



## FCI Standard No. 91

### Spanish Mastiff

*Mastin Espaftol; Mastin Español; Matin Espagnol;*

*Spanischer Mastiff*

Standard Provided by ABIDS

#### Classification:

Group: II ..... Pinscher and Schnauzer - Molossians and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs.

Section: 2. .... Molossian Type

Subsection: 2. .... Mountain Type

Without working trial.

**Info:** Standard No 91 / 14.04.1995 / GB

TRANSLATER: Mrs. Peggy Davis.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD: 26th May 1982.

UTILIZATION: Guard and protection (livestock, property).

**Origin:** Spain

#### GENERAL APPEARANCE:

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ENSEMBLE OF THE DOG:** Its a dog of great size, hypermetric and medium proportions. Well balanced, very powerful and muscular. Compact bone structure. Massive head and a body covered with a semi-long coat. Robust, affectionate, kind and noble, it is a dog very determined when facing harmful (dangerous) animals and in front of strangers, especially when he has the opportunity to defend and protect farms or cattle. His bark is raucous, low pitched and deep, very sonorous, audible from a considerable distance. He is a very intelligent dog, not without beauty, whose expression manifests both these qualities. In his behavior, one can see that it is a dog sure of himself, determining his strength because he is aware of his enormous power.

**UTILIZATION:** Guard and defense. Must be avoided for reproduction those subjects which are very timid, frightened or unbalanced. The breed is closely related to the seasonal moving of the live stock, and especially the merino livestock which he already accompanied at the time of the "Mesta" (association, in the Middle-age, of breeders of wandering herds) by guarding them from wolves and other predators, all along their journey from one location to another and on the grazing pastures, in all seasons and sites. Actually he accompanies numerous herds, whether sedentary or wandering by fulfilling his ancestral task. He performs in the same way the function of guard and protector of farms, people and properties in general.

#### DESCRIPTION:

**HEAD:** Description of the ensemble of the head: Big, strong, and shaped like a truncated pyramid with broad basis. The relation between the length of the skull and that of the muzzle must be of 6/4. The whole of the skull and muzzle, seen from above, must be square and well linked, without a very marked diminution of width between the base of the muzzle and the temporal bones. The facial-cranial axes are moderately divergent.

**Skull:** Broad, strong, sub-convex profile. The width of the skull should be equal or superior to its length. Frontal sinus accentuated. Occipital crest marked.

**Stop:** Slightly sloping. Not very accentuated.

**Muzzle:** Straight in profile. Seen from above, it appears moderately rectangular, tapering slightly (in width) towards the nose, skull still keeping an appreciable width. In no case should it be pointed.

**Nose:** Black, wet, big and broad.

**Lips:** The upper lip largely covering the lower lip; the lower lip, with visible mucous, forms a very loose labial commissure. The mucous membranes must be black.

**Teeth:** White, solid and sound. Big, pointed canines assuring of good hold on prey. Molars solid and powerful. Incisors rather small, articulated in scissor bite. All premolars are present.

**Eyes:** Small in comparison with the skull, almond shaped, preferably dark, of hazel color. The look is attentive, noble, soft and intelligent, very hard in front of strangers.

**Eyelids:** Of thick tissue, with black pigmentation. The lower lid allows a part of the conjunctiva to be seen.

**Ears:** Of medium size and hanging; triangular shape, flat. Attached above the eye-line. At rest, hanging and close to the cheeks, without being too close to the skull. In attention, they come away from the muzzle and are partially pricked, in their top third part. They must not be cropped.

**Palate:** Black, with well marked ridges.

**NECK:** Trunk shaped, broad, solid, muscled, flexible. Skin thick and loose. Double dewlap amply developed.

**BODY:** Seen as a whole: Rectangular. Stocky and robust, showing great power; yet supple and agile.

**Withers:** Well marked.

**Back:** Powerful, muscled. Ribs with wide inter-costal spaces, rounded not flat. The minimum thoracic perimeter exceeds by about 1/3 the height of the withers. Loin long, broad and powerful; its dimensions decreasing down towards the flank.

**Rump:** Broad and solid. Its inclination on the dorsal-lumbar line and on the horizontal to the ground is of some 45°. The height at the rump is equal to the height at the withers.

**Dorsal-lumbar line:** Straight, horizontal; including while on the move.

**Chest:** Broad, deep, muscled and powerful. The point of the sternum marked.

**Belly and flanks:** Belly very moderately tucked-up; the flank let down and very ample.

**TAIL:** Very thick at its root and set at medium height. Solid, supple and covered with hair longer than that of the rest of the body. At rest is carried low, just reaching the hock; sometimes forms a curve in its last quarter. When the dog is moving or animated, he will raise it saber fashion, with a curve at its tip, but never curved in all its length nor carried over the rump.

**FOREQUARTERS:** View of the ensemble: Perfectly vertical limbs. Seen from the front: straight and parallel. The length of the forearm should be the triple that of the pastern (metacarpus). Bone structure solid, with powerful metacarpus.

**Shoulders:** Oblique, very muscular. Much longer than the forearm.

**Scapular-humeral angle:** Near the 100°.

**Upper Arm:** Strong, of similar length to that of the shoulder-blade.

**Humeral-radial angle:** Close to 125°.

**Forearm:** Solid, with vertical bone. Elbows close to the thorax.

**Pastern:** In profile: slightly oblique. Is practically in the extension of the forearm. Solid bone.

**Feet:** Cat feet. Toes close, solid, well knuckled-up. Nails and pads strong and resistant. Interdigital membranes of medium development and covered with hair.

**HINDQUARTERS:** Seen as a whole: Powerful, muscular. Lateral view: adequate angulations, big articular angles. Correct limbs, from the front and in profile; hocks not deviated. They must be capable of transmitting the impulsion to the dog with ease, strength and elegance.

**Thighs:** Solid and muscular.

**Femoral-coxal angle:** Nearly 100°.

**Lower thighs:** Long, muscular and solid bone structure.

**Femoral-tibial angle:** Nearly 120°.

**Hocks:** Well marked, with the Achilles tendon clearly visible.

**Angle of the hock:** Open. Close to 130°.

**Feet:** Cat feet, very slightly oval. Dewclaws present or not, may be simple or double; their removal is permitted.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT:** The preferred gait is the trot, which must be harmonious, powerful, without tendency towards lateral rolling. No ambling.

#### **COAT:**

**SKIN:** Elastic, thick, abundant and pink colored, with darker pigmentations. All mucous membranes must be black.

**COAT (HAIR):** Dense, thick, medium length, smooth, distributed all over the body down to the interdigital spaces. Two types of coat are distinguished; covering coat on the back and another protecting type on the ribcage and the flanks. Shorter on the legs, longer and silky on the tail.

**COLOR:** Indifferent. The colors most appreciated being self-colored (one-colored), like yellow, fawn, red, black, wolf color and deer-color. Also appreciated : these colors combined , brindle or parti-colored.

#### **SIZE:**

**HEIGHT AT THE WITHERS:** There is no upper limit of size, the subjects of greatest size being the ones most highly thought off providing they are of harmonious proportions. **Minimum size: Males: 77 cm Females: 72 cm.** It is desirable that these measurements be amply exceeded; the size in males should be over 80 cm, and the females over 75 cm.

**CONFORMATION:** Sub-long line structure. Longer than high. Most important are balance and functional harmony in the dog standing as well as on the move.

**FAULTS:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault is regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

**Slight faults:** Aquiline muzzle, without excess. Lack of any premolar. Pincer bite. Weak lumbar-dorsal line, having lost its straight line and undulating on the move. Pasterns and feet weak, without excess. Timidity not too accentuated.

**Serious faults:** Pointed muzzle. Moderately overshot mouth. Absence of various molars or canines, not from traumatic origin.

Sway back. Height at the rump noticeably superior to the height at the withers. Incorrect legs, weak or deviated. Lateral displacement of the legs when moving. Cow-hocked either standing or moving. Wavy coat, curly or of excessive length.

Cropping of ears or docking of tail. Excessive entropion or ectropion. Unbalanced temperament, excessive timidity or exaggerated aggressiveness. Exaggerated frail or lethargic appearance. Tail resting on the rump.

**Eliminating faults:** Split nose. Undershot mouth of whatever degree. Excessively overshot. Depigmented nose or mucous membranes together with light eyes.

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