

AMERICAN MUDI ASSOCIATION  
MUDI BREED STANDARD  
Adopted September 1, 2004

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** Medium sized, medium boned, compact, spitz type breed of shepherd dog. The head is wedge shaped and tapers towards the nose. Pricked ears. Body topline is slightly sloping towards the rear. The face and front areas of the limbs are covered by short, smooth coat. The other parts of the body are covered with a longer, very wavy to slightly curly coat. The breed has many color varieties.

**CLASSIFICATION:** Herding Group

**ORIGIN:** Hungary

**UTILIZATION:** Sheep herding dog. Because of his courageous disposition he is very popular with the shepherds for the use of herding even large and difficult livestock. He is even used for the battue of wild boar. Superior guard, watch and alarm dog. Excellent agility dog and lovable companion. Because of his relatively short, easy to maintain coat and his superb adaptability, it is no problem to keep him in the house.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** The official description and systematic breeding of the Mudi started in the 1920's in Hungary. The exact date of the formation of the breed is unknown but according to the earliest written descriptions it was spontaneously created as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**PROPORTIONS:**

The body length is approximately equal to the height at the withers.

The depth of the chest is slightly less than half of the height at the withers.

The length of the muzzle is slightly less than half of the total length of the head.

**BEHAVIOR/TEMPERAMENT:** The Mudi is extremely able to learn, of lively temperament, courageous, watchful, keen to work, alert, intelligent, adaptable and has the stamina to work all day. The Mudi can be somewhat reserved with strangers.

**HEAD:** The most striking part of the Mudi is undoubtedly his head. To the observer it should give the impression of an alert, always energetic, cheerful and intelligent animal without any trace of timidity, passivity or aggressiveness. The head is wedge shaped, tapering towards the nose.

**CRANIAL REGION**

Skull: Skull and forehead are slightly domed. Eyebrow ridges only slightly developed. Rear of skull is barely pronounced.

Stop: Barely pronounced.

**FACIAL REGION**

Nose: Narrow, rounded at front with moderately wide nostrils. In the colors black, white, yellow and blue merle, the nose leather is always black; in the other colors the nose leather harmonizes with the coat color; for example, the nose leather in a brown or brown merle dog is brown, gray in a gray dog and graybrown in a graybrown dog.

Muzzle: Moderately strong. Bridge of nose is straight.

Lips: Tight fitting to the teeth. Corner of mouth slightly jagged. The lip pigment corresponds with the pigment of the nose leather.

Jaws/Teeth: Scissors bite with complete dentition. Regular teeth proportionately sized to the head.

Eyes: Narrow, slightly pointed and set slightly slanted, thus having a “dare devil” expression. The eyes should be as dark as possible. Only in merle dogs merled eyes are not faulty. Rims of lids are tight, close fitting to the eyeball and evenly pigmented. No drooping eyelids or white should be visible when the dog is looking straight ahead.

Ears: High set pricked ears which are of a reverse V-shape and remarkably covered by hair reaching beyond the outer edges of the ears. The response of the ears to stimulation is very lively. The dog can turn the ears independently of each other like radar antennae. Ears are approximately 10 to 15 % longer than their width at the base.

NECK: The slightly high set neck forms an angle of 50 to 55 degrees to the horizontal. It is of medium length, barely arched and well muscled.

Without loose skin or pronounced neck ruff. In male dogs there can be a barely developed mane, but should not be remarkable.

## **BODY**

Topline: Slightly sloping towards croup.

Withers: Pronounced, long and muscular.

Back: Straight, short.

Loin: Of medium length. Firmly coupled.

Croup: Short, slightly sloping, of medium width, muscular.

Chest: Forechest slightly curved and its depth reaches to the elbow. Ribs somewhat broad and rather flat.

Underline: Slightly tucked-up.

Tail: Set on at medium height. At rest the tail is hanging, with lower third raised almost horizontal. When alert and during active movement, the tail is carried in a sickle shape, higher than the topline. Docking of the tail is undesirable as the tail carriage is an indicator of emotion and temperament, but if docked is not regarded as a fault. If the tail is docked, two or three of the tail vertebrae must be visibly left. Rarely dogs can be born without tail or with a natural short tail and this is not regarded as a fault. The tail is abundantly coated; the hair on the underside can even be 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) long. Tails that are tightly curled, or lie flat on the back, or are carried in other than sickle shape over the back during movement, should be considered incorrect and penalized according to the degree of its deviation from the accepted position.

## **LIMBS**

Legs and feet, both front and rear, should be strong and straight, neither overly narrow or overly wide, with feet that point straight forward. Cow

hocked, bowlegged, over or under angulated or toes pointing in or out should be penalized according to their degree of deviation from correct position.

### **FOREQUARTERS**

Shoulders: The shoulder blade is moderately sloping and well muscled. The forechest is curved, the point of the sternum only slightly protruding.

Upper Arm: Of medium length and is at an angle of approximately 45 degrees.

Elbows: Close-fitting to the body.

Carpal joint: Firm, tight.

Pastern: Steep. Dropped or weak pasterns should be penalized.

Forefeet: Round with well knit toes. A round, well arched, catlike foot is preferable to a hare foot. Little hair is between and under the toes. Pads springy and thick. Nails are hard and slate gray or black in color. Removal of front dew claws is undesirable. Splayfoot and paper foot should be penalized.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

Hind Legs: The hind legs are slightly overstretched beyond the rear.

Upper thigh: Long, well muscled.

Metatarsus: Short and steep.

Hind feet: Like front feet. Rear dewclaws are not desirable and should be removed at 2-3 days of age.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT:** The Mudi's characteristic movements are: short quick steps, a lively trot and a ground covering gallop. As speed increases, the front and hind legs converge toward the center line of gravity. The Mudi is a smooth, firm and agile moving dog that should not lack muscle tone or appear rigid or clumsy in its gait.

**SKIN:** Tight, without wrinkles.

### **COAT**

HAIR: Head and front of limbs are covered by short, straight and smooth hair. On other parts of the body, the coat is uniformly very wavy or slightly curled. It is dense and always shiny, about 1.5 to 3 inches (3 to 7 cm) long. At some spots, cow-licks and ridges are formed. The coat is longest on the back of the forearms, the upper rear thighs and the lower edge of the tail where it forms pronounced featherings. Non-typical and straight coats are severe faults.

**COLOR** English/Hungarian/description

All solid and self merle colors as follows:

Black (Fekete) coal black.

White (Feher) milk white to cream, without any red or yellow shading.

Yellow (Fako) ranging in color from very pale yellow to reddish shades.

Blue Merle (Cifra) the whole body is covered with unevenly sized and unevenly distributed areas and patches of black and light gray; the light gray color is created by the mixing of individual black and white hairs; similar to the self merle pattern; no white trim or white patches; never more than two hair colors and one of these is always white; pattern may darken with age.

Brown Merle (Barna Cifra) same as blue merle except with brown and white hair colors.

Gray (Hamvas) ash or graphite color, usually with lighter ear edges.

Brown (Barna) any shade from nearly red to dark chocolate brown.

Graybrown (Hamvas barna) cappuccino or isabella.

All colors should be clear and vibrant with no order of preference.

Only minor white markings (white patch on the chest, less than 2 inches (5 cm) in diameter, and/or white markings on the toes) are permitted but not desired.

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

### **HEIGHT AT WITHERS:**

Dogs: 16 – 19 inches (41 – 48 cm)

Ideal height: 17 – 18 inches (43 – 46 cm)

Bitches: 15 – 18 inches (38 – 46 cm)

Ideal height: 16 – 17 inches (41 – 43 cm)

### **WEIGHT:**

Dogs: 24 – 33 pounds (11 – 15 kg)

Bitches: 18 – 26 pounds (8 – 12 kg)

Quality should not to be sacrificed in favor of size.

**FAULTS:** Any departure from the foregoing points must be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and to which it interferes with the breed's purpose or is contrary to breed character.

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Liver brown, flesh colored or spotted nose leather in black, white, yellow, blue merle, gray or graybrown colored dogs. Flesh colored or spotted nose leather in brown and brown merle dogs.

One or more missing teeth (incisors, canines, premolars P2, 3 or 4, molars M1 and 2). Two or more missing P1 premolars.

Undershot bite. In an overshot bite a gap of more than 1/8 inch (2 mm) between upper and lower incisors should not be exceeded.

Yellow eyes in black and blue merle dogs.

Hanging ears.

Short, smooth, flat coat on the whole body; long hair on the face and the legs where the hair should be short. Coat tending towards matting.

Albinism.

Any color or pattern not listed as accepted, such as: masked yellow (maszkos fako) as in the Belgian Malinois, wolf (ordas) as in the Keeshond, brindle, black with tan (fekete-cser) such as in the Doberman, black and white as in the Border Collie and tri-colored as in the Australian Shepherd.

Any white trim or markings except as allowable on the toes and chest.

Merle that is black or brown and not mixed with white hairs to create the merle pattern or is more than two hair colors.

Excessively shy or aggressive dogs.

Un-descended testicles (one or no testicles descended into the scrotum of male dogs).