



## King Shepherd Club Standard King Shepherd

*Approved February 2008*  
Standard Provided by ABIDS

**General Appearance:** The King Shepherd possesses size, good bone, a well-muscled torso with a strong impressive head; large, rugged, powerful and impressive, possessing great endurance and agility. Developed through a set of very demanding circumstances for a purely utilitarian purpose; he is a working guard dog without equal, with a unique ability to protect livestock. He possesses a keen intelligence and a kindly, while regal, expression. Exhibiting a unique elegance of bearing and movement, his soundness and coordination show unmistakably the purpose for which he has been bred. The King Shepherd encompasses his own unique look; he should not look like a long-haired German Shepherd Dog.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** *Size:* The height at the highest point of the withers ranges from a minimum of 27 inches ranging to 29 inches for dogs, and a minimum of 25 inches ranging to 27 inches for bitches. *A dog or bitch measuring under the minimum height limits specified shall be disqualified* A 27 inch dog weighs about 100 pounds with the ideal weight being 120-145 pounds. A 25 inch bitch weighs about 80 pounds with an ideal weight being 90-110 pounds. Weight is in proportion to the overall size and structure with preference given to the larger. The dog's appearance is more massive throughout than the bitch's. Large size is desirable, but never at the expense of balance, structure, and correct gait.

**Proportion--**The King Shepherd is a balanced dog with the height measured at the withers being somewhat less than the length of the body measured from the point of the shoulder to the rearmost projection of the upper thigh (buttocks). These proportions create a rectangular dog, 15% longer than he is tall. Front and rear angulations are balanced.

**Substance--** He is a dog of considerable substance which is determined by spring of rib, strong muscle, and heavy bone. **Serious Faults:** *Slight or weak bones, narrow or hollow chest, lacking in substance.*

**Head:** The King Shepherd is distinguished by his immense, square and well defined head. The large square head is a key essence of breed type. **The head:** is broad and deep, not coarse or clumsy, but in proportion to the size of the dog. The muzzle is square, blunt, with level planes, and is in equal proportion to the back skull; when measured from the tip of the nose to insertion of the stop. The **skull:** is measured from the point of stop to the far most point of the occiput. The furrow is moderately defined with slightly arched frontal bones lending to a well defined stop. The **skull:** is broad and moderately rounded between the ears, gradually narrowing and flattening on top as it approaches the eyes, rounding off to cheeks that are moderately curved, and when viewed from the top should be much in the form of a trapezoid, and well filled in under the eyes. The **expression:** keen, intelligent and composed. **Eyes:** of medium size, almond shaped, set a little obliquely and not protruding. The color is as dark as possible matching the surrounding coat ranging from varying shades of brown. **Ears:** are moderately pointed, in proportion to the skull, open toward the front, and carried erect when at attention, the ideal carriage being one in which the center lines of the ears, viewed from the front, are parallel to each other, high set, and perpendicular to the ground. *A dog with cropped or hanging ears must be disqualified.* **Severe Faults:** *Wide or Kite like ears set off to the side of the head, long snippy muzzle, extremely light eyes, small refined head, insufficient stop, domed skull, low set ears.*

*A dog with a nose that is not predominantly black must be disqualified.* The lighter streaked "snow nose" is acceptable and may be present during winter months. The lips are firmly fitted. Jaws are strongly developed. **Teeth** --42 in numbers--20 upper and 22 lower--are strongly developed and meet in a scissors bite in which part of the inner surface of the upper incisors meet and engage part of the outer surface of the lower incisors. An overshot jaw or a level bite is undesirable. *An undershot jaw is a disqualifying fault.* Complete dentition is to be preferred. **Serious fault:** *Any missing teeth other than first premolars.*

**Neck, Topline, Body:** **Neck--**Robust, strongly muscled, of medium length, well set on the shoulders and is long enough for proud head carriage with no evidence of dewlap or throatiness. The neck is carried erect when excited and typically above the horizontal aspect of the topline when gaiting. **Topline--**The backline is level. The **back** is strong, broad, and muscular and is level from just behind the withers to the croup. The chest is full and deep with the brisket reaching at least down to the elbows. Ribs are well sprung, with the anterior third of the rib cage tapered to allow elbow clearance. **Body--**The chest is moderately broad. The rib cage is well sprung, oval in shape, and of sufficient depth to reach the elbows. Back and loin are broad and strongly coupled with some tuck-up. The croup is gently sloping with the tail set on just below the level of the back. **Tail--**The tail is well plumed, carried low in repose and may not be carried over the back. The tail is broad at the base and strong. It has no kinks, and the distal bone reaches

to the hock. When standing relaxed, the tail hangs straight or with a slight curve at the end. In motion the tail is down and slightly curved or out when gaitting. If the dog becomes excited it may raise the tail, and it will become more curved without going beyond the vertical aspect of the back, but it does not curl or lie over the back. **Severe Faults:** *Roached topline, steep croup, shallow chest not extending to elbow, tail that curls or lies over the back. Curled or hook tail. Disqualification:* *A docked tail.*

**Forequarters: Shoulders**--The shoulders are well laid back, well muscled, and lie close to the body. The upper arm meets the shoulder blade at approximately a right angle. The upper arm angles backward from the point of the shoulder to the elbow and is never perpendicular to the ground. The length of the shoulder blade and the upper arm is approximately equal. The height from the ground to the elbow appears approximately equal to the height from the elbow to the withers. **Forelegs**--The legs are of sufficient bone and muscle to provide a balance with the frame. The elbows are close to the body and point directly to the rear when standing and gaitting. The forelegs, when viewed from the side, are located directly under the withers and are straight and vertical to the ground. The elbows, when viewed from the front, are set in a straight line from the point of shoulder to the wrist. Front pasterns are strong and flexible. Each foreleg may carry a single dewclaw. **Front Feet**--Rounded, close-cupped, well cushioned pads, toes well arched. . There is a protective growth of hair between the toes. The pads are thick and tough; toenails short and strong. **Serious Faults:** *Pinched elbows, a dog that stands with toes pointed east or west, lacking bone density, appearing straight in shoulder lacking proper forefront angulation, weak pasterns, paddling of the front feet.*

**Hindquarters:**The rear assembly is powerful, muscular, and heavily boned. Viewed from the rear, the legs are straight and parallel. Viewed from the side, the thighs are broad and fairly long. Stifles and hocks are well bent and the line from hock to ground is perpendicular. Hocks are well let down. **Hind feet**-- are similar to the front feet. **Rear legs**-- are broad and heavily muscled through the thighs; when viewed from the rear, the legs stand and move true in line with the movement of the front legs, not too close or too wide. Dewclaws on the rear legs are undesirable and should be removed shortly after puppies are whelped. **Severe Faults:** *Any evidence of cow-hocked movement or when standing, lacking heavy bone in tarsus or metatarsus, lacking rear angulation, straight in stifles or long in hocks, presence of hind dewclaws.*

**Coat:**The ideal dog has a rough coat of moderate length, a smooth coated type of King Shepherds exist, and is equally acceptable. A slightly wavy outer coat should be as dense as possible, hair straight, harsh and lying close to the body. The head, including the inner ear and foreface, and the legs and paws are covered with short hair, and the neck with longer and thicker hair. The rear of the forelegs and hind legs has somewhat longer hair extending to the pastern and hock, respectively. **Serious Faults:** *in coat include soft, silky, too long outer coat giving the appearance of a long haired Shepherd, woolly, curly, and open coat.*

**Color:** The King Shepherd Dog varies in color, and most colors are permissible. Strong rich colors are preferred. Colors are as follows: Sable (a brown/red with black markings or a tan/cream with black markings); bi-colored (predominantly black with red, tan or cream); black saddle with red, tan, gold or cream, and solid black. **Serious Faults:** *Pale, washed-out colors i.e. black and grey and black and silver, blues or livers. Disqualification:* *A white dog must be disqualified.*

**Gait:** The gait of the King Shepherd in motion has strong reach and drive, and gives the impression of effortless power. He is a trotter; He is agile for his size and build. When viewed from the side, the hindquarters exhibit strong rear drive that is transmitted through a well-muscled loin to the forequarters. The forequarters receive the drive from the rear with a smooth reaching stride. When viewed from the front or from the rear, the legs move true in line, not too close or too wide. At a fast trot, the feet will converge toward the centerline of the body. His gait is smooth and rhythmic, covering the maximum amount of ground with the minimum number of steps. Forelegs and hind legs travel straight forward. As the dog's speed increases, the legs tend toward single tracking. Essential to good movement is the balance of correct front and rear assemblies. **Serious Faults:** *A stilted gait, or any gait that is not completely efficient and tireless, is to be penalized*

**Temperament:** The breed has a distinct personality marked by direct and fearless, but not hostile, expression, self-confidence and a certain aloofness that does not lend itself to immediate and indiscriminate friendships. The dog must be approachable, quietly standing its ground and showing confidence and willingness to meet overtures without itself making them. It is poised, but when the occasion demands, eager and alert; both fit and willing to serve in its capacity as companion, watchdog, herding dog, or guardian, whichever the circumstances may demand. The dog must not be timid, shrinking behind its master or handler; it should not be nervous, looking about or upward with anxious expression or showing nervous reactions, such as tucking of tail, to strange sounds or sights. Lack of confidence under any surroundings is not typical of good character. *Any of the above deficiencies in character which indicate shyness must be penalized as very serious faults and any dog exhibiting pronounced indications of these must be excused from the ring. It must be possible for the judge to observe the teeth and to determine that both testicles are descended. Any dog that attempts to bite the judge must be disqualified.* The ideal dog is a working animal with an incorruptible character combined with body and gait suitable for the arduous work that constitutes its primary purpose.

<b>Disqualifications:</b>	<i>Cropped or hanging ears.</i>	<i>Dogs with noses not predominantly black.</i>
<i>Undershot jaw.</i>	<i>Docked tail.</i>	<i>White dogs.</i>
<i>Any dog that attempts to bite the judge</i>		