



CKC Breed Standard
Shikoku
July 2007
Standard Provided by ABIDS

Origin & Purpose: This breed goes back to medium-sized dogs that existed in Japan in ancient times. The Shikoku was bred as a hunting dog, mainly for hunting boar and deer in the mountainous districts of Kochi Prefecture. It is sometimes called “Kochi-ken” (ken = dog). The breed took on the name of the region and was designated as a “natural monument” in 1937. A study in the 1930’s conducted by Japanese cynologist Harvo Isogai classified a native Japanese dog breeds into three categories; large, medium and small sized. These dogs are tough and sufficiently agile to run through a mountainous region and often referred to as deerhounds. They are characterized by their sesame coloured coats.

General Appearance: A medium-sized dog with well balanced and well developed clean cut muscles. It has pricked ears and a curled or sickle tail. Conformation: strong, well-boned and compact.
Important Proportions: The ratio of height at withers to length of body is 10 : 11.

Temperament: A dog of marked endurance, keen in sense with a naive feeling, energetic and highly alert; an enthusiastic hunter; docile towards his master.

Size: Height at withers: Dogs-52 cm (20.5 inches) Bitches-46 cm (18 inches) There is a tolerance of + 3 cm (1.2 inches)

Coat & Colour: **Coat:** Hair: Outer coat rather harsh and straight, undercoat soft and dense. The hair on the tail is rather long.
Colour: Sesame, black sesame and red sesame. Definition of the colour sesame: Sesame: Equal mixture of white and black hairs. Black sesame: More black than white hairs. Red sesame: Ground colour of hair red, mixture with black hairs.

Head: Skull: Forehead broad. **Stop:** Shallow, but defined. **Nose:** Black. **Muzzle:** Rather long, wedge-shaped. Nasal bridge straight. **Lips:** Tight. **Jaws/Teeth:** Teeth strong, with a scissor bite. Cheeks: Well developed. **Eyes:** Relatively small, triangular, set well apart, dark brown in colour. **Ears:** Small, triangular, slightly inclining forward and firmly pricked.

Neck: Thick and powerful.

Forequarters: Shoulders: Moderately sloping with developed muscles. Elbows: Set close to the body. Forearms: Straight and clean cut. Pasterns: Slightly inclining.

Body: Withers: High, well developed. Back: Straight and strong. Loins: Broad and muscular. Chest: Deep, ribs well sprung. Belly: Well tucked up.

Hindquarters: Powerful, with muscles well developed. Hocks: Moderately angulated and very tough. Feet: Tightly closed with well arched toes. Pads hard and elastic. Nails hard and black or dark in colour.

Tail: Set on high, thick and carried over the back vigorously curled or curved like a sickle. The tip nearly reaches the hocks when let down.

Gait: Resilient, with rather narrow strides, but light. Action is quick and turning is possible.

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.

- *Bitchy dogs/doggy bitches.*
- *Slightly overshot or undershot mouth.*
- *Long hair*
- *Shyness.*

Disqualification

- *Aggressive or overly shy.*
- *Extremely overshot or undershot bite.*
- *Ears not pricked.*
- *Hanging tail, short tail.*
- *Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.*

Note: *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.*