



Official Standard of the Cirneco dell'Etna

General Appearance: Medium sized hunting dog, elegant, slender build but strong and hardy. Long limbed, of light construction and square outline with a fine coat and upright ears always alert. The following description is that of the ideal Cirneco dell'Etna. Any deviation from the below described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

Characteristics: A keen hunter. Adaptable to difficult terrain. Hunts by scent, sight and hearing. Strong-willed, alert and an excellent companion.

Size, Proportion, Substance: Height - Dogs 18 to 19½ inches, tolerance 17½ to 20½ inches; bitches 16½ to 19 inches, tolerance 16 to 19½ inches. Height not within the tolerance, dogs under 17½ inches or over 20½ inches, bitches under 16 inches over 19½ inches, is a disqualification. Length from point of shoulder to haunch bone equal to height at withers.

Head: Expression - Alert expression. **Eyes** - Relatively small, oval in shape, semi-lateral position. Amber or ochre blending with coat. Pigmentation of the eyelid rims corresponding to the color of the nose. Brown or yellow iris is a fault to be severely penalized. Walleye, an eye with a whitish iris or a blue eye(s) is a disqualification. **Ears** - Set very high and close together, upright and rigid, parallel or almost parallel when alert. Triangular shape with narrow tip. Length not more than half the head. Totally hanging ears or bat ears are a disqualification. **Skull** - Width of skull no more than one half the length of head, in profile almost flat. Lean and well chiseled. Stop - Slight stop. **Muzzle** - Length of muzzle equal to or only slightly less than length of skull. Planes - Top of skull and foreface parallel or slightly divergent. Nose - Bridge of nose straight. Nose rather large, flesh colored, blending with coat. Cheeks - Flat cheeks. Mouth - Lower jaw lightly developed with receding chin. Overshot mouth or undershot mouth is a disqualification. Lips - Thin, taut lips, just covering the teeth of the lower jaw. **Bite** - Regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Teeth - Full dentition desirable.

Neck, Topline and Body: Neck - Length same as the head. Strong, clean, well arched and muscular. Set well into shoulders. **Topline** - Straight topline sloping from withers towards croup. **Body** - Chest - Reaches to, or nearly to, the elbow, without going beyond. Ribs - Slightly sprung, narrow but never flat. Underline & Tuck-up - Clean, gently rising underline, lean without excessive tuck-up. Back - Upper profile straight, without conspicuous muscles, the length is approximately three times the length of the loin. Loin - Length of loin is approximately one fifth of the height at the withers and its width is nearly the same as its length. Short, slightly developed muscles but firm. Width of loin is close to length. Croup - Croup has flat profile, sloping steeply downwards to root of tail. **Tail** - Low set, fairly thick at base, reaching to point of hock. Of equal thickness for most of its length. Carried high and curved when dog is in action; sabre fashion when in repose. Hair on tail is semi-long and close. Tail curled over the back is a fault to be severely penalized.

Forequarters: Angulation - Shoulder blade (scapulum) to horizontal 55 to 60 degrees. Shoulders - Strong, long, moderately laid back. Shoulder blades - Upper tips close together. Length close to one-third the height at the withers. Upper Arm - Length of upper arm slightly less than length of shoulder blade. Elbow - Level or below the line of the brisket and well tucked in. Legs - Forelegs straight and parallel when viewed from the front. Pasterns - Strong and slightly sloping. Dewclaws - May not be removed.

Hindquarters: Strong and muscular. Limbs parallel when viewed from behind. Angulation -



Not excessively angulated. In profile a vertical line from rear point of buttock to ground close to or touching the tips of the toes. Angle between pelvis and upper thigh is about 115 degrees. Legs - Upper thigh - Broad, long, upper thigh with flat muscles. Stifle - Moderate bend of stifle. Second thigh - Slightly shorter than the upper thigh. Lean and distinct musculature with light bone structure. Groove at Achilles tendon well marked. Hock joint - Angle at the joint is about 145 degrees. Hocks - Wide outer surface, cylindrical shape and vertical position. Length from sole of foot to point of hock is just over a quarter of the height at the withers. Dewclaws - Absent.

Feet: Strong, well knuckled, firm, slightly oval, turning neither in nor out. Pads - Well padded, hard and of the same color as the nails. Nails - Brown or flesh colored. Black nails are a disqualification.

Coat: Short on head, ears and legs. Short to semi-long (about 1¼ inch) on body, but sleek and close, ranging from fine to slightly coarse. No feathering.

Color: Self-colored light to dark shades of tan or chestnut. With a mixture of slightly lighter and darker hairs, or with more or less extensive white. White collar, self-colored white or white with orange patches is less desired. Total depigmentation, self-colored brown or liver; brown patches or hairs; brindle coat or any presence of black patches, hairs, pigmentation or mucous membranes are a disqualification.

Gait: Springy trot without excessive extension. Viewed from behind, hind legs track the forelegs. Tendency to throw feet sideways or hackney action undesirable.

Temperament: *Strong, lively, independent temperament. Gentle and affectionate.*

Disqualifications: *Walleye, an eye with a whitish iris or a blue eye(s); overshot mouth or undershot mouth. Totally hanging ears or bat ears. Total depigmentation; self-colored brown or liver; brown patches or hairs; brindle coat; any presence of black - patches, hairs, pigmentation, nails, or mucous membranes. Height not within the tolerance, dogs under 17½ inches or over 20½ inches, bitches under 16 inches over 19½ inches.*

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