KUSA
Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SPANISH GREYHOUND

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 31/03/2016

ORIGIN

Spain.

UTILISATION

A dog hunting the hare in fast pursuit in open fields, being directed by his sight. Formerly he has also been used for, and can hunt, other game animals like rabbits, foxes, also boars; however, the primordial utilisation of the breed has been, and is, the hunt of the hare in open fields.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Spanish Greyhound is known since the antiquity by the Romans, even though we are led to suppose that his arrival and implantation in the Peninsula dates back long before that period. Descendant from ancient Asian Greyhounds, he has adapted himself to Spain's different terrain of steppes and plains. He was exported in large quantities to other countries like Ireland and England during the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. The Spanish Greyhound is one of the ancestors of the English Greyhound, which presents, with the Spanish Greyhound (Galgo), the similarities true to the breed that have served as a base in its selection and subsequent acclimatisation. Among the numerous citations by the classical authors, one should select that of the arch-priest of Hita who says, "Hare that goes is soon caught in a chase by the Greyhound", thus proving the principal and ancestral function of the breed.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Greyhound of good size, eumetric-subconvex *[ed. smooth and rounded lines]*, sub-long line *[ed. fairly long in body]* and dolichocephalic. Compact bone structure, head long and narrow (dolichocephalic), ample thoracic capacity, belly very tucked-up, very long tail. Hindquarters vertical and muscled. Hair fine and short or semi-long and hard.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Sub-longish line structure; length slightly more than the height. Proportions and functional harmony is to be sought after as much in static position as in movement.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Serious temperament and reserved on occasion, however when out hunting, proves to be an energetic and lively hunter.

HEAD

In proportion with the rest of the body, long, lean, and fleshless. The skull to muzzle ratio is 5 : 6. Cranial-facial lines are divergent. Seen from above, the ensemble skull – muzzle must be very long and even (without bulges); with a long and narrow muzzle.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Of reduced width and sub-convex *[ed. slightly rounded]* profile, longer than wide. The skull has a median furrow well-marked on its first two thirds; the frontal sinus and the occipital crest are simply indicated.

Stop: In gentle slope, only very slightly accentuated.

Facial Region:

Nose: Small, moist, with black mucous membrane.

Muzzle: Long, of sub-convex profile, with a narrow, slightly arched nasal bridge towards the nose.

Lips: Very lean. The upper lip just covers the lower lip. The lower lip does not show a marked corner of the lips.

Fine, tight, with dark mucous membranes.
Jaws and teeth: Teeth strong, white, and sound. Scissor bite. Canines very developed. All premolars present.
Palate: Of the colour of the mucous membranes with strongly marked ridges.

Eyes:

Small, oblique, almond-shaped; preferably dark, of hazel colour. Calm expression, soft and reserved.
Eyelids: Fine skin and dark mucous membrane. Fitting very closely on the eye.

Ears:

Broad at the base, triangular, fleshy in their first third part, and finer and thinner towards the tip which will be rounded. Set-on high. When the dog is attentive, they are semi-pricked in their first third with the tips folded in lateral direction. At rest, they are rose-eared; close to the skull. When pulled forward they reach very close to the corner of the lips.

NECK

Long, oval in cross-section, flat, slim, strong and supple. Narrow in its cranial part, widening slightly towards the trunk. Upper profile slightly concave. Lower line almost straight with a slight central convexity.

BODY

Rectangular, strong, and supple, giving a look of robustness, agility, and endurance. Thoracic cage amply developed; belly well drawn-up.

***Topline*:** (Dorsal-lumbar line) With a slight concavity of the back *[ed. slight dip behind the withers]* and a convexity of the loin *[ed. slight rise over the loin]*. Without abrupt breaks and without oscillation when moving, giving the impression of great elasticity.
***Withers*:** Slightly marked.
***Back*:** Straight, long, and well-defined.
***Loin*:** Long, strong; not very broad and with an arched upper line; with a compact and long musculature, giving an impression of elasticity and vigour. The height of the loin in its central part may exceed the height at the withers.
***Croup*:** Long, powerful, and slanting. Its slope to the horizontal exceeds 45°.
***Chest*:** Powerful, though not very broad; deep, without reaching the elbow and very long in its extension up to the floating ribs. Point of sternum marked.
Ribs: Flat with wide intercostal spaces *[ed. the muscles between the ribs]*. The ribs must be really visible and marked. The thoracic perimeter is slightly superior to the height at the withers.
***Underline and belly*:** Belly abruptly tucked-up behind the sternum; whippety. Flanks short, lean, and well-developed.

TAIL

Strong at its root and low-set, lengthens between the legs, remaining in contact with them. Tapering progressively, ending in a very fine point. It is supple and very long; reaching well beyond the hock. At rest, falls in a sickle with a pronounced hook at the end, inclined laterally. Brought back between the legs, the terminal hook almost touches the ground in front of the hind legs – one of the most typical aspects of the breed.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Perfectly vertical limbs, fine, straight, and parallel. Metacarpus short and fine. Hare-feet.
Shoulder: Lean, short, and oblique. The shoulder blade must be noticeably shorter than the upper arm.
Upper arm: Long, longer than the shoulder blade, very muscular, with elbows free, although quite close to the body.
Forearm: Very long, straight, and parallel; well-defined bones with well-marked tendons.
Carpus (wrist): Carpal pads very developed.
Metacarpus (pastern): Slightly oblique, fine, and short.
Angulation: Scapular-humeral angle: 110°. Humeral-radial angle: 130°.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Powerful, well-defined bone structure, muscled with long and well-developed muscles. Perfectly straight and vertical with correct angles. Hocks well-marked, short, and vertical; hare-feet with toes arched. The hindquarters give the impression of power and agility in the impulsion.
Upper thigh: Very strong, long, muscled, and toned. The upper thigh, as much as possible, nearing the vertical. Seen from behind, they will show, at first glance, a very marked musculature. Broad, flattened and powerful, its length is three-quarters that of the lower thigh.
Lower thigh: Very long with well-defined and fine bones. Muscled in its upper part; less so in its lower region; with veins and tendons clearly visible.
Hock joint: Well-marked with the achilles tendon clearly visible, which should be well-developed.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Fine, short, and vertical.
Angulation: Coxal-femoral angle: 110°. Femoral-tibial angle: 130°. Hock angle: in excess of 140°.

FEET

Hare-feet. Toes tight and arched. Phalanges strong and long. Pads hard and well-developed. Interdigital membrane moderately developed, nails well-developed.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

By nature, the typical gait is the gallop. The trot must be extended, low over the ground, elastic, and powerful. No tendency to crabbing or ambling.

SKIN

Closely fitting onto the body on all its parts, solid, and supple, pink in colour. The mucous membranes must be dark.

COAT

Hair dense, very fine, short, smooth; spread all over the body down to the interdigital spaces. Slightly longer at the back of the thighs. The semi-long, hard-haired variety shows a greater hardness and length of hair that can be variable, although always evenly spread onto the whole body; it tends to form a beard and moustache at the muzzle, eyebrows, and topknot on the head.

COLOUR

- All colours are admitted. The following colours are considered as the most typical, in order of preference:
  - Fawn and more or less dark brindles, well-pigmented.
  - Black.
  - Flecked with black, dark and light.
  - Burnt chestnut.
  - Cinnamon.
  - Yellow.
  - Red.
  - White.
  - With white markings and pied.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 62cm – 70cm (approx. 24½" – 27½").
Females: 60cm – 68cm (approx. 23½" – 26½").

A margin of 2cm more is admitted in subjects of perfect proportions.

N.B. *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- Head a little broad with only little chiselling.
- Straight profile of muzzle. Pointed muzzle.
- Parietal bones pronounced.
- Absence of any premolar.
- Pincer bite.
- Tail a bit short, going not much beyond the hock.
- Scars, wounds and scratches in hunting season.

Severe faults:

- Voluminous head.
- Skull of excessive width together with pointed muzzle.
- Stop very marked.
- Cranial-facial axes parallel.
- Lips and dewlap marked.
- Moderately overshot mouth.
- Absence of canines, not due to accidents.
- Eyes light, round, protruding or prominent.

- Ectropion, entropion.
- Ears short, pricked, or small.
- Short and round neck.
- Dorsal-lumbar line like a saddle back.
- Height at the loin less than the height at the withers.
- Short croup, round or only slightly oblique.
- Insufficient thoracic perimeter.
- Barrel-shaped ribs.
- Short flanks.
- Musculature very protruding, round, and not elongated enough.
- Limbs not straight and perpendicular, splayed toes, cow-hocked.
- Weak pads.
- Tail and ears amputated *[ed. cropped or docked].*
- Outlines of coarse appearance, heavy, or without suppleness.
- Unbalanced character (temperament).

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Lack of type.
- Split nose.
- Distinctly overshot mouth or undershot mouth.
- Topline very broad, flat and straight.
- Chest let down well below the elbow.
- Any other typical characteristic that would recall or indicate a cross-breed.
- Albinism.

©Copyright FCI – Reprinted with permission
The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

FCI Standard No 285: GALGO ESPANOL (SPANISH GREYHOUND)

FCI Classification: Group 10 – **Sighthounds**
Section 3. Short-haired Sighthounds.
Without Working Trial.