reaches 3 cm without giving rise to feathering. On the muzzle the hair is short, smooth, adherent and does not exceed 1-1.5 cm. Colour: black, lead grey, slate, light grey, light fawn, deer fawn, dark fawn and brindle (stripes on a fawn or gray background of various shades). In fawn and brindle subjects there is a black or gray mask whose extension is limited to the muzzle and must not go beyond the eye line. Admitted a small white patch on the chest, the toes and the bridge of the nose.

Nota Bene: (In reality, due to a genetic issue, there are fawn backgrounds with gray or black brindles).

SIZE AND WEIGHT

Height at the withers:

Males: 64 - 68cm. With a tolerance of 2 cm more or less.

Females: 60 - 64cm. With a tolerance of 2 cm more or less.

Weight:

Males: 45 - 50 kg. In relation to the size. (0.710 kg/cm).

Females: 40 - 45 kg. In relation to the size. (0.680 kg/cm).

DEFECTS

Any deviation from the above must be considered as a defect, and the severity with which this defect will be penalized must be proportionate to its seriousness and to how much it can interfere with the health, well-being of the dog and its ability to carry out its traditional work.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Upper axes of skull and muzzle parallel or too convergent; convergence of the lateral faces of the muzzle.

Partial depigmentation of the nose.

Scissor bite: prognathism over 5 mm.

Tail erect vertically (candle) or ringed.
Subject which, at a trot, constantly changes.
Size above or below the limits indicated.
Presence of spurs.

DISQUALIFICATION DEFECTS

Aggressive or fearful dogs.
Any dog showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified.
Divergence of the craniofacial axes.
Totally depigmented nose.
Concave nasal bridge or muzzle.
Overshot.
Partial or total depigmentation of the eyelids; walleyes; bilateral strabismus.
Anurism or brachyurism, both congenital and artificial.
Semi-long, short hair with fringes.
Any color not foreseen by the standard: large white spots.
Combined amble in gaits

NOTE

Males should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
Only those functional, clinically healthy and typical subjects should be used for breeding.

“The original Standard of the Italian Corso dog, drawn up by Dr. Antonio Morsiani in 1987, is strictly followed. It is to be considered as the most complete and faithful Breed Standard existing today.”



The Standard Commission