

## International Tamaskan Dog Breed Standard - Suggested Update (New text in yellow)

### **General Appearance**

The Tamaskan Dog is a large sized dog with an intelligent gaze who is rangy and wolf-like in appearance. He has a well-furred body, erect ears, alert eyes and bottle-brush shaped tail. His stance gives the appearance of readiness for activity and proud carriage. His body proportions, form and movement are athletic and resemble that of a wolf. His well balanced body is quick and light on his feet with a long, effortless **economical stride**.

The Tamaskan Dog is intelligent and a quick learner, however he may be willful. **Tamaskan dogs have primitive and sled type dog origins, originally intended to be a working dog that looked like a wolf. Today he is a versatile athlete and family pet. The Tamaskan should be in the Primitive & Spitz Group or Non-Sporting Group with show organizations.**

### **Size & Proportion**

#### **Size**

The Tamaskan is a slow maturing breed, reaching full maturity at 3 - 4 years of age.

Size: Ideal height at the withers: Males: 64 - 74cm (25 - 29 inches), Females: 61 - 71cm (24 - 28 inches)

Weight is proportional to height. A Tamaskan **should look lean, weight should never be excessive**. Minimum weight for males is approx. 27 kg or 60 lbs, minimum weight for females is approx. 23 kg or 50 lbs.

#### **Proportion**

When measuring from the point of shoulders to the point of buttocks the Tamaskan is slightly longer than tall. The proportion of height to length of body is a 9:10 ratio. The depth of chest is less than one half the height of the dog at the **withers**. Tamaskan have a minimum depth of chest to leg ratio of 6:7 (45% depth of chest, 55% leg).

**Faults:** Excessive weight, **round bone** or poor overall proportion or **condition**.

### **Head**

#### **General Appearance**

**The Tamaskan head should be wolf-like in appearance. From above and from the side the head is a truncated wedge shape. The line from muzzle to the well developed zygomatic arch and the slight indent, between muscling on the top skull, from the occiput to the stop, are both important characteristics. This together with correct eye position and shape gives the wolf-like impression. The size of the head should be in harmonious relation to the body.**

#### **Expression**

A wolf-like expression that shows **curiosity** and intelligence. The Tamaskan gaze should be intense and clever and may even be mischievous. **A cautious gaze should not be faulted**.

#### **Eyes**

Eyes are almond shaped, moderately spaced, and set obliquely with close fitting lids. Eye color can be yellow through amber and brown, with black pigment on eye rims.

**Faults:** Eyes set too obliquely or set too close together. Eyes which are **round**, protruding or sunken. Droopy eyelids.

**Disqualifying Fault:** Blue eyes or **multi-colored with blue**.

#### **Ears**

Ears are triangular with rounded tips, **moderately spaced**, of medium size in proportion to the head. **Adult ears** are firmly erect and well furred. The bottom of the ear does not extend beyond the zygomatic arch.

**Faults:** Woolly ears, or **excessive feathering around ears. Too Low ear set.**

**Disqualifying Faults:** Hanging ears **on dogs 12 months or older.**

#### **Skull**

The skull is **well muscled and should protrude, at the back, slightly beyond the ears**. Skull length is greater than width with a 2:1 ratio. The top of the skull and the muzzle are equal in length and form parallel planes divided by the stop.

**Faults:** **Pronounced brow ridges, domed skull, pronounced cheeks.**

#### **Stop**

The stop is slight to moderate.

**Minor Fault:** A pronounced stop.

## **Muzzle**

The muzzle is **long**, flat and tapers slightly to form a blunt wedge from base to end of the nose. Nose is black and should be bigger than the eyes, with open nostrils and **is neither pointed or squared**. Snow nose is acceptable in winter. Lips are black, with tight flews and no pink showing on the outside when the mouth is closed. **Underjaw is strong and fits the muzzle without being shorter or narrower**. Muzzle length should be equal to skull length.

**Faults:** Roman Nose, Narrow underjaw, Short muzzle, length excessively out of proportion to skull. Very loose or drooping flews.

## **Teeth**

Adults should have a complete set of powerful teeth with proper occlusion, that meet in a scissor bite.

**Faults:** Malocclusion, Overshot, undershot or wry bite.

## **Neck, Body & Topline**

### **Neck**

The neck is strong, slightly arched and well furred that forms a protective ruff. The length of neck is approximately the same length as the head (skull and muzzle). The neck blends smoothly into the **withers**.

**When standing neck can be erect or held inline with topline.**

**Faults:** Ruff mass due to incorrect front structure, Ewe neck.

### **Chest and Ribs**

**When standing and viewed from the front the chest should look almost narrow and not broad. From the top the ribs are not wider than the front quarters or hindquarters.** The ribs are well sprung from the spine, oval/elliptical in shape. From the side the depth of chest is less than one half the height of the dog at the withers, the deepest point being just behind the forelegs and approximately level with the elbow. **Prosternum should be obvious but not extreme, located at the joint of shoulder and upper arm and aligns with the horizontal center of the rib cage.**

**Faults:** Extremes in depth of chest. Broad chest from front. Barrel ribs, herring gut, heart shaped ribs, or slab sided. A high or "shelf" prosternum

### **Back**

The back is **firm**, strong and level with no sign of weakness. **The withers should be the highest point of the back and should not carry wrinkles.**

**Faults:** Sloping topline, roach back, sway back, weak back, or slack back. **Low withers.**

### **Loin**

The loin is taut and lean, narrower than the rib cage, and with a slight tuck-up. The loin has enough length to be athletic but should not be longer than 1/3 of the rib cage.

**Faults:** **Short coupled** or exaggerated long loin.

### **Croup**

The croup should be **moderate** and slightly sloping.

**Faults:** **Too steep**, dropped or flat croup.

### **Tail**

The tail is set low with a strong base, has a bottle brush shape and is well-furred but not feathered. Tail hangs straight at rest and the **bone** should go to the hock joint but not beyond. Tail should be tipped in black. It may be carried up if moving or excited.

**Faults:** A tail curled over the back, high tail set, or **excessive length past hock**.

**Disqualifying Fault:** Double curled tail.

## **Front Assembly**

### **Shoulder and Upper arm**

**Shoulder blades look rather far forward and should be set at an approximate 55 - 60 degree angle from horizontal. Shoulders should fit smoothly and blend into the ribcage. Shoulders should not be the highest point on the back.** Shoulder blade and upper arm should be the same length.

**Faults:** Poor angulation, high or straight shoulders. **Wrinkles on topline over shoulders. Shoulder blades too close together at the spine, that touch when the dog puts head down.**

## **Forelegs**

When standing and viewed from the front, the legs are straight and closely spaced. Spacing may decrease as you move down the leg to the front feet so that feet are closer together. Elbows are close to the body but not turned in or out. Pasterns are slightly slanted but strong and flexible. Tamaskan have a minimum depth of chest to leg ratio of 6:7 (45% depth of chest, 55% leg).

Faults: Too wide in the front, elbows turned either in or out..

## **Feet**

The feet are large, oval or hare-foot shaped, with well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient, and furred between the toes and pads. Front feet turn out slightly while standing. Turned out feet must accompany proper fitting shoulders, foreleg, and flexible pastern. Turned out feet must not be a result of malnutrition, or turned out or turned in elbows. Front dew claws should not be removed.

Faults: Cat foot, flat feet, soft or splayed feet, paws too small or too delicate, long hair between toes or pads.

## **Rear Assembly**

### **Hindquarters**

When standing, viewed from above, hindquarters are the same width as forequarters at the shoulders. From the rear they are moderately spaced and parallel. The upper thigh (between the point of the buttocks and the patella or kneecap), should be approximately the same length as the lower thigh (between the patella or kneecap and the hock). The angulation of the pelvis and upper thigh corresponds to the angulation of the shoulder blade and upper arm. Most importantly, the hindquarter angulation should be in balance with the front assembly. Stifles are strong and not exaggerated, patellas should not be turned out.

Faults: Poor or unbalanced angulation, exaggerated lower thigh, any degree of turned out patella.

### **Hocks**

Hock joints are well let down, perpendicular to the ground, strong and have no forward or side to side movement. The height of the hock should not be more than one third the height of the dog at the rear. Rear feet point straight, but feet that slightly turn out should not be faulted unless they are the result of cow hocks. Rear dew claws should be removed, however, their presence is not a fault if the dog is from a country where removal is illegal.

Faults: Cow hocks, barrel hocks, extra long hocks.

Disqualifying Fault: Slipped hocks, true sickle hocks.

## **Coat**

### **Coat**

Double coat with guard hairs that are medium length, somewhat coarse in texture, straight, weather resistant. The undercoat varies in quantity with variations in climate or season, and is soft and insulating. Fur is short and smooth on the head, ears, front of the legs, and below the hocks. There is a moderate ruff, more pronounced in dogs than bitches. The coat should conform to the body without standing out or hanging down. The Tamaskan Dog should be shown in its natural appearance.

Faults: Long coat, texture too harsh or too silky, trimmed coat.

### **Color**

Acceptable coat colors are reminiscent of North American wolves in agouti patterns and include red gray (more intense red base color), wolf gray (less red base color, more gray in appearance), black gray (more black in appearance, seal with gray undercoat and black with tan are included in this color) and white gray (arctic type, almost white and very light gray color). Solid white, solid black and liver are accepted for breeding but undesirable.

Faults: Black and tan saddle pattern, large white star on chest or white tip on tail. Lack of agouti coloration.

Disqualifying Faults: Piebald, white spotting.

### **Masking**

Face masking is required and three types of face masking are permissible: a full mask which has minimal or no white on the sides of the muzzle and usually still some small white on cheeks, a middle mask which has small amounts of white on the sides of the muzzle and cheeks and a minimum mask which has most of the face below the eyes and the sides of the muzzle white. In all cases the mask should cover the entire bridge of the muzzle. and have at minimum a band of agouti coloring below the eyes. White eyebrow spots are permitted.

Faults: White blazes on face, incomplete masking.

## **Movement**

The Tamaskan Dog has a smooth, **economical and efficient gait with no wasted motion**. **At a gallop** he has a massive ground covering stride. **At a quick trot** single tracking is highly desired and the back should remain firm and level. He should exhibit good reach in the forequarters, and good follow through in the hindquarters. When moving the head and neck are carried lower **so they are level or almost level to the topline**.

Faults: Any gait that is not efficient or **has too much wasted motion**. **Elbows or feet that turn in or out in movement**. **Rolling in the back**.

## **Temperament**

The Tamaskan Dog is an active dog with a good natured, outgoing disposition. He may be sensibly reserved in initial meetings but should be easily won over. Some may be independent. He does not display the possessive qualities of the guard dog. Some measure of reserve and **or same-sex selectivity** may be expected in the mature **intact adults**, but should be easily managed. He is seldom quarrelsome.

Faults: Any display of fear or aggression **towards humans** is to be severely penalized.

## **Faults**

In determining whether a fault is minor, serious, or major, these two factors should be used as a guide:

- 1) The extent to which it deviates from the standard; and
- 2) The extent to which it is an exaggeration of any one part.

**Disqualifications** include Blue eyes or **multi-colored eyes with blue**, hanging ears on dogs **12 months or older**, Piebald, **white spotting**, double-curved tail, **slipped hocks**, **true sickle hocks**, adult male lacking two **normal** descended testicles.