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FCI-Standard N° 317

KAI
ORIGIN: Japan.


UTILIZATION: Hunting dog, companion.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 5 Spitz and primitive type.  
Section 5 Asian Spitz and related breeds.  
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: This breed originated from medium-sized dogs that existed in Japan in the ancient times. It became established as a breed in the Kai district (Yamanashi Prefecture), which is surrounded by mountains. Another name for this breed is « Kai tora-ken ». A distinguishing feature in this dog is its brindled coat. These dogs are used mainly for hunting wild boar and deer. Their strong inclination to form a pack is thought to contribute towards maintaining the purity of the breed. The breed was designated as a « natural monument » in 1934.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Medium-sized dog, well balanced, sturdily built, muscles well developed. The dog has the characteristics of a dog living in mountainous districts of Japan. Limbs strong and hocks remarkably developed.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The ratio of height at withers to length of body is 10 : 11, but the body can be slightly longer in bitches.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: The temperament is keen and very alert.
**HEAD**

**CRANIAL REGION:**
Skull: Forehead broad.
Stop: Abrupt with slight furrow.

**FACIAL REGION:**
Nose: Black, nasal bridge straight.
Muzzle: Pointed, not very long, but moderately thick.
Lips: Tight.
Jaws/Teeth: Strong with a scissor bite.
Cheeks: Well developed.

**EYES:** Nearly triangular and dark brown in colour. **The outer corners of the eyes are slightly upturned.**

**EARS:** Triangular, slightly inclining forward and firmly pricked.

**NECK:** Thick, powerful and muscular.

**BODY:**
Withers: High.
Back: Straight and short.
Loin: Broad and muscular.
Chest: Deep, ribs moderately sprung.
Underline and belly: Slightly tucked up.

**TAIL:** Set on high, thick, vigorously curled or carried curved like a sickle over the back. Tip nearly reaching the hocks when let down.

**LIMBS**

**FOREQUARTERS:**
Shoulders: Moderately sloping with developed muscles.
**Upper arm:** Forming a moderate angle with shoulder blade.
Elbows: Close to the body.
Forearm: Straight, heavy and muscular.
Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly oblique.
Forefeet: Toes well arched and tightly knit; pads thick and elastic; nails hard and preferably dark in colour.

**HINDQUARTERS:**
- **General appearance:** Well developed, strong and moderately angulated.
- **Hocks:** Tough and elastic.
- **Hind feet:** Toes well arched and tightly knit; pads thick and elastic; nails hard and preferably dark in colour.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:** Light and resilient.

**COAT**
- **Hair:** Outer coat harsh and straight; undercoat soft and dense. The hair on the tail is fairly long and off-standing.

Colour: Black brindle, red brindle and brindle. As a feature of this breed, solid colour in puppyhood may turn brindle as the dog grows.

**SIZE:**
- **Height at withers:** Males 50 cm.  
  Females 45 cm.
There is a tolerance of ± 3 cm.

**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.
- **Lack of sexual dimorphism.**
- Light-coloured nose.
- Slightly overshot or undershot mouth.
- Light-coloured eyes.
- Long or short hair.
- Shyness.
DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Extremely overshot or undershot mouth.
- Ears not pricked.
- Hanging tail, short tail.
- Faded colour.
- Coat with many white spots.
- **Pinto colour.**

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.

The latest amendments are in bold characters.