



Standard n° 04-02/052

WDF Torkuz

ORIGIN: Uzbekistan

UTILITY: Guard and watch dog.

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

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Torkuz, Tortkuz, Torkus, Sarkandjik and Alabai are the coat colors of the Central Asian Mastiff

Central Asian Mastiffs are crosses with modern breeds.

The Torkuz/Torkus (eponym for: four-eyed), also known as the Uzbek Ovcharka, Sarkangik/Sarkangik Wolfdog/Sarkandjik, Uzbek Mastiff/Uzbek Torkuz Mastiff, Central Asian Torkuz and Uzbek Volkodav, is a very ancient breed of mountain molossoid dog, originally from Uzbekistan and not registered by the FCI.

The Torkuz is one of the breeds that participated in the creation of the Central Asian Shepherd Dog or Central Asian Ovtcharkarka in the last century.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: This breed is considered a subtype of the Central Asian Shepherd and has very ancient origins. The breed originated in a territory, Uzbekistan, a crossroads of commercial caravans that went from the West to the East since the 4th century BC. Local shepherds, since ancient times, relied on a very large dog to protect their flocks; without having interfered much since then with the natural and functional selection of this breed. It is thought that crossbreeding with the Alabai shepherd, with Persian molossers, Mongolian dogs, Russian shepherd dogs and more recently with dogs from Tajikistan and Iran played a role in the construction of the breed. All breeds that crossed those territories with commercial exchanges. The crossbreeding made had the sole purpose of improving the functional and working characteristics of the breed.

More recently the breed has suffered a decline due to crossbreeding with other breeds.

Together with the Turkmen Alabai and the Uzbek Sarkangik, the Torkuz is the dog that comes closest to the model of the ancient Asiatic mastiff.

Its main function is to protect livestock from predators: wolves and bears.

There are two variants of the breed:

a very heavy and imposing one used for fighting, big game hunting and guarding, called Torkuz; and a less heavy, massive and tall one: the Sarkangik, used for guarding and guiding flocks.

The two types are often crossed with each other. Most dogs are white with dark black or brown spots. The hair is short and dense, longer in winter. The neck has an abundant dewlap. The height of the breed has wide margins of fluctuation, in some cases reaching 80 cm.

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: The Torkuz has the guard in its genes, in fact since its origins it has been selected to protect things and people from: wolves, bears, leopards and predators, this has influenced the genetics of the breed in an exclusive way. It is truly a natural guardian, which does not require any training for this function. It is very affectionate with its owner and his family, and also demonstrates a strong sense of protection towards all puppies.

The particular climatic conditions of Central Asia, with an oppressive heat during the day and the biting cold of the night, together with the constant confrontation with the large predators that populate those territories, have created a dog of unique temperament, not very demanding and that knows no fear. Furthermore, it is a dog that stands out for its balanced character

It shows dominance in encounters with other dogs.

It is necessary that it is appropriately socialized from the early stages of growth.

It apparently seems like a lazy dog, especially during the day, but it is equipped with lightning-fast reaction times, and is also very active at night in protecting the goods entrusted to it.

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 1/2 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: 80-82 cm.

Females: Minimum 75-78 cm.

Large size desirable, but proportional constitution must remain.

Weight: Males: over 80 kg.

Females: over 70 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

