

9. Notice shall be sent to members whose subscriptions are in arrear and any member whose subscription shall be unpaid fourteen days after such notice has been sent shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of membership until his or her subscription is paid. A member whose subscription remains unpaid three months after it becomes due shall not be entitled to compete for a cup or special prize offered by the Club until the expiration of three months from the date on which his or her subscription was paid, nor shall he receive such prize, if awarded. Any member whose subscription for the year shall be in arrear and unpaid on 1st April and who shall have received a reminder from the Treasurer shall automatically cease to be a Member of the Club.

OLD ENGLISH MASTIFF - 4.

10. The Committee shall have power to offer the Challenge Cups, and other prizes out of the funds of the Club, for Competition by Mastiffs being the property of Members at such Shows as it may consider desirable.

11. Any member who shall be suspended by the Kennel Club, shall, ipso facto, cease to be a member of the Club, and if the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee may, at a meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of a member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him. Notices of both meetings shall be sent to the accused member advising him of the place, date and hour that he may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Special General Meeting a resolution to expel is passed by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting, his name shall be forthwith erased from the list of members and he shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Club, except that he may within two calendar months appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

12. No alteration or addition shall be made in the Rules of the Club except at a SPECIAL General Meeting convened in accordance with Rule 6 for that purpose, and the proposed alterations shall be sent to each member prior to the meeting.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MASTIFF

(As amended August 1890)

and

NUMERICAL VALUE OF THE POINTS.

GENERAL CHARACTER AND SYMMETRY. Value 10.

Large, massive, powerful, symmetrical and well-knit frame. A combination of grandeur and good nature, courage and docility.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF HEAD.

In general outline, giving a square appearance when viewed from any point. Breadth greatly to be desired, and should be in ratio to length of the whole head and face as 2 to 3.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BODY. (Height and Substance. Value 10.)

Massive, broad, deep, long, powerfully built, on legs wide apart and squarely set. Muscles sharply defined. Size a great desideratum, if combined with quality. Height and substance important if both points are proportionately combined.

SKULL. Value 12.

Broad between the ears, forehead flat, but wrinkled when attention is excited. Brows (superciliary ridges) slightly raised. Muscles of the temples and the cheeks (temporal and masseter) well developed. Arch, centre of the forehead from the medium line between the eyes, to half way up to the saggittal suture.

FACE OR MUZZLE. Value 18.

Short, broad under the eyes, and keeping nearly parallel in width to the end of the nose; truncated, i.e. blunt and cut off square thus forming a right angle with the upper line of the face, of great depth from the point of the nose to under jaw. Under jaw broad to the end; canine teeth healthy; powerful and wide apart: incisors level, or the lower projecting beyond the upper, but never sufficiently so as to become visible when the mouth is closed. Nose broad, with widely spreading nostrils when viewed from the front, flat (not pointed or turned up) in profile. Lips diverging at obtuse angles with the septum, and slightly pendulous so as to show a square profile. Length of muzzle to whole head and face as 1 to 3. Circumference of muzzle (measured mid-way between the eyes and nose) to that of the head (measured before the ears) as 3 to 5.

EARS. Value 4.

Small, thin to the touch, wide apart, set on at the highest points of the sides of the skull, so as to continue the outline across the summit, and lying flat and close to the cheeks when in repose.

EYES. Value 6.

Small, wide apart, divided by at least the space of two eyes. The top between the eyes well marked but not too abrupt. Colour hazel-brown, the darker the better, showing no haw.

CHEST AND RIBS. Value 8.

Neck - Slightly arched, moderately long, very muscular, and measuring in circumference about one or two inches less than the skull before the ears.

Chest - Wide, deep, and well let down between the forelegs. Ribs arched and well rounded.

False ribs deep and well set back to the hips. Girth should be one-third more than the height at the shoulder.

Shoulder and arm - Slightly sloping, heavy and muscular.

FORE-LEGS AND FEET. Value 6.

Legs straight, strong, and set wide apart; bones very large. Elbows square. Pasterns upright. Feet large and round. Toes well arched up. Nails Black.

BACK, LOINS AND FLANK. Value 8.

Back and loins wide and muscular; flat and very wide in a bitch, slightly arched in a dog. Great depth of flanks.

HIND LEGS AND FEET. Value 10.

Hind quarters broad, wide and muscular, with well developed second thighs, hocks bent, wide apart, and quite squarely set when standing or walking. Feet round.

TAIL. Value 3.

Put on high up, and reaching to the hocks, or a little below them, wide at its root and tapering to the end, hanging straight in repose, but forming a curve, with the end pointing upwards, but not over the back, when the dog is excited.

COAT - COLOUR. Value 5.

Coat short and close lying, but not too fine over the shoulders, neck and back. Colour, apricot or silver-fawn, or dark fawn-brindle. In any case, muzzle, ears, and nose should be black, with black round the orbits, and extending upwards between them.

-----*****-----

A FEW NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE MASTIFF.

Very large dogs, of almost perfect mastiff type, as we know it today, existed about 4000 years ago, and were greatly valued as hunting, and watch-dogs.

A Babylonian terra-cotta plaque in the British Museum, of about 2200 B.C. (Case 28_-91911) shewing a "Man with a hunting Dog", is one of the earliest examples. A man, with his hand on the back of a very large dog, standing ^{nearly} almost as high as his "handler's" waist, has almost the attitude, and expression of a modern exhibitor, trying to catch "the judge's eye" - and the dog might ~~almost~~ take a prize, except that he carries his tail over his back.

Also in the British Museum is the very beautiful Assyrian Frieze of 650 B.C., shewing "The Lion Hunt" taken from the King's (Ashurnani-pal) at Nineveh, and representing mastiffs of very modern type.

Through Egypt, Greece, (where they are described as "powerful and noble, resembling a lion and a dog") and Malta Mastiffs can be traced, though how they got to Britain is not known. The Romans found them here when they invaded this country, and described them as the "broad-mouthed dogs of Britain". Several dogs of distinct Mastiff type are depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry with King Harold, so presumably they were concerned with that invasion also.

They must have been very numerous at one time. In the reign of Edward the Third a law was passed enacting that so many Mastiffs

x-38 4040

should be maintained in every village, and Marco Polo, the explorer tells us that in the twelfth century the Mogul Emperors kept 5000 Mastiffs to hunt lions, and that the Tibetan Mastiffs were "about the size of donkeys".

In 1575 the "Four Books of Husbandry" appeared, and "The Mastie that keepeth ye House" were described thus:-He has a large and mihty body and a great shryll voice, that both by his barking he may discover, and with his sight dismay the theefe--yea, being not seen, by the horror of his voice put him to flight--he neither fle-fawn upon a theefe, nor fle at his friends; very waking, no gadder abroad, nor lavish with his mouth, barking without cause". This exactly describes Mastiff character as it is today.

Chaucer, Shakespeare, the Brontes, Sir Walter Scott, and many others, mention Mastiffs. In "Henry the Fifth", Shakespeare puts these words into the mouth of one of the French Officers before the battle of Agincourt. "This Island of England breeds very valiant creatures. Their Mastiffs are of unmatchable courage". Possibly Shakespeare was thinking of the true story of the Mastiff Bitch who saved the life of her master at Agincourt, and to whom a stained glass window was erected on her death.

Later, this same courage caused Mastiffs to be used for Bear and Bull Baiting, and in the time of Henry the Eighth a "Master of the Royal Game of Bears and Mastiff Dogs" was appointed. This was a national sport for many years, but that Mastiffs were not considered as only fit for the brutal pastime is shewn

by pictures of the periods during which it flourished- notably, that by Vandyke of the children of Charles the First and their favourite Mastiff, the property of H.M. The King, and now on exhibition at Burlington House.

After the prohibition of bull baiting, Mastiffs reverted to their true functions--that of watch-dogs and guards, work at which they are supreme. A Mastiff rarely bites- he knocks down any unwelcome intruder, and stands over him until further orders. He has an uncanny sense of discrimination between friend and foe, and an extraordinary premonition of danger. A true story illustrates these traits very well, and has been ^{re-}told in full by Andrew Lang and others .- date about 1600.

Sir Henry Lee , of Ditchling, in Oxfordshire, was travelling abroad, and one night his Mastiff persisted in coming into his bedroom- a thing he had never done before. Sir Henry turned him out twice, but, finding him so persistent, allowed the dog to stay, under the bed, the third time . During the night, Sir Henry was awakened by a growl, and when lights were brought, the dog "Bevis" was found pinning Sir Henry's valet to the floor, This man confessed afterwards that he had planned to creep into the room, murder, and rob, his master.

Sir Walter Scott's "Woodstock" mentions this incident, "Sir Henry Lee of Ditchley, moved slowly through the aisles, followed by the faithful Mastiff who --had saved his master by his fidelity, and who regularly followed him to Church=".

A full length portrait of Sir Henry, with Bevis at his side, was painted by Johnson, with the words, "More faithful than favoured".

It is a sad fact that during , and owing ,to the War, this great breed, of so distinctive a history and character, should have dwindled to such proportions. During the early part of ~~QCEP-~~ 1930 registrations at the Kennel Club were nearly 200- and there were probably as many again unregistered. In 1946 there were 2 registrations- and not more than 20 mastiff living- aged from 3 to 12 years.- nearly all too old to breed from.

The Standard ^Description of the Mastiff is enclosed, and a note on size may be useful. Whilst dogs have been known to weigh up to 166 stone, ~~13~~ 13 to 14 stone is more usual, height 30 to ~~33~~ 33 inches at the shoulder, Round the neck, 28 inches, Girth of forearm 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

In general, a combination of "grandeur and good nature, Courage and Docility".