



UNITING BOERBOEL BREEDERS WORLDWIDE TO MOVE THE BREED FORWARD.

General Description:

The Boerboel is a Mastiff type dog originating from South Africa. The dog should be strong and muscular in appearance with a confident and calm demeanor presenting as an imposing and well balanced figure of strength. Originally used in South Africa as a utility farm dog with a strong desire to protect while remaining a reliable family companion.

Size:

Males 66cm at the shoulder

Females 61cm at the shoulder

6cm either side of these measurements is acceptable.

General Proportion:

The dog should have a greater total length than total height. The dog should be balanced and in proportion.

Head:

The head is one of the most important aspects of the Boerboel breed and represents the character of the dog. The head should be short, broad, block shaped, muscular and a slight frown must be visible on the dog's forehead when its interest is aroused. The overall expression should be alert and confident. The length of the roof of the skull, (between the eyes to the end of the occiput) must be relative to the length of the nose bone in a relation of 1:1.5 or 2/3rds to 1/3rd as the ideal relationship.

The skull must be broad and flat on top with slight wrinkling between the eyes when alert.

Both the head and the muzzle must be square in shape. In profile, the roof of the skull should be on the same parallel plane as the nose bone.

Stop:

Should be clearly apparent but gently sloping to form a smooth line from nose bone to the roof of skull.

Cheeks:

The cheeks must be well filled and should blend from muzzle to skull without sharp angles.

Muzzle:

The muzzle should ideally be between 1/3rd:2/3rds muzzle to skull ratio.

The nasal bone must be straight and narrow slightly from the face to the nose leather.

The nasal bone must be on the same plane as the roof of the skull. With or without a black mask.



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Jaws:

Strong and show good muscular development. The lower jaw narrows slightly towards the front.

Teeth:

The teeth must be white, well-formed and correctly spaced. The dog should ideally have a complete set of 42 teeth.

A scissor bite is preferred. Under bite up to 1cm is acceptable.

Visible overbites are not acceptable.

Nose:

The nose has large open nostrils that are widely spaced.

The nose leather appears black.

Lips:

The upper and lower lips must be fleshy and show adequate pigmentation.

Viewed in profile, they must not extend below the lowest level of the jawbone.

The flews should be tight and well fitting.

Eyes:

Iris colour:

All shades of yellow to brown.

Blue or mismatched eyes are unacceptable.

Shape:

Between Almond and round.

Diamond and slitted eyes are unacceptable.

Set:

The eyes should be set horizontally.

They must be widely spaced and look straight ahead.

Eyelids:

Eyelids must be firm, well fitting and correctly pigmented.

Spectacle area:

The hair in the spectacle area should show adequate pigmentation.

Ears:

Shape and size:

The ears must be medium sized (the tip must just reach the corner of the dog's mouth), V-shaped and of medium thickness.

Set:

Must be high set and wide on sides of the head. Must drop sideways and to the front, but remain against the cheek.

Erect or excessive rose ears are unacceptable.



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Neck:

The neck must be strong and muscular with a visible crest. It should be strongly set at the shoulders.

The dewlap and scruff should be loose but the skin across the chest and between the front legs should be tight.

The neck must be in proportionate in length.

Ribcage:

The ribcage is defined as the area from the first chest vertebrae to the last rib bone. The ribcage must ideally be in proportion of 2:1 to the loin. It should be barrel in shape with well sprung ribs of good depth.

Front legs:

The front legs should be straight, thick, strong and muscular.

The pasterns must be short, sturdy and gently sloping.

Front feet:

The front feet should be large, thick, well cushioned and rounded in shape with strong, slightly curved nails.

The front feet must point forward. Slight turning out is acceptable.

Shoulders:

The shoulders must well laid back, firmly set with visible muscle definition.

The upper arm must be of equal length to the shoulder blade, well fitting and show good muscular development.

Chest:

The chest must be strong and broad with good muscle definition and elbows tightly fitting.

Viewed in profile, the chest should extend to or below the elbows.

Loin:

The loin is defined as the area from rear of the rib cage to the pelvis. The loin must be short, broad, well muscled and ideally be in proportion of 1:2 to the ribcage.

Topline:

The topline should be firm and level both standing and moving. A saddle of muscle is apparent on mature males with a very slight dip behind.



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Croup:

The croup must be firm, strong and show visible muscular development. The croup slopes down slightly towards the tail. The ideal slope of the croup should be 23 degrees.

Hindquarters:

The hindquarters are broad, strong and powerful.
The upper and lower thighs should be muscular and show good width and depth.
The stifles should be firm and well angulated.
The hocks are firm and well angulated
The hind pasterns are short, thick, and strong.
When standing, the front of the rear pastern should fall directly below the rearmost point of the thigh.

Hind paws:

The hind paws should be slightly smaller than the front paws.
Thick, well cushioned, rounded and point straight forward.
The nails must be short and strong with a slight curve.

Tail:

The tail is set high.
Tails may be left natural or docked.
Kinked, corkscrew or deformed tails are unacceptable.
Long tails should be sabre shaped and of adequate girth and of proportionate length.

Genitals:

Males should have two fully developed testicles descend into the scrotum.
Females should have a firm and fully developed vulva.
All genitalia must show good pigmentation.

Coat:

The coat should be dense, smooth and short covering the entire body and head, thinning slightly on the underside and inner limbs.
Long, curly or wiry hair is unacceptable.

Skin:

The skin should be thick, slightly loose with minimal wrinkling on the body, limbs and neck. Slight wrinkling of the brow is desirable when alert.

Pigmentation:

All dogs should possess dark pigmentation.
Weak, light or inadequate pigmentation should be heavily penalised.

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Colour:

All colour variations are acceptable with or without a black mask.

General Condition:

All dogs should be fit, muscular and weight should be in proportion to size to maintain balance.

Movement:

Movement should be economical, smooth, powerful and resilient with a good ground covering stride.

When viewed from the side, the stride should be equal front and rear with the main propulsion provided by the hind quarters.

When viewed from the front or rear the legs should be parallel with slight convergence at greater speed.

Confident, balanced movement is required.

Temperament:

The Boerboel temperament is calm and confident with a strong protective instinct. The dogs must be obedient and manageable even when under threat.

Any departure from the above points should be faulted in direct proportion to the amount of deviation.