



East European Shepherd

Vostochnoevropaiskaya Ovcharka

Group 1: Shepherds and herding breeds
With working trial



ORIGIN: USSR, Russia

UTILIZATION: universal service breed, companion dog

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the East European Shepherd breed is inextricably linked with the history of the country in which it was formed and developed. On the initiative of Vsevolod Vasilyevich Yazykov, a scientist-cynologist, pioneer and organizer of domestic dog breeding, in 1924 by order of the Revolutionary Military Council of the USSR No. 1089 the Central educational experimental kennel - school of military and sport dogs was created, later (since 1941) - the Central military-technical school of dog breeding, which became the leading center for breeding pedigree dogs, training and using service dogs in Soviet Russia. Since there was an urgent need to replenish domestic services with suitable dogs capable of working in different climatic conditions, from the deserts of Central Asia to the polar tundra, the main selection criteria were the physical and working qualities of dogs, endurance, unpretentiousness and ability to acclimatize, but not their blood. To obtain the necessary working qualities, crossbreeding was often used, as before in Tsarist Russia. For breeding work, the kennel managed to collect both purebred dogs and crossbreeds suitable for service. Local stock was actively used at the borders, for example, in the Far East - Amur Laikas, crossbreeds of local Laikas with German Shepherds. Many of them had outstanding working qualities, such as the famous Indus 1 (later, in official documents - Ingus) of Nikita Fedorovich Karatsupa, a colonel of the border troops, Hero of the Soviet Union, author of the books "My Life

is the Border" (1983) and "Notes of a Pathfinder" (1998). There were already thousands of such dogs throughout the country. The Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) did not pass without a trace for domestic dog breeding. There were more than 60,000 service dogs in the ranks of the armed forces. Along with purebred dogs, mixed breeds suitable for service were still widely used in the specialties of guard, search, ambulance, watch, anti-tank, mine-detection, sled dog, air signal, sabotage services, communications and chemical reconnaissance. In the post-war years, there was an active restoration of the domestic population of service dogs. Domestic dog handlers, working with the surviving dogs, not always purebred, actively worked on creating a new breed of shepherd dogs on the basis of the existing heterogeneous population, best suited for use in the USSR, taking into account the natural, climatic conditions and special requirements of the ministries and departments interested in it. The main breeding center was the "Red Star" kennel, created in 1947 on the basis of the Central Military-Technical School of Dog Breeding. Finally, the question arose of recognizing domestic shepherds as an independent breed, called the "East European Shepherd". The first standard was approved by the Central Committee of DOSAAF USSR on September 15, 1955. In January 1964, the Presidium of the Federation of Service Dog Breeding of the USSR (FSS USSR) approved a new version of the standard. In 1970, 1972 and 1976. The standard was amended and new editions were adopted, although the basic requirements for the appearance and functions of the breed remained unchanged. In the USSR, the breed was widely distributed and, being truly universal, was used very widely - from shepherd and guard duty to training guide dogs for the blind. The specific behavior and character allowed the East European Shepherd not only to be the most popular service breed in the national economy of the USSR, but also to remain popular today and remain the best protector and companion for a wide range of lovers both in Russia and in many countries of the world.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The East European Shepherd is a dog of strong build, above average height, rectangular silhouette, with strong bones and well-developed muscles. Sexual dimorphism is well expressed: males are larger and more massive than females.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The length of the head is approximately 40% of the height of the dog at the withers;
- The length of the forelimbs to the elbows is approximately equal to or slightly more than half the height at the withers;
- The length of the body exceeds the height of the dog at the withers by 10-18%;

BEHAVIOR/TEMPERAMENT

The East European Shepherd is balanced, active, self-confident, attentive, easy to train. A reliable protector and companion.

HEAD

Wedge-shaped, proportionate to the size of the body, dry, voluminous, but not coarse.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Flat, moderately wide and deep, slightly tapering towards the muzzle.

The **occipital protuberance** is weakly defined.

The **forehead** is almost flat.

The superciliary arches are moderately defined. In profile, the lines of the forehead and muzzle are parallel.

Stop: Medium length, moderately defined.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Large, black.

Muzzle: Wedge-shaped, gradually tapering towards the nose, but should not be pointed. The length is approximately equal to half the length of the head or slightly less. The bridge of the nose is wide, straight or with a slight hump.

Lips: Dry, tight-fitting, black.

Jaws/teeth: Upper and lower jaws are well developed, with good gum pigmentation. The teeth are large, white, tightly adjacent to each other, in a complete set (42 teeth according to the complete dental formula). Scissor bite. The incisors are located in one line and stand vertically in the jaws.

Cheekbones: Slightly rounded, not protruding.

EYES: Medium in size, almond-shaped, slightly slanted, should be as dark brown as possible. Dry, tight-fitting, black. The expression of the eyes is lively, intelligent, attentive.

EARS: Medium in size, erect, set high, in the form of an isosceles triangle. When alert, the ears are parallel to each other.

NECK Medium length, muscular, strong, dry, set at an angle of approximately 45°.

BODY

Solid, proportionally built, corresponding to a moderately elongated format.

Topline: Very smooth, straight from the withers, in the croup area slightly falling to the base of the tail.

Withers: Well defined, moderately long.

Back: Strong, muscular, straight, long.

Loin: Short, muscular, slightly arched.

Crop: Wide, long, muscular, slightly sloping, smoothly falling to the base of the tail.

Chest: Well developed, long, deep (reaches the elbows or falls slightly lower), oval in shape, with moderately rounded ribs.

Bottomline and belly: Smooth, belly moderately tucked up.

TAIL: Continuing the topline, sabre-shaped, of natural length, reaching to the hock or slightly below, thick at the base, hanging down. When excited and in motion, the tail may be carried tense and raised. Evenly covered with thick hair.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Moderately wide apart, straight and parallel.

Shoulder blades: Long, obliquely placed.

Upper arm: Approximately equal in length to the shoulder blades, obliquely placed. The angles of the shoulder-scapular joints are approximately 90-100°.

Forearms: Strongly boned, straight and parallel.

Elbows: Directed strictly backwards, neither turned in nor out.

Metacarpus: Strong, moderately long, springy, when viewed from the side, set slightly obliquely.

Forefeet: Oval in shape, arched, tight. Paw pads and nails are dark in color.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strong, with well-developed muscles. When viewed from behind - parallel, moderately wide apart. Viewed from the side, moderately laid back, with well-defined angulations.

Thighs: Medium length, wide, with well-developed muscles.

Knees: Strong, with distinct angulations.

Lower thigh: Moderate length, approximately equal to the length of the thigh.

Hocks: Dry, strong, with well-defined angulations.

Metatarsus: Strong, moderately long, set vertically. Dewclaws should be removed (in countries where this is not prohibited by law).

Hind feet: Oval in shape, arched, tight. Paw pads and nails are dark in color.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

The typical gait is a long, sweeping trot with strong drive. The movement is free, sweeping, balanced and efficient. When viewed from the front or rear, the legs move in a straight line at the trot. As the tempo of movement increases, the legs tend to converge towards the midline.

SKIN: Tight-fitting, elastic, well pigmented.

COAT

COAT: The outer coat is straight, moderately coarse to the touch, dense, close-fitting, of medium length. The undercoat is well developed, dense and soft. The head, ears, front sides of the legs and feet are covered with shorter hair; on the neck the hair is somewhat longer and thicker. On the back of the forearms the hair is slightly longer, and on the back of the thighs it is longer and forms moderate "trousers".

Color:

- zonary (wolf): all shades from gray-fawn to light red. Bright red shade is undesirable;
- saddle: with black saddle of varying intensity and depth, with markings from gray-fawn to light red. Bright red markings are undesirable;
- black and tan: black with tan markings of varying intensity from gray-fawn to light red. Bright red tan is undesirable;
- black.
- Small white markings on the chest are permissible, but undesirable;

SIZE

Height at withers: Desirable height for males 67-72, for females 62-68 cm. A slight deviation (up to 2 cm) from the standard height, while maintaining a harmonious build, cannot serve as grounds for lowering the rating.

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 its ability to perform its traditional breed work.

SERIOUS FAULTS:

- Unsure of demeanor;
- Deviations from sexual type;
- Light, coarse or loose structure, weak muscles;
- Square or overly elongated format;
- Head crude, massive, with domed, excessively broad skull;

- Round, protruding, excessively large, very light eyes;
- Absence of P1 and M3;
- Humpbacked or drooping muzzle;
- Partial depigmentation of nose;
- Weak (soft) ears; one or both ears tilted down; low set, hanging;
- Narrow loin;
- Short, straight or sloping croup;
- Sickie tail, corkscrew tail;
- Weak ligaments, crooked limbs;
- Excessively straight or excessively pronounced angulations, sabre-like;
- Unbalanced movement; the dog often breaks into an ambling gait.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressiveness or cowardice;
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified;
- Inconsistency with breed type;
- Height of males below 65 and above 74 cm, females below 60 and above 70 cm;
- Missing any tooth other than P1 or M3;
- All deviations from a scissor bite;
- Eversion, entropion of the eyelids;
- One or both drooping ears;
- All colors, any eye color, any color of pigmentation of the nose, lips, eyelids, not provided for by the standard, are a disqualifying fault;
- A ringed tail, too short, with a kink; fused vertebrae; bobtail;
- Braided, with a crisscross, rolling movement, a stable amble;
- Curly hair, long or short hair, lack of undercoat.

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two normally developed testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with characteristic features inherent in a particular breed, can be used for breeding.