This illustration does not necessarily show the ideal example of the breed.
ORIGIN: Japan.


UTILIZATION: Hunting dog, companion.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 5 Spitz and primitive type.
Section 5 Asian Spitz and related breeds.
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: This breed originated from medium-sized dogs that existed in Japan in the ancient times. It became established as a breed in the Kai district (Yamanashi Prefecture), which is surrounded by mountains. Another name for this breed is «Kai tora-ken». A distinguishing feature in this dog is its brindled coat. These dogs are used mainly for hunting wild boar and deer. Their strong inclination to form a pack is thought to contribute towards maintaining the purity of the breed. The breed was designated as a «natural monument» in 1934.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Medium-sized dog, well balanced, sturdily built, muscles well developed. The dog has the characteristics of a dog living in mountainous districts of Japan. Limbs strong and hocks remarkably developed.

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

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: The temperament is keen and very alert.
HEAD

CRANIAL REGION :
Skull : Forehead broad.
Stop : Abrupt with slight furrow.

FACIAL REGION :
Nose : Black, nasal bridge straight.
Muzzle : Pointed, not very long, but moderately thick.
Lips : Tight.
Jaws/Teeth : Strong with a scissor bite.
Cheeks : Well developed.
Eyes : Relatively small, nearly triangular and dark brown in colour.
Ears : Slightly larger than those of other medium-sized Japanese dogs, triangular, slightly inclining forward and firmly pricked.

NECK : Thick, powerful and muscular.

BODY :
Withers : High.
Back : Straight and short.
Loins : Broad and muscular.
Chest : Deep, ribs moderately sprung.
Belly : Well tucked up.

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

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS :
Shoulders : Moderately sloping with developed muscles.
Elbows : Close to the body.
Forearm : Straight, heavy and muscular.
Pasterns : Slightly inclining.
HINDQUARTERS:
Upper thighs: Long.
Lower thighs: Short.
Hocks: Tough and elastic.

FEET: Toes well arched and tightly knit; pads thick and elastic; nails hard and preferably dark in colour.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Light and resilient.

COAT

HAIR: Outer coat harsh and straight; undercoat soft and dense. The hair on the tail is fairly long and off-standing.

COLOUR: Black brindle, red brindle and brindle. As a feature of this breed, solid colour in puppyhood may turn brindle as the dog grows.

SIZE:
Height at withers: Dogs 53 cm.
Bitches 48 cm.
There is a tolerance of \(\pm 3\) 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.
- Light-coloured nose.
- Slightly overshot or undershot mouth.
- Light-coloured eyes.
- Long or short hair.
- Shyness.
DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- Extremely overshot or undershot mouth.
- Ears not pricked.
- Hanging tail, short tail.
- Faded colour.
- Coat with many white spots.
- Extreme shyness.

N.B.:

- 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.
ANATOMICAL FEATURES

- Skull
- Ear
- Eye
- Stop
- Nose bridge
- Nose – point of nose
- Foreface
- Muzzle
- Upper jaw
- Lower jaw
- Chin
- Corner of the mouth
- Cheek
- Throat
- Point of shoulder
- Prosternum/point of chest
- Upper arm
- Brisket
- Forearm
- Wrist
- Pastern
- Forefoot
- Withers/top of shoulder
- Back
- Loin
- Croup
- Set of tail
- Point of buttock
- Thigh
- Tail
- Hock joint
- Rear pastern
- Hind foot