

**SCC Standard (2003)**

**"CURSINU" CORSICAN DOG**

**ORIGIN:** France (Corsica).

**UTILISATION:** The Corsican dog is by nature the adaptable dog of days gone by. It was originally a sheepdog and can still be used as such. Another way in which it is used is for locating and herding free-range animals such as pigs and cows. The decline in agropastoral activities has fostered its use by hunters (boar, fox, hare).

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** Group 5 Spitz and primitive types  
Section 7 Primitive type -  
Hunting dogs.  
Without working trial.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** Written documents and illustrations testify to the existence of the Corsican dog since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Corsicans used it for guarding herds. But depending on the period and on people's needs, it has had numerous functions, including hunting. The adaptability of the Corsican dog and its insularity contributed to its development on the island until around 1950. After a period of decline due to competition from continental breeds, this local breed became popular again from the 1980s onwards, especially as a hunting dog. The Association de Sauvegarde du Chien Corse (Association to Safeguard the Corsican Dog) was created in 1989. The Société Centrale Canine (French Kennel Club) recognised the breed in 2003.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** A sturdy, robust dog, well balanced and of medium proportions. Characterised by a short neck.

**IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:** The depth of the chest is about half the height at the withers. The length from point of shoulder to point of buttock is generally equal to the height at the withers. The length of the muzzle is approximately half the length of the head (47% on average).

**BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT:** The Cursinu is docile, loyal and very attached to its master. It is a very proud dog and is wary of strangers. It is an intelligent, calm and well balanced dog, capable of adapting to many different situations. Although quiet when at home, it is very energetic and lively when in action. Extensive farming methods meant that it did not drive the whole herd, but brought back stray or recalcitrant animals. It hunts by scent, often with speed to take the game; capable of coursing for a relatively short span of time, one or two hours, with a short, high-pitched bark. Users appreciate it for its spontaneous return to the place of release.

**HEAD:** The head conforms to the lupoid model defined by P. MEGNIN.

**CRANIAL REGION:**

**Skull:** The skull is almost flat, with an average width between the zygomatic arches of around 10 cm in females and 11 cm in males.

The lines of the skull and the muzzle are divergent towards the front. Viewed from the side, the muzzle is straight or slightly convex.

The superciliary arches are only slightly developed or hardly noticeable.

**Stop:** Only slightly accentuated, forming an angle of 150 to 160°.

## **FACIAL REGION:**

**Nose:** Wide, black, open nostrils.

**Muzzle:** Shaped like a truncated pyramid, its upper profile is straight. The muzzle is relatively fine.

**Lips:** Thin, tight, close-fitting, well pigmented. The upper lip does not cover the lower lip.

**Cheeks:** Lean, muscular.

**Eyes:** Oval, hazel to dark brown. Very slightly oblique.

**Ears:** Generally set above eye level but may be set at eye level. Drop ears or semi-pricked (v-shaped or rose ears). Triangular, medium length, reaching to the inner corner of the eye when drawn forward.

**NECK:** Short, giving the impression of hunched shoulders. Muscular, truncated cone shaped. The skin is tight: no dewlap.

**BODY:** Powerful but not excessively heavy.

**Topline:** Straight.

**Withers:** Broad and pronounced. Set-on of neck not pronounced.

**Back:** Straight profile and powerful muscles.

**Loin:** Short.

**Croup:** Sloping slightly, short and muscular.

**Chest:** Broad and deep. It does not reach below the elbows: the depth of chest is about half the height at withers. The ribs are moderately rounded.

**Underline and belly:** Harmonious: tucked up but not whippety. The flanks are short.

**TAIL:** Undocked, long (the tip reaching below the hock) or medium length (the tip at hock level). Always thick, well furnished. At rest, it is hanging or curved. In action, it is curled over the back or the croup, sometimes the hip. The curl can be partial, full, or even a ring tail, which is a shape sought after.

**LIMBS:** The limbs are well poised; powerful muscles.

## **FOREQUARTERS:**

**Shoulder:** Oblique and muscular.

**Elbow:** Level with lower chest.

**Forearm:** Vertical when viewed from the side and the front.

**Carpus:** Strong.

**Metacarpus:** Moderately oblique.

**Forefeet:** Hare foot; tight toes. Black nails, depigmented if toe is white. Hard, dark pads.

**HINDQUARTERS:** Vertical when viewed from behind.

**Thigh:** Moderately oblique, muscular.

**Stifle:** Clean cut and in line with the body.

**Lower thigh:** Long, moderately muscular.

**Hock joint:** Lean. Angle of the hock joint suitably open.

**Metatarsus:** Almost vertical when viewed from the side.

**Hind feet:** Hare foot, slightly longer than the forefoot, but with the same nail and pad characteristics. Dewclaws are common.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:** Regular and supple when walking or trotting. The Cursinu's gallop is short, jerky, bouncy, and perfectly suited to rough terrain such as scrubland.

## **SKIN**

Thick, covers the body tightly.

## **COAT**

**HAIR:** Well furnished, short or medium length: feathering is observed in some dogs.

**COLOUR:** Usually fawn brindle; all shades of fawn exist. Fawn or sand with black overlay and black with fawn or sand markings are also accepted, as are masks. Limited spotting is accepted: white patches are found on the chest and the ends of the limbs.

**SIZE:** Height at the withers:

For females, from 46 to 55 cm, tolerance included.

For males, from 46 to 58 cm, tolerance included.

**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.

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:** Aside from genetic defects, the following are considered as disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Molossoid-type head.
- Short-hair.
- Absence of tail.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

## **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.