PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG - SMOOTH FACED

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ORIGIN : France.

ACW CLASSIFICATION. : Group 1 Sheep and cattle dogs

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY : This variety of Pyrenean Sheepdog was principally found in the Pyrenean foot-hills where it was “much appreciated by horse-dealers and cattle-drovers” according to Bernard SÉNAC-LAGRANGE (1927 club’s yearbook). Its distinctive features compared with those of other types of Pyrenean Sheepdogs gained it an appendix in the breed standard from the 1920s.

GENERAL APPEARANCE : Overall, the smooth-faced Pyrenean Sheepdog has the same characteristics as the long-coated Pyrenean Sheepdog.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS : • The skull is approximately as wide as long. • The muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull, but longer than that of the long or semi-long coated varieties. • The length of the body is almost equals its height. • The distance from the elbow to the ground is greater than half the height at the withers.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT : Lively, biddable dog, sometimes wary of strangers.

HEAD : Furnished with short fine hair (hence the name “smoothfaced”). The muzzle is a little longer than that of the semi-long coated Pyrenean Sheepdogs.

BODY : A little shorter than that of the long-coated Pyrenean Sheepdog, it is a more square-shaped body.

LIMBS : Covered in smooth hair with a light fringe of hair on the front legs and breeches on the hind legs. The foot is both tighter and more arched than that of the long-coated sheepdog. Angulations are more open in this variety.

GAIT / MOVEMENT : On the move, the smooth-faced Pyrenean Sheepdog has a shorter stride than the long-coated variety.

COAT : On the body the hair is semi-long or less than semi-long. It reaches its longest length on the neck and withers (6-7 cm) and on the median line of the back (4-5 cm).

SIZE : Height at withers : Males 40-54 cm. Females 40-52 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. The faults and eliminating faults are the same as those indicated for the long-coated variety, except for those describing coat and proportions.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS: • Aggressive or overly shy. • Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

NOTE: • Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. • Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.