

# **GREEK SHEEPDOG CLUB OF GREECE**

## STANDARD of the Breed

Approved by the Kennel Club of Greece

Translation: Elizabeth Pezaris 2017

**USE:** PROTECTION of herds and property

FCI GROUP 2

The Greek Sheepdog belongs to the Mastiff-type group of sheepdogs; Group 2; Section 2.2; of the Federation Cynologique Internationale

No working tests needed.

**General description:** The Greek sheepdog is a courageous dog, with good body structure, characterized by a strong skeleton with good muscle coverage, competent to move all day under adverse weather conditions, in difficult terrain and in need of little nutrition. Individuals display good health, longevity, slow development, strong sexual drive, with clearly visible anatomical characteristics.

**Important proportions:** The length of muzzle to skull is 2:3; the body length is larger than the height by 7-10%; the width of the skull is almost equal to its length.

**Character:** The Greek Sheepdog is independent, courageous, decisive, loyal, a good worker with a strong sense of duty and strong protective instinct for the animals he herds and for his environment

### **HEAD:**

The head is large, conical in shape, and strong for this size of dog; from a lateral view the head has a degree of symmetry throughout its entirety.

### **CRANIAL AREA**

**SKULL:** the skull is wide and from a front view has a medium curvature; from a side view it is slightly curved with prominent the eyebrows; the width of the skull is equal to or slightly more narrow than the length, and the depth is equal or slightly less than the width. The facial axes deviate, one from the other. The cheeks are flat and end at a visible occiput.

Stop: The stop is of moderate depth

### **FACIAL AREA**

**Nose:** From a lateral view, the Greek Sheepdog has large and wide nostrils that must not exceed beyond the muzzle.

**Muzzle:** The muzzle is wide and deep at the point of adhesion to the skull and the analogy of depth to length is 1:1. The muzzle line converges smoothly to the nose, without narrowing, on the contrary, it remains sufficiently wide.

**Lips:** The lips are thick and slightly loose, the upper lip covers the lower lip, and the contour of the lips is black.

**Mouth:** the Greek Sheepdog has solid and strong dentures, with well developed canine incisors.

The upper and lower jaws converge to a scissor bite; a level bite is acceptable but not desirable.

**Eyes:**The eyes are of moderate size, almond shaped, and moderate depth placement. Viewed from the side of the head, the eyes are placed slightly lower than the muzzle, as an imaginary line extends from the muzzle to the skull. Their color is brown. Deep colors are preferred. Lashes must be relatively close knit, without revealing the eye mucous. Their expression is serious, penetrating yet calm.

**Ears:** They are set on the imaginary line of the eyes, are triangular, of average size; they lean on the flat area of the cheeks and can reveal the interior of the ear. The skin is thick and covered with heavy fur. When the dog is focused on a stimulus, the ears are slightly elevated. When the dog is calm the ears can reach the cheeks. Cropping the ears is not permitted and dogs without ears are not accepted in formal shows.

**Neck:** is strong, wide, muscular, relatively short, covered with loose fur that allows for throatiness.

## **BODY**

**General appearance:** Strong, muscular, the length of the body is greater than the height between 7-10% .

**Upper body line:** Straight, horizontal with moderate drop to the hip.

**Withers:** slightly higher than the upper line of the body.

**Back:** back is wide straight and of moderate length, covered with strong musculature.

**Loin:** Loin is wide, short, muscular with slight curvature when viewed laterally.

**Pelvis:** The pelvis is wide with moderate slope toward the base of the tail and composed of strong bones

**Chest:** the chest must be wide and deep to the level of the elbows. The chest consists of well sprung ribs with moderate curvature that extend quite far backwards.

**Lower body line and belly:** The lower chest line converges slightly toward the back, forming a moderate curve that gives the image of a tight belly but retains a good degree of depth in the lumbar region.

**Tail:** The tail is thick at its base and extends to the tarsus level, forming a curve and a small reversal at its extremity. When the dog is stimulated and moves, the tail moves up and forms a semicircle over the pelvis. It is covered with abundant fur and forms a rich feathering

## LEGS:

**Forequarters:** From a front view they are straight and parallel. From a side view they are vertical with a slight forward slope toward the metatarsus.

**Shoulders:** The shoulder blades are smooth with adequate slope and muscular coverture.

**Upper Arm (Humerus):** Strong, shorter in length than the shoulder blade and with an adequate angle at the elbow.

**Elbows:** The elbow must be parallel to the chest and at a distance sufficient to permit the unobstructed extension of the front legs during extreme movement.

**Front Legs:** The front legs must be equal with strong and thick bones covered with strong musculature.

**Metacarpus:** The metacarpus must be elastic and strong. From a side view must have a slight incline and moderate length.

**Front paws:** The paws are reasonably wide and solid, of an oval shape, with hard and coarse nails. The medial membrane is well developed and the fingers are long and curved.

**Hind legs:** Looking from the back, the hind legs are straight and parallel.

**Thighs:** The thighs should be wide and long and have good muscle coverage.

**Knee:** The knee joint is strong and forms a moderate angle with the tibia.

**Tibia:** The tibia is of moderate length and strong.

**Hock (tarsus):** The articulation of the hock is sturdy and forms a moderate angle with the tibia when the dog is in standing position.

**Metatarsals:** The metatarsals are short compact and perpendicular to the ground when the dog is in a standing position. The presence or not of the false toe is indifferent and does not add to the general value of the dog, as it does not represent a functional anatomical element.

**Hind feet:** The hind feet are of good size and oval in shape.

**Movement:** Movement is harmonious well coordinated and gives the feel of unhurried effort for covering any amount of ground.

**Coat (of the legs) :** Moderately thick, flexible.

### **COAT:**

**Coat:** Acceptable in two variations, the short hair and long hair. It is dense and abundant, and consists of two coats. The undercoat has soft and dense wool while the topcoat is longer with straight or slightly curly hair (of harsh texture).

A curly coat is not desirable. The hair is more plentiful on the femur. Male dogs have a mane. The female can have a shorter coat.

The color can be uniform or variable such as very light biscuit, cream, dark brindle. With any of the acceptable colors, the dog can have a white chest, belly, legs, and muzzle.

The black colored dogs often have brown colorations while still having white markings on the chest, belly, neck, muzzle and legs. In black coloration there can be light red or brindle areas on the cheeks, the chest, over the eyes and on the legs.

In light chestnut colored dogs, there are color variations from the light biscuit, fair, to the dark and brindle.

In the light biscuit and brindle variation it is possible to have black color on the muzzle, as well as of white areas on the chest.

### **HIGHT & WEIGHT:**

**Height** at the withers: males 68-73 cm. females 63-68 cm,

**Weight:** males, 40-55, for females is 32-42 kg.

## **FAULTS:**

A pointed and long muzzle, discoloration of the nose, tight lips, light colored eyes, tight or loose eyelashes, very large or small ears, ears placed too far up on the head, cropped ears (for which the dog or the breeder is responsible), undershot or overshot, absence of teeth when not accounted for by damage or old age, narrow or long skull, cow hock or the opposite, weak or small feet, weak pastern or metatarsus, narrow skeleton or light construction of the body or lengthy body, which shows an intense curve from the withers to the pelvis, lymphatic bodily appearance, thin tail, lacking an adequate coat, curly coat. Brown coloring. Body size that exceeds or is below the allowable height and weight in mature 2-year old dogs. Dogs that are fearful or display excessive aggression.

**Note:** Male dogs must have two well developed normal testicles, normally placed in the scrotum.