

THE NEW CAFIB FILA BRASILEIRO STANDARD

Translated by CAFIB, Brazil

This is new standard of Fila Brasileiro written by Paulo Santos Cruz and approved by CAFIB, which adopts it in all its judgments and dog analysis, in order to fight against mix breeding.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: A typical molosser dog. Great size: massive, with strong bones, giving an impression of stout concentration of strength and power, but neither seeming or being heavy, laggard or apathetic.

FIGURE: Massive, rectangular, but harmonious, well balanced, symmetric. Outstanding secondary sexual characters, clearly differentiating males from females.

TEMPERAMENT: It is a courageous, determinate and daring dog. It does not hide its aversion to strangers, or its traditional tenderness to its owners and family. Consequently it is an unexceedable watch dog in the cities, and an excellent herds dog and a hunter of big animals in farms. As a result of its temper, at dog shows it does not allow the judge (a stranger) to touch it. And if it attacks the judge, such a reaction must not be considered a fault, but only a confirmation of its temperament. At temper tests, obligatory for dogs over one year old at shows, the Fila attack must be in an ascending diagonal, in front of handler and without showing dependence from him.

NERVOUS SYSTEM: Calm, serene and showing assurance, self-confidence, even in strange environments, without being frightened by noises such as feasting shots at shows. But the shot must not be discharged at less than five meters, and only to test dogs over one year old.

MOTION WALK: Wide, elastic and rhythmical paces, but at the same time seemingly heavy, just like the felids. While walking, its head must be at the level of or below the back line. At walk, the main characteristic is that the Fila first moves two legs of one side of the body and then the opposite legs, a perfect camel step. As a result, there is an alternate side swing of the thorax and hips, which is emphasized by the tail when it is upwards.

TROT: Easy, soft, light, wide and efficient.

GALLOP: Powerful, reaching an unsuspected speed for a dog of such a size and weight. Fila movements, while walking, make evident its loose joints in the legs and vertebral column, a characteristic of the breed. As a results, the Fila is able to change route suddenly and quickly, even at a gallop.

HEAD: Brachicophalir, great, heavy. Seen in profile, the length of the muzzle is practically equal to that of the skull; good depth; outstanding occipital; big and fallen ears; low forehead depression (stop). Front view, it is wide. with a strong and convex muzzle the skull is wide, lightly curved, also at its sides.

SKULL: Seen in profile, it shows a light curve from the root of muzzle towards the outstanding occipital. Full face, it is wide, large, lightly curved. Its Sides go down in a very smooth, almost vertical, curve, without showing swollen parotids and never forming a step at the muzzle. At this point there is just a light curve.

OCCIPITAL: Outstanding, well apart from the nape.

STOP: (Forehead depression of frontal cavity) Full face, it virtually doesn't exist in its place, there is a groove (depression) between the eyes, in a smooth ascent up to the middle of the skull. Seen in Profile, it is low, inclined, but perfectly visible, formed by the superciliary arches.

EARS: Fallen, big, thick, very large at the root, narrowing towards its end, forming around edge. Its root is inclined: the fore edge is higher than the back one. Its insertion is at the rear part of the skull and variable: low when the dog is at rest and high when it is on the alert. Laterally fallen ears and rose ears are allowed.

EYES: A sad look when at rest, but energetic and determinate when on the alert. Of medium to big size, lightly egg shaped, profound, wide apart. Their color varies from dark chestnut to yellow. In harmony with the general color and pigmentation of the fur. Due to the loose skin, some dogs present fallen low eyelids. This is not considered a fault, because it just only increases its typical sad expression.

MUZZLE: Seen in profile, its length practically equal to the skull length. Rectangular, but very deep. Nevertheless, its depth should never be equal to or exceed its length. The fore line must be straight, going down lightly inclined backwards. At half the way, it forms a wide and perfect curve down towards the lower line of muzzle, which is also defined by the upper lips. These lips are thick and hang over the lower ones, which are firmly fixed to the mandible (lower jaw), but loose at the sides, showing indented edges. Visible lip (labial) commissure.

Full face convex muzzle curves (at front, medium and root), forming a full muzzle, which assures good teeth roots implantation. As a result, under the eyes, the muzzle is round in sequence it narrows very lightly up to the middle curve and then it enlarges again up to the front curve, originating a widely curved mouth gap. Nevertheless, seen from above the muzzle must not belt at the region of the middle curve, which is only perceptible.

NOSE: Wide nostrils, well developed, but never occupying the whole width of the jaw. always black.

TEETH AND BITE: Teeth relatively small, but strong and clear. Upper fore teeth (incisors) are wide at the root and thin at the end. Powerful canine teeth, wide apart. Scissors shaped bite: this means that the lower incisors close just scraping the inner surface of the upper incisors.

NECK: Generally kept low, it is extraordinarily developed and has strong muscles, but apparently it is short. Its upper edge (nape) is slightly convex, Forming the so called stallion curve. Under the throat it has a parallel double skin, hanging loose, in a longitudinal position (dewlap).

TRUNK: Strong, wide and deep. The thorax is longer than the abdomen.

THORAX: Perfectly arched ribs, forming a wide and deep chest, but never being an obstacle to the free motion of the shoulders. In a well framed shoulder, the ribs must go down till the tip of the elbow.

FLANK: Less longer and deeper than the thorax, it must be well sculptured, in order to make it possible to differentiate all its parts. Seen from above, it must be less wide and full than the thorax and rump, but without belting.

UPPER LINE: Open and low withers (plates), on account of the fact that the plates (omoplates) are wide apart. Nevertheless, the withers must be perfectly visible, forming a descending line. At the lowest point of this descent line (hinge), it changes direction, going

upward smoothly, in a straight line, till the fore tip of the rump (ilium). So the upper line is formed by two straight lines one till the end of the withers the other one till the rump.

LOWER LINE: From the tip of the chest (manubrium of sternum) it does down, in a wide and perfect curve, forming the fore chest after that, a straight line, parallel to the ground, follows till the rear end of the sternum (xiphoid) and from this point it does up lightly in the males till the penile sheath, and in the females till the flank lap, which is more developed in them, hiding the ascending line of the abdomen and influencing the lower line.

FORE QUARTERS-SHOULDERS: They are made up of two bones of equal size; omoplate or scapula and humerus. The former at 45 degrees from the horizon and the last one at 90 degrees from the plate. The joint of the omoplate with the humerus forms the point of the shoulder, which must be at the same level of the chest tip, but a little behind it. In the ideal structure the shoulder should fill the space from the withers to the sternum and the shoulder tip should be just at the middle of this distance.

LEGS: Strong and straight bones. Apparent wrists (carpus), short and slightly inclined metacarpus.

FEET: They are formed by strong and well arched fingers, not too near, supported by thick pads put around a wide, deep and thick foot pad. Fingers are in a correct position when they point ahead. The nails are strong and dark-but can be white when this is color of the respective finger. A perpendicular imaginary line going down from the withers (plates) must reach the elbow and the foot. In the ideal structure, the elbow (olecranium) should be at the sternum level.

HIND QUARTERS-RUMP: Structured by the wide and long iliac, forming an angle of 30 degrees from the horizon. There is a smooth curve from the fore tip of the rump (ilium) till the rear (ischium), or the rump end. The ilium tip is at the same level or a little higher than the plates. A horizontal imaginary line starting from the rump end (ischium) must reach the shoulder tip and ahead of the chest tip. This distance defines the length of the dog.

Viewed from behind, the hips must be as large as the thorax, mainly in males. In the females the hips can be larger.

THIGH: Structured by the femur (thigh bone), which forms an angle of approximately 60 degrees from the horizon or from the ground and an angle of 90 degrees from the iliac. It is large, with convex edges, formed by the muscles which go down the ilium and the ischium - the last ones drawing the rump curve. This is the reason why the ischium should always have a good length.

LEG: It is mainly formed by the tibia (shin bone). When the angulation is good, the knee outstands and projects the hock backwards. Strong and outstanding ankle (tarsus). The metatarsus (instep) is inclined and higher than the metacarpus. Viewed from the rear, the hind legs must be parallel and the inner part of the thigh should be very muscular.

FEET: They are little bit more egg shaped than the fore feet and equal to these in the rest. They must not have dewclaws (ergots).

TAIL: Viewed in profile, it should not interfere with the rump curve on the contrary, it must be well adapted to it, not outstanding too much. Its insertion is medium. When the dog is excited, it goes up, but it must never take an upright position or even fall over the back. At the end it forms an open curve (hook curve), but it should never twist up. When the dog is at rest, it falls straight, till the hock. Seen from rear, its root must be very wide and strong, narrowing little by little down to its end.

SKIN: It is one the most important characteristics of the breed, it must be thick, loose all

over the trunk, mainly in the neck, and forming a dewlap at the throat. In many cases this dewlap goes down the chest and abdomen. Some dogs have a ply (wrinkle) at head, sides, and also at the withers and shoulders. When the dog is at rest, the head must not present plies. When it is on the alert, the contraction of the skull skin in order to raise the ears from little longitudinal plies. The forehead must not have plies.

FUR: Low, short and flat coat. The hair is rough and thick, a characteristic which can be easily detected by sight and touch. A little thicker at the withers.

COLOR: The following colors are allowed

1st: Yellow in all its shades, from the reddish brown (light bay) to red.

2nd: Yellow in all its shades, from the reddish brown to red, but with a gray shadow.

3rd: The first and second colors, but with black mask and ears, or only black mask.

4th: Striped like a tiger, or "araca" (yellow hair with split black stripes). Basic color equal to one of the previous ones with black stripes or streaks. The streaks are thin, with the same width from the beginning to the end and irregularly distributed all over the body. They also have different lengths and link at the upper line of the body, along the vertebral column, drawing a "V".

5th: Striped with black mask and ears.

6th: White with big brindled spots, like those described in item number 4. >The white color must be pure, without dark spots on the skin (making shadows).

7th: Light gray, silver

8th: Any of these colors with white spots, usually on the members, chest and tail and not so frequently on the neck and muzzle, going up to the head.

HEIGHT: (at the withers) Minimum: males 65cm, females 60cm. Maximum: males 70cm, females 65cm.

WEIGHT: Males around 50kg, females 40kg.

FAULTS: Everything that is far from the ideal described in this standard. The fault turns to be graver in the direct ratio of this distance.

GENERAL DISQUALIFICATIONS:

1st: Cut ears

2nd: Cut tails

3rd: Flesh color nose

4th: Prognathism influencing the fore line of the muzzle

5th: Any dental lack

6th: White without any spot of another color

7th: White (basic color) with black spots

8th: Jet Black

9th: Slate black

10th: Jet or slate black with white spots

11th: Mouse (rat) gray

12th: Bluish gray

13th: Gray (basic color) with black spots

14th: Mouth gap in acute angle

15th: Temper without a positive reaction to attack

16th: Strong negative sensibility to shot

MIXBREEDING DISQUALIFICATIONS: Important notes:

1st: Here are listed the most common faults. To make it easier to understand them, they are divided by items like the general aspect, head, etc. On account of the great variety of genetic heritages and consequently of phenotypes, the judge will not find a group of these characters in just one dog. So the judge must disqualify a dog whenever he finds one or more of these faults, and when he gets convinced of mix breeding by the intensity and representatives of them

2nd: There are dogs with somatically (physical) details which denounce several mix breedings. This fact must not be a surprise to the judge, because it only proves the extension and the variety of miscegenation (mix breeding) with several (and not only just one) breed.

A) NEOPOLITAN MASTIFF MIXBREEDINGS:

1- A strongly brevilineous type, with short legs, wide chest. Concave upper line, resulting in high and plane rump and high insertion of tail, which is short, tending to twist up and fall over the back. Lower line in opposite curves, concave in the thorax (thorax like a sleeping net) and convex in the abdomen tucking up).

2- Wide skull, its curves go down the arched sides of the head just like in a ball. In contrast, the muzzle seems narrower. High insertion ears, Round "stop", formed by the frontal bone, which is high at the forehead, Mouth gap in acute angle. Viewed in profile, the muzzle depth is equal to or bigger than its length. Full face it is narrow. So the nose occupies all its front. Without convex curves. Transversal loose skin at throat. A boring expression with half closed eyes and open mouth, showing the tip of the tongue.

3- Slate black color, gray as a basic color, with black stripes lead gray.

B) GREAT DANE MIXBREEDINGS:

1- Square figure, longilineous, long legged, long necked and with scarce dewlap at the throat. As a result of short sternum, the lower line tucks up in a diagonal (herring thorax). Very big flank lap, even in males. Firm joints and hard motion. Rump without inclination. Thin tail. Opened shoulders, going onward and placed just under the neck.

2- Narrow head. Big and large nose. Not very deep head. Plain and flat skull small "stop" narrow and thin ears, highly inserted. Eyes tending to blue. Long muzzle, with lower line parallel to the upper one.

3- Jet black color, mouse gray or bluish gray, gray, as basic color, with black spots, white with black or gray spots, or with spots of these two colors. Low fur, with very thin hair, too close to the body.

C) ENGLISH MASTIFF MIXBREEDINGS:

1- Huge shape, tending to square. Straight back. Withers higher than the rump.

2- Full face, the head is wide, seeming narrow between the ears, which are small, in a "V" shape, thin, highly inserted (practically at the top of the skull line), and almost always black. Globular forehead, abrupt "stop", formed by the frontal bone. Wrinkled skin at forehead. Little outstanding occipital. Viewed in profile, the muzzle length is half the skull length(1 to 2). Deep at the root, but less deep at the tip, where the upper lip is not so deep. The fore line forms a right angle with the upper line and is vertical. It may be inclined forwards, as a result of pincers shaped bite or inferior prognathism. Prominent chin, resulting in an inclined fore line. Black mask.

3- Yellow apricot as a basic color, with too many large and egg shaped stripes put together, forming black stains. They are so numerous that the visible parts of the basic color are practically of the same width of the stains, giving a false idea of striped or a dark tiger like color.

***Outrageous Shadow kennels does not agree with the standard as set forth by Cafib in it's entirety.