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SHIKOKU



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ORIGIN : Japan.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD : 05.06.1995.

UTILIZATION : Hunting dog, companion.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I. : Group 5 Spitz and primitive type.
Section 5 Asian Spitz and related breeds.
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY : This breed goes back to medium-sized dogs that existed in Japan in ancient times. The Shikoku was bred as a hunting dog, mainly for hunting boar in the mountainous districts of Kochi Prefecture. It is sometimes called « Kochi-ken » (ken = dog). There were three varieties of this breed-Awa, Hongawa and Hata-all named after the area where they were bred. Among them, the Hongawa maintained the highest degree of purity, because the breeding area was not easily accessible from anywhere.

These dogs are tough and sufficiently agile to run through a mountainous region. They are characterized by their sesame coloured coats. The breed took on the name of the region and was designated as a « natural monument » in 1937.

GENERAL APPEARANCE : A medium-sized dog with well balanced and well developed clean cut muscles. It has pricked ears and a curled or sickle tail. Conformation : strong, well-boned and compact.

IMPORTANT PROPORTION : The ratio of height at withers to length of body is 10 : 11.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT : A dog of marked endurance, keen in sense with a naive feeling, energetic and highly alert; an enthusiastic hunter; docile towards his master.

HEAD

CRANIAL REGION :

Skull : Forehead broad.

Stop : Shallow, but defined.

FACIAL REGION :

Nose : Black.

Muzzle : Rather long, wedge-shaped. Nasal bridge straight.

Lips : Tight.

Jaws/Teeth : Teeth strong, with a scissor bite.

Cheeks : Well developed.

Eyes : Relatively small, triangular, set well apart, dark brown in colour.

Ears : Small, triangular, slightly inclining forward and firmly pricked.

NECK : Thick and powerful.

BODY :

Withers : High, well developed.

Back : Straight and strong.

Loins : Broad and muscular.

Chest : Deep, ribs well sprung.

Belly : Well tucked up.

TAIL : Set on high, thick and carried over the back vigorously curled or curved like a sickle. The tip nearly reaches the hocks when let down.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS :

Shoulders : Moderately sloping with developed muscles.

Elbows : Set close to the body.

Forearms : Straight and clean cut.

Pasterns : Slightly inclining.

HINDQUARTERS : Powerful, with muscles well developed.

Hocks : Moderately angulated and very tough.

FEET : Tightly closed with well arched toes. Pads hard and elastic. Nails hard and black or dark in colour.

GAIT / MOVEMENT : Resilient, with rather narrow strides, but light. Action is quick and turning is possible.

COAT

HAIR : Outer coat rather harsh and straight, undercoat soft and dense. The hair on the tail is rather long.

COLOUR : Sesame, black sesame and red sesame.

Definition of the colour sesame :

Sesame : Equal mixture of white and black hairs.

Black sesame : More black than white hairs.

Red sesame : Ground colour of hair red, mixture with black hairs.

SIZE :

Height at withers : Dogs 52 cm.

Bitches 46 cm.

There is a tolerance of ± 3 cm.

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.

- Bitchy dogs/doggy bitches.
- Slightly overshot or undershot mouth.
- Long hair.
- Shyness.

ELIMINATING FAULTS :

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Extremely overshot or undershot bite.
- Ears not pricked.
- Hanging tail, short 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.