

The Tibetan Mastiff

Five keys to interpreting the standard

- Large, powerful dog
- The head is perhaps the most notable feature
- Heavy frame
- Double coat
- Tail carried forward in a plume



The terrifying snarl of a Tibetan Mastiff

LARGE POWERFUL DOG

- A Tibetan Mastiff should impress with his commanding and imposing presence.
- The breed must be capable of functioning in the rigorous and exacting Himalayan environment.
- We should sense that he is capable of bounding up a mountain, dispatching a predator or following a caravan day after day.





The Head

- One of the most important features of the breed.
- Broad and massive
- Wedge shaped
- Strong brow which provides protection for the eyes.
- Jaws powerful and strong, denoting a dog capable of dealing with large predators.

The head

- Two types of head, the lion and the tiger.

The Lion Head



The Tiger head



The Head

- Skull broad
- Muzzle 50-50. This is important. In the cold climate of the Himalaya a short muzzle would surely mean the end of the dog.
- Pronounced flews will also be detrimental to the health of the dog.
- Scissor bite

Heavy frame

- Strong substantial animal possessing the structure and configuration to provide stamina, speed and agility.
- He should never be so heavy as to appear coarse or clumsy nor so slight as to appear racy.
- A ratio of 10.9
- Round bone



Double Coat

- Remember he comes from a land of ice, snow and bitter winds.
- Undercoat is so thick and wooly that it is almost impossible to see the skin.
- Outer coat medium length and somewhat harsh.
- Pronounced ruff about the neck. Lion like. Gives added protection against wolves and leopards.



Tail

- Carried forward in a plume.
- In bitter winds the TM curls up and brings his tail over his vulnerable nose to protect it from the harsh weather.
- Reaches to the hock.
- Judges must see the tail carried properly at least once while the dog is moving.

















