

MAY 1998, VOLUME 13

The Official Publication of the National Perro de Presa Canario Club

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Volume 13, May 1998

SHOW REPORT

October 5, 1997: CKC Mullica Hill, NJ

S.S. Big Kahuna owned by Michelle & Kevin Pollard
2 1st places, 2 Winners Dog, and 2 Best of Opposites

February 21 & 22, 1998: CKC Cherry Hill, NJ

ARBA CH, NPPCC CH, CKC CH, SKC CH, S.S. Mufasa TT owned by Show Stoppers
3 Best of Breeds, 2 Group 3's

NPPCC CH, CKC CH, Nobel Man of God, Owned by Douglas Logan
1 Best of Breed, 1 Group 1, 4 Winners dog

ARBA JR CH. S.S. Scully owned by Show Stoppers
4 winners bitches, 4 Best of Opposite

March 7 & 8, 1998, CKC Cherry Hill, NJ

ARBA CH, DYFUSA CH, NPPCC CH, FIC CH, S.S. Bad To The Bone, TT
Owned by Show Stoppers
3 Best of Breeds, 1 Best of Opposite

NPPCC CH, CKC CH, Nobel Man of God, Owned by Douglas Logan
1 Best of Breed, 1 Group placement, 4 Winners dog

March 14 & 15, 1998: ARBA San Diego CA

ARBA CH, DYFUSA CH, NPPCC CH, FIC CH, S.S. Bad To The Bone, TT
Owned by Show Stoppers
4 Best of Opposite

April 19 & 20, 1998: CKC Cherry Hill, NJ

ARBA CH, DYFUSA CH, NPPCC CH, FIC CH, S.S. Bad To The Bone, TT
Owned by Show Stoppers
3 Best of Breeds, 1 Best of Opposite, 1 Group 3

April 25 & 26, 1998: ARBA Cherry Blossom Washington, DC

ARBA CH, DYFUSA CH, NPPCC CH, FIC CH, S.S. Bad To The Bone, TT

Owned by Show Stoppers
3 Best of Opposite

May 9.1998: Eastern Rare Breed Show New Brunswick, NJ

ARBA CH, NPPCC CH, CKC CH, SKC CH, S.S. Mufasa, TT

Owned by Show Stoppers
2 Best of Breeds, 2 Group 3's

May 8 & May10. 1998: International All Breed Canine Assoc. of Am. Inc Canby, Oregon

Pride Rock's Kira owned by Javier & Stacy Sandova

2 Best of Breeds, 1 Group 1, 1 Group 2

May 16 & 17.1998: CKC Titusville, NJ

ARBA CH, DYFUSA CH, NPPCC CH, FIC CH, S.S. Bad To The Bone, TT

Owned by Show Stoppers
4 Best of Breeds

**** CONGRATULATIONS****

New Club Members

Brian McReynolds

Detroit, MI

Terrance & Clarita Jackson

Hull, TX

Douglas & Angel Logan

Cinaminson, NJ

Gary J. Adams

Pittsburg, PA

Winston Cross

Andalasia, AL

New Presa Names

Victoria
Razor
Rudolph Valentino
Cobi
Reine
Posidens Rameria
Addie With 0 Tude
Nirvana

Brandi
Draco
Glory to God
Amistad
Bruno
Harlequin
King Canario
Malavita

QUIPS & QUOTES

IN MEMORIAL: We at the NPPCC and on behalf of all it's Club Members wish to express our deepest sympathy and condolence to our international club member, Barrone Victoire de Saint Legar, on the loss of his wonderful Presa "Moka". As you recall, from our previous photos of "Moka" and those shown in this newsletter, he was a most unique Presa, allowing 3 pet rats to run across his body or sit with his small charges (a Yorkie and a Chihuahua). We all dread the day when we too will suffer the loss that Victor is feeling. It seems this superb example of a male Presa (71 cm and 65-Kg) died suddenly from an aneurysm on March 20, 1998. Anyone wishing to express their sentiments directly to Victoire at 25 BVD Lannes, 75116, Paris, France.

New York "Daily News": February 21, 1998 advertising Presa Canano pups for Sale, FIC registered, sired by the #1 Presa In the Country. Who is the seller that you may ask? From our investigation, it was determined the location was a pet shop in the Bronx, NY. This club has and always will abide by its rules and bi-laws. Quote: "I will not sell my dogs or puppies to Pet Shops or Dog Brokers." Apparently, others are not so scrupulous when it comes to selling Presa Canario dogs.

DAILY NEWS

Johnny the bear chaser! Tim cross of Harveys Lake, Pa. Reports his neighbors calling him, all concerned about a black bear rummaging through the local properties. Tim explained what they should do if they were ever confronted by the bear just as he was talking with one of the locals on the phone, he heard his male Presa (Big Bad John) hit the porch railing with a vengeance while growling menacingly. It was then that Tim observed the bear close to his house. He immediately set "John" loose to chase off the intruder. At 15 months and 130 lbs., Johnny charged the bear. As he did so, the bear reared up on his hind legs. Tim estimates the bear stood 6 ft. tall. It beat a hasty retreat up a 30 ft. evergreen. As Tim recalls, the bear climbed the tree as good as and as quick as a Northern lumberjack. This is just another example of the fearless territorial instincts of the Presa Canario. We shudder to think what the outcome would have been of a face to face confrontation between Tim's two Presa's and the local black bear. (See the color photo's of S.S. Big Bad John).

Pallin, Athens, Greece: Presa owner, Andeas Kouflotis writes to breeder "Show Stopper Kennels"---- I think that from the experience I have with German Shepherd, Boxer, Doberman, Pit-Bull and Bull-Mastiff, the Presa is the best guard-dog and everyone in the family is very satisfied with them. (See color photos of his male-"Dias", 100 lbs. and 24", @ 6 months, "Dafni" is the younger female).

Concerned: New Presa owner, Charlotte Whitmer writes, I am rather concerned about the article in the last publication from Detroit, Michigan. Dog Fighting is illegal and the Pit Bull owner should have been reported by Mr. McReynolds as soon as his dog attacked the Presa. We are all responsible for the welfare of our animals and anyone who abuses his rights as a responsible pet owner should be accountable for their actions. Mr. McReynolds is also responsible to do his best to make sure any future pups produced by his dogs are going to homes of responsible owners who do not plan to fight their Presa's or plan to cross breed with fighting dogs, because it seems apparent that he plans to breed these dogs he purchased from Show Stoppers. These are questions that come to mind when reading your article. Hopefully, Mr. McReynolds has taken appropriate action in this situation and will continue to in the future.

Detroit, Michigan: Brian McReynolds must have anticipated commentaries as such from Presa owners as Charlotte Whitmer. Because of the outcome from the unprovoked attack by a Pit Bull against his Presa, he, Brian recognized he needed to have his Presa thoroughly trained especially to react to the out command when needed. Well, Brian shared the following story to breeder, Richard Kelly of Show Stoppers, who now quotes the facts: Brian sent his 9 month old Presa (Razor) out for 3 months of extensive training. At the conclusion of the schooling, the trainer returned with the Presa, spending 5 days with the family, orientating everyone to the verbal commands and proper hand signals. The trainer's comments were commendable, he had never seen such a responsive and obedient dog. Well, it wasn't long before "Razor" was put to the test. Brian and his girlfriend were walking along the street when they came upon some young children with their mothers. "Razor" loves children and they just had to pet and love him. All the while their activity was being observed by some undesirables, who immediately approached Brian and his girlfriend. Brian gave "razor" the command to sit and stay, while one of the individuals exited the car and began to shout disparaging remarks. When the situation escalated to an uncomfortable situation for Brian's girl, he gave the command for the dog to protect, and the situation ended with the provoker left sitting on top of a van being held at bay until the authorities arrived.

BLUE PRESAS

For years, this Club has stated its position and opinion about bogus Presa's being offered on the market for any price. We were especially concerned with the production of blue coated dogs being represented as Presa's. The following articles retrieved from another Presa web site clearly shows there is one more breeder who has learned a bitter lesson, has picked up the gauntlet (No Blue

Coated Presa's!) and is moving to maintain the purity of the Breed. We'll let the postings speak for themselves.

Blue/Grey Brindles

Monday, 20-Apr-98 19:42:13

207.172.249.15 writes:

Just wanted to add a little about the discussion on the blue/grey brindles. In 1995, I attended the Exhibition in Tenerife. I met with the President of the Club, along with the most renowned breeders on the Islands, and the Judges. I presented pictures of some of our Presas here in the US to these experts on the breed. I presented pictures of many many champions that we have here in the US. I presented pictures of the infamous blue/grey brindles. The response that I received was that of shock and disbelief! I was told by the JUDGE, NOT ONE OF OUR SO CALLED CHAMPIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO EVEN ENTER INTO THEIR SHOW RING!!!!!! I wasn't going to state the dog's name, but it needs to be done, ARBACO WAS JUDGED BY THE JUDGES IN TENEIFIFE BY MY PHOTOGRAPHS - without any hesitation or disagreement, he was judged to be a mix and not a true Presa due to his color. I saw countless numbers of Presas during my 7 day trip, there was, and never will be any blue/silver Presas in the Canary Islands, the genes do not exist. It was explained to me that the silver brindles are always black with silver brindling. ALWAYS a black mask, ALWAYS a black based dog.

Come on everyone, come to grips with the color issue. Spay and neuter your blues, and any animal that carries this color gene, it is not a true Presa color. I have neutered my Arbaco son, although he was a beautiful, perfectly colored black brindle. It is the only fair thing to do for the breed. if you enjoy the blue color, than start another breed, but don't pass it off as a Presa. if you don't believe me, go to the Islands. For one puppy sold, you can make a trip to the Islands and learn for yourselves!

I also was in denial of the blue coloring, but after meeting with the experts on the breed, there is no doubt, they are neo mixes. It is never too late to start with the real thing, if your true concern is the betterment of the breed!

Sandy - Camelot

Sandy

reply to Angelika

Tuesday, 21-Apr-98 01:22:12

12.68.75.115 writes:

I see Tracy has beaten me to a reply on the technicalities of this accusation, which is fine. I will just make a further personal comment.

Angelika, you seem to be a very nasty person. For all our arguing with John over the blue, I do not believe we resorted to your type of tactics- as demonstrated in your most recent post, or your initial posts several days ago. While we may believe any lines out of Arbaco are not pure Presas, I don't recall every making any personal accusations against the integrity of anyone owning them, or breeding them (except maybe that they are in denial, and perhaps a little naive in this case). You, on the other hand, came onto this board with an attitude and threatening lawsuits. Now you are insulting two of the BBS' most participating members. While I can certainly take it, it doesn't do much for you personal image, now does it. Or didn't your lawyers advise you about that?

On a final note, the PCCA is open to register Presas from any lines- even Arbaco. The catch to that is, if you examine the website further, is that the PCCA is dedicated to furthering the Presa according to the Spanish standard (basically without going into a whole debate again- less white no blue). Why would someone join if they were not interested in furthering/breeding to that standard, and towards that goal?

If the only thing you can contribute to this board is to personally attack us, and the work we are involved in- then why bother. I must admit, we had long hoped you would show up one day to participate, in hopes of actually discussing some of these issues with you- but in reality, I find you very disappointing as a breeder/fancier/owner, since you can't even seem to have a civilized discussion without getting emotional.

What have you offered to the breed?

Carla

PresDam

Re: Re: Blue/Grey Brindles
Tuesday 21Apr-98 00:32:51

209153128.184 writes:

Carla and Tracy,

You state and restate until you've flogged the dead horse (or should I say beaten your Presa with a baseball bat, I think you know what I mean) that Arbaco blood lines are not pure bred. Yet you have Alex of Red Star Kennels as a member of the PCCA and his foundation bitch is from Arbaco's blood line. You are the biggest hypocrites that I have ever encountered. You have registered puppies of Arbaco's blood line. I happen to like the Arbaco blood line and Alex's dogs Alex has stated in one of his postings that Arbaco is a grey Presa and not a blue Presa yet you continue to say it is blue and not pure bred. I thought it said in your PCCA charter that "8.1 (we) will support all other PCCA members." Isn't attacking the purity of one of your member's dogs blood lines contrary to your charter? If you really feel this way, why would you allow him as a member and register these dogs? Is the PCCA just after his money?

Angelika

Re: Re: Re: Blue/Grey Brindles
Tuesday 21~Apr~95 00:51.27

12.67.192.134 writes:

Nobody is slamming any breeder, again to beat your dead Neapolitan, simply pointing out the faults of one dog.

If you have visited our webpage, please reread it carefully. Committee members are not charged for membership. Alex & Irina are our clubs members in charge of TT and training. We collect nothing from them.

Alex & I just had a very nice (and lengthy) conversation. There are no bad feelings between us. He clearly understands my opinion and my facts, and I understand his. In the end it will be up to the judge not him, me or anyone else here. We both plan on letting the experts decide, will you?

Tracy

PRESA CANARIO BREEDING STANDARD

As explained by Manuel Marrin Bethencourt.

I. Denomination and Synonym Denomination

Presa Canarilo (Canary Dog of Prey) Synonym--Perro Basto and Verdino (Coarse Dog and Green Dog) for these specimen of tiger colored fur.

II. Origins and diffusion of the breed

A dog originally from the islands of Tenerife and Grand Canary, on the Canary Archipelago, where it grew because of its function as a fighter.

It was essentially the result of the crossing of the Bardino or Majorero derived from the island of Fuerteventura and molosoid dogs carried to the islands.

It inherited its temperament from its ancestors the Bardino or Majorero, Pre-Hispanic herd dog, diffused from long ago throughout all the Archipelago: rustic, contentious and of a fiery character.

The aforementioned crosses, gave an origin to an ethnic group of dogs of prey of the intermediate type predominately of the tiger color or tawny and both spotted in white.

Several decades would pass before the resurgence of the Presa Canario would begin in an uninterrupted form at the hands of breeders that had lived and known their traditions and existence.

The Presa Canario is found at this moment to be diffused more and more into all social classes. We find it in the country and in the city, in the parks and in the suburbs, in the stone streets and in the most remote neighborhoods. One works unceasingly with the goal of all fans seeing it as it never was before--as a breed, fulfilling the standard, searching for the homogenization and the constant fixing of its genetic characteristics.

The jump since fifteen years ago to here has been gigantic since the population has increased one hundredfold in quantity and quality year by year. From one ethnic group, very functional but heterogeneous, it has changed into the presence of a phenotype that repeats itself hereditarily each time with more frequency.

That is not to say there are no failures, or at times depression, these are inherent with the labor, but the job of establishing a breed is full of innumerable handicaps and one must make them right. To this, one must add the disorientation that they infuse and the bad influence on breeding of isolated important persons, between pathetic and solitary, of warm and negative thought who try to spread their own failure and depression to the fans, adopting high attitudes and many times hard criticism toward all that is not their personal labor. One must expect these people, and rejecting them must continue with the breeding and selection of the Presa Canario because here is the future of the breed.

To the labor of stability and incessant search one must unite the work of improving in the mouths the general structure, in the hind quarters and in the disposition. One must look for well set maxillaries, good bones, healthy buttocks of powerful stride and frank character, banishing all timidity and in spite of many failures that this brings with itself, the breeding continues, encouraged by the optimistic attitude of the Spanish Club of the Presa Canario, for which discouragement does not exist.

We repeat that the leap has been gigantic. The dogs of today surpass by leaps and bounds the dogs of last year. Today they are much more perfect, of better equilibrium, as much physical as psychic. Nevertheless, of course, they resemble their predecessors. Today we find numerous specimens that are exactly the same, only that they are much more beautiful than those we remember from the 50's. I refer not only to their general proportion, but to their expression. And it is from this point of genetic view, the form and the content of the Molosos de Presa cannot experience so much variation in only 40 or 50 years, since their genetic foundation is very similar, and within the dogs of prey there are many dogs but very few breeds. Its depth is similar to those of before, but their circumstances have changed. The treatment, the feeding, the veterinary attention and especially the mentality of the owners. Today one tries to possess or to breed Presas Canarios, not only violent and hard fighting for the pit, but a well balanced dog of the breed, conserving all its traditional aptitudes.

THE DORSAL LINE OF THE PRESA CANARIO.

The old English breeders at the header of genealogical books used to describe the animals they wanted to produce, establishing their essential characteristics, the ideal model of the breed that they were attempting to establish. Knowing they were working on one of the most malleable physical species, the dog, which had produced a great polymorphism among its individuals, giving much importance to the precision of the specific desirable characteristics. From these descriptions, were born the breeding standards.

If we define the breed as a collection of individuals, belonging to a physiological species and that possess an entirety of common characteristics, transmissible by heredity that distinguishes them from other breeds of the same species, we will understand the great importance that the correct election of those common characteristics, or those specific characteristics, and that said election never can be arbitrary. The selection of the phenotype of a breed had no meaning if the motives are not first known for setting these characteristics and not others. Beauty, if it not related to objective criteria lacks a reason for being.

The back of the dog is one of the fundamental elements in its anatomy and is determined for which it is destined by the breed, existing notable differences between a trotter, a runner, a dog of prey, etc. In the Breed Guide of the Presa Canario, approved by the RSCFRCE there is a relative point at the dorsal line of this breed that is necessary to embellish.

The Standard says: "superior line: straight or with a little fall from the withers to the buttocks.

Buttocks: to present equal height withers--buttocks, does not constitute a defect.

From the reading of which we deduce:

- The standard prefers implicitly the descending dorsal line.
- It does not describe the desirable form of the buttocks.

Let's see why:

1st point: The descending line is preferred because even admitting that it may be straight, there is no doubt in indicating that the buttocks of said rectitude (equal height from withers to buttocks) does not constitute a defect. It tries to move forward to whatever doubt over the correction of the straightness, putting it indirectly in prohibition. It is evident that the standard only tolerates the superior straight line, preferring the descending line.

2nd point: It does not describe that buttocks but indicates a peculiarity of the back, that it is not a defect becomes superfluous and if it were a defect should be written under the epigraph "defect" of the same standard. The indication is moreover gratuitous, now that with preference it has indicated that the superior line can be straight, that is to say, to present equal height withers to buttocks.

The proper standard puts in evidence its lack of rigor by indicating to us that the posterior extremities have 'angles with little accent', without taking into consideration that the first consequence of a descending dorsal line is to accentuate the posterior angles.

I think that the standard is so imprecise and confused on this point. The dorsal line of the Presa Canario should be LIGHTLY ASCENDENT from the withers toward the buttocks (or very straight), according to whether we want to accentuate more or less its constitution as a gladiator. In no way should it say, "with a little fall from the withers to the buttocks."

Before going into a short study of the dorsolumbar anatomy of the dog, with it to reason this opinion, let us see how the back of the Presa Canario is contemplated in the recommendations for breeding, given by the Spanish Club of the Presa Canario.

"Dorso-lumbar line: straight, ascending lightly toward the buttocks. Conspicuous saddle on the back, just behind the withers. Buttocks: straight, medium and wide. The height at the buttocks presents normally 1.5 cm. or more in relation to the height at the withers."

Having the advantage of being more descriptive and precise than the official standard, this conformation of the back is more in agreement with the demands of a dog of prey and is more in line with the breeds of equal function.

It represents a cinological error that gives this discrepancy between the official standard and that other 'official' standard but endorsed by the applause of many in the Canaries who work for that selection of the Presa Canario. It is precisely in its beginnings when a breed needs more exactness and precision in its breeding standard.

Anatomical Considerations.

The dorsal region, constructed from the 1st dorsal vertebra up to the 13th, serves as a seat to a strong muscular mass, the dorsal muscles (cervical trapezium, thoracic trapezium, great dorsal; facial thoracic-lumbar). This muscular mass supports the weight of all the anterior part or posterior of the trunk during movement, so that the point of support is made above the anterior and posterior members. And its importance is not only fundamental during movement, but constitutes the center of all actions and reactions in the body. In the Presa Canario, the dorsal region should show ample intercostal spaces. The insertion of the great dorsal muscle over the apophysis of the last dorsal vertebra contributes greatly to having good strength of the dorsal line.

The renal region is constituted by the seven lumbar vertebrae. If in any dog the renal region is important, in the dog of prey it is vital, because over this same area will gravitate a great part of force during combat. Therefore the muscular mass here should be relatively short, but very powerful. In the Presa Canario one should avoid a falt renal region, sign of deficient development of the vertebral column and the muscles that cover it. The ideal would be to find firm muscular masses, rounded and with good development. We must demand a secluded kidney, but not excessively short, which would cause problems of flexibility.

The buttocks is constituted by the iliac, long bone that carries two principal divisions: ilium and ischium. Since the ilium is the only bone structure of the buttocks, this will be wide, straight, short, flat, inclined, or fallen according to the various positions, forms and dimensions that the former adopts. On demanding a "straight, medium and wide" the standard of the Club draws with clarity the characteristics of this anatomical part. On requesting a straight buttocks, it says that the same will have an inferior inclination to 30 degrees horizontally. This buttocks of moderate inclination has the advantage of allowing a major development and length of the gluteous muscles that go from the ilia crest to the femur, which will contribute to greater back power. The back support is fundamental during combat. Nevertheless we must avoid a fiat back, because excessive flatness injures movements, especially in the long step, where the dog raises his knees excessively and elevates his legs, very extended, raising them in the most serious cases completely horizontally. It is important to remember that the obliquity of the iliac favors the inclination of the femur in a contrary sense, so that the distensive strength of the muscles is transmitted as an impulsive force to the vertebral column. The major or minor width of the buttocks is in direct proportion with the demands of a development of strength or velocity. More strength, more width; more velocity, less width. In the Presa Canario, like a dog that must exert a great strength, the buttocks must present a considerable width.

Equilibrium and the Thorax.

The Presa Canario, like all dogs selected for development of muscular strength in the dog of prey, velocity and resistance in running stay relegated to a second place. Everything in this breed is at the service of strength. Short, compact neck, wide bones, well arched rib

cage, etc. Like a combat dog, it should have the center of gravity very close to the ground, which will increase its equilibrium. It is evident that all dogs that have to show strength must have the fullest possible base of support and therefore a notable development of the width and length. Both standards (that of the RSCFRCE and the Club) require a dog inscribe in a rectangle, in the torso they specify "its length normally exceeds the height at the withers in 10--12. This is because the proper standard in its description of "general appearance" tell us that we see "a mesomorph whose torso is longer than its height at the withers." . Nevertheless, the Corporal Index of the dog proposed in the standard of the RSCFRCE is the closest to the values of a dolicomorph that a mesomorph. The height at the withers for males is the standard of the RSCFRCE from 59 to 64 cm. and that of the Club is 61 to 66 cm. We pick a male with the height of 64 cm., a height included in both standards. The length of its torso will be between the values of 70.4 and 71.6 for both standards and the thoracic perimeter will be 80 cm. for the RSCFRCE and 85.3 for the Club. As for the dog proposed by the RSCFRCE the Corporal Index is situated between the values;

$$\begin{array}{r} 70.4 \times 100 \\ \text{C.I.} = \frac{\quad}{80} = 80 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 70.68 \times 100 \\ \text{C.I.} = \frac{\quad}{80} = 89.6 \end{array}$$

A value situated between 88 and 89.6 corresponds to the Corporal Index of a Dolicomorph. The Corporal Index proposed by the Club is:

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{70.4 \times 100} \\ \text{C.I.} = 85.3 = 82.5 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{71.68 \times 100} \\ \text{C.I.} = 85.3 = 84 \end{array}$$

Both values are contained between 80--85 that correspond to the Corporal Index of a Mesomorph.

From here we can see that the thoracic perimeter equals the height + 1/4, what the RSCFRCE standard requires is not certain. We see a dog of apparent lightness, with little thoracic diameter of these proportions. We can only reduce the Corporal Index by virtue of a normal development of the torso in its lengthwise diameter, so that the-dog would be inscribed in a square. If we want the Presa Canario to be a mesomorph whose torso is inscribed in a rectangle, we must accept a thoracic perimeter of similar dimensions to those proposed by the Club, equal to the height + 1/3, if it is desirable to exceed such proportions.

Conclusions

We have observed that the whole constitution of the Presa Canario is conceived to make of it a powerful seizure, that immobilizes its prey, but endowed with a relative agility. There is a need to have a light ascension toward the buttocks. From the pure physiological point of view it would result that the hind quarters being shorter than the front would project towards the rear, the center of gravity, overloading with useless work the posterior members, that moreover would be injured by a diminishing of the length of the bones. The straight back or ascendant toward the buttocks is common in seizure dogs. The prototype of the gladiator, the English Bulldog, presents a small hollowness behind the shoulders, the lowest region of the dog. From this point the dorsal spine elevated toward the loins whose crest must be higher than the shoulder. In the great dogs of prey the dorsal line is straight. For the Dogs of Burdeos, Profesor Kustler in 1910 required a wide, straight muscular back. Also we find a straight dorsal line in the Mastino Napoletano and in the Mastiff What we never find in dogs of functionality equal to the Presa Canario is a descending dorsal line from the withers to the buttocks. Moreover the reality of the dogs attests to the small ascendance of the dorsal line of the Presa Canario. The specimen whose photographs illustrate this work do not allow for doubts. Finally, according to the anatomical data: if we study the skeleton of a dog, by tracing a straight line along the vertebral column following the rings of the vertebrae, along their inferior face, we verify that the column, is inclined toward the front. The major length of the spinal apophysis of the dorsal vertebrae reestablishes on a level to join the withers. Excepting this, the lumbar and dorsal vertebrae are at the same level. A standard must be the wise joining of the reality we have with the ideal that we want. In the Presa Canario the reality is a straight dorsal-lumbar line, ascending slightly toward the buttocks and the ideal... coincides with reality!

III. General Appearance and Character.

Description of the whole (general characteristics).

Dog of medium size, eumetric, straight profile. Of a rustic appearance and well proportioned. It is a mesomorph, whose torso is longer than its height at the withers, accenting lightly the character more lengthwise in females. Compact head, of a square appearance and wide cranium. The upper lips cover the bottom lips with a certain laxity. Mucous of black color. Strong teeth of wide implantation and generally well enclosed. Brown colored eyes of medium size. Ears of high placement. Cylindrical neck, strongly muscled and covered with thick elastic skin. Light double chin. Short and straight back. Wide implantation of the tail. Wide chest. Moderately set belly. Anterior extremities perfectly plumb. Of wide and strong bones. Back foot. Powerful and muscular posterior extremities with not very

marked angulations and correct plumb lines with the back foot slightly longer than the front. Elastic and thick skin. Short hair without subhair, that presents a certain ruggedness. Fur inside the tiger colored range, or tawny and black with a black mask.

Character and Aptitude.

Its appearance denotes power. Severe look. Especially endowed for the function of guard and defense and traditionally for the driving of cattle herds. Of an impetuous temperament. Able fighter, tendency to resemble ancestors. Serious and deep bark. Meek and noble with the family and distrusting of strangers. In the past it was used as a fighter.

Commentary on the general appearance and character.

General appearance - The Presa Canario is a dog of medium size, of strong constitution and of rustic appearance. It is a mesomorph and therefore medium in its proportions. The torso is a little longer than its height at the withers. To its current function as guard or for defense and as a cowherd is added in the past the function of fighter to which it was dedicated frequently and as such conformed morphologically to the qualities of power, stability, and flexibility of movement. Its power comes from a compact and well developed muscular system, with a chest of great width and diameter. Its members are not excessively long, but rather short and robust with good separation especially in the front, motor propulsion in the dog of prey, the fuller the base, the better the stability of the animal. And lastly, a deep torso of moderate length, inscribed in a rectangle will present a flexible movement. as corresponds to a guard dog, whose function develops in spaces that are not very large.

Character - Its temperament is firm and of even psychic equilibrium. Frank character aptitude that allows a rapid adaptation to learning.

IV. External Morphology

1. Height at withers

Males: from 60--65 cm.

Females: from 56--61 cm

In specimen that can exceed the height limit one should demand a correct proportion between the dimension of the extremities and the volume of the torso.

Commentary: In the males a variance between 60--65 cm. may be established. The medium ideal height is found between 62 and 63 cm. corresponding with a generous and well proportioned structure. In the females a variance of between 56 and 61 cm. can be established. The medium ideal height is found around 59 and 60 cm. In specimen that exceed these limits of height, one should observe an excellent proportion between the members and the volume of the torso, in a form that never is tall or ungraceful.