

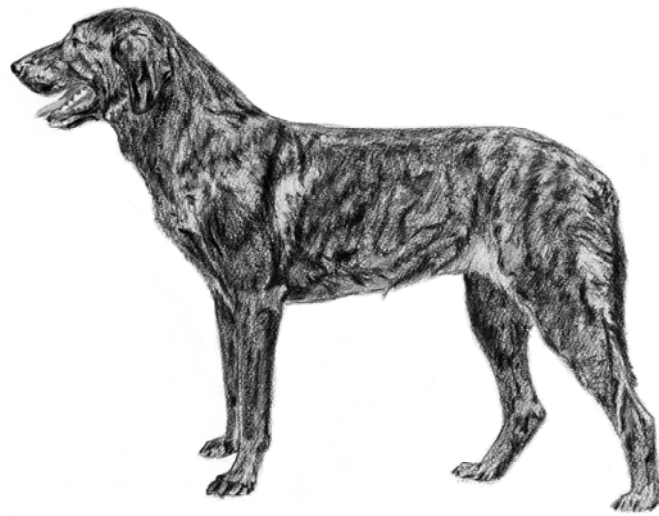


FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1<sup>er</sup> B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

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FCI-Standard N° 170 / 30.03.2009 / GB

CASTRO LABOREIRO DOG  
(Cão de Castro Laboreiro)



**TRANSLATION** : Portuguese Kennel Club. Revised by Jennifer Mulholland and Renée Sporre-Willes.

**ORIGIN** : Portugal.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD** : 04.11.2008.

**UTILIZATION** : Guard dog, watch dog and livestock guarding dog.

**F.C.I. CLASSIFICATION** : Group 2 Pinscher and Schnauzer,  
Molossoid breeds, Swiss  
Mountain and Cattle Dogs.  
Section 2.2 Molossoid breeds,  
Mountain type.  
Without working trial.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY** : One of the most ancient breeds in the Iberian Peninsula, it owes its name to the village of Castro Laboreiro, located in the Melgaço municipality in the extreme north of Portugal, where it comes from. It is a rustic mountainous area, ranging from the Minho River to the Peneda and Soajo Mountains with altitudes of up to 1400 m. It is delimited by the Minho, Trancoso, Laboreiro and Mouro rivers.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE** : The breed has a slight mastiff type. A vigorous animal, of attractive morphology and often of striking coat. It has a severe and serious expression and the rusticity of a mountaineer.

**IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS** : Moderately long (Sub-longilinear), with length of body to height at withers relation of 7:6; the depth of the chest is slightly less than half of the height at withers. The superior cranium-facial axes are slightly divergent. The skull to muzzle length relation is 2:1

**BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT** : A loyal and docile companion to its family, it is essential in flock protection against wolf attacks which, in the breed's area of origin, are still very frequent. Due to its constant vigilance, it is an ideal sentinel of property entrusted to it, patrolling it frequently. Of noble nature. Very agile and active, it can show some hostility, without being quarrelsome. It has a characteristic alarm bark, starting with a deep sound, rising to low-pitched and ending in prolonged high-pitched sounds.

**HEAD** : Of medium size, showing lightness rather than coarseness; smooth without being lean; skin well developed but without wrinkles; long and tending to rectilinear.

**CRANIAL REGION** :

**Skull** : Moderately developed, slightly prominent and moderately broad. The superior cranium-facial axes are slightly divergent with a profile tending to rectilinear.; The superciliary arches are slightly developed with a hardly noticeable frontal furrow; the occipital protuberance is not pronounced.

**Stop** : Not pronounced, placed at greater distance from the occipital protuberance than from the tip of the nose.

**FACIAL REGION** :

**Nose** : Well developed, in line with nosebridge and large. Nostrils wide open. Always black.

**Muzzle** : Long, straight; strong; tapering gradually towards the tip, without being narrow or pointed.

Lips : Well cut, with medium and inconspicuous commissures; neither fleshy nor pendulous; the mucous membranes of palate and edges of lips are strongly pigmented in black.

Jaws/Teeth : Powerful, well muscled and close fitting jaws. Full dentition, strong, white teeth, well adjusted and well set into the jaw; scissors bite, a pincer bite may be accepted.

Cheeks : Flat, converging moderately to the tip of the muzzle without tapering.

Eyes : Of medium size, almond shaped, slanting, set level, neither prominent nor sunken. Brown in colour, ranging from light brown in paler coats to dark brown, almost black, in the darker coats. The expression is somewhat severe. Black eyelids.

Ears : Fairly high set, falling naturally parallel to both sides of the head; hanging. Thin and almost triangular, rounded at the tip; of medium size (length equal to width). When attentive the ears turn forward.

**NECK** : Well set into the body and head, conferring to the head a proud carriage; short; straight; well developed and of proportional thickness; without dewlap.

**BODY** :

Top line : Level or slightly sloping.

Withers : Well set into the neck and body.

Back : Medium length; strong; longer than the loin.

Loin : Short; broad; well muscled; in harmonious connection to the croup.

Croup : Short, broad, well muscled, with a smooth inclination. May be slightly higher than the withers.

Chest : Oval shaped medium width and depth.

Underline and belly : Considerable rise from sternum to groin; the belly is not voluminous and shows a distinct difference in line between the sternum and the belly area.

**TAIL** : Natural, of higher than average set, thick at the base; at rest, it falls down to the hock, hanging not too close between the fringed buttocks; tail with thick and long hair, especially on the underside, giving it a thicker look in the middle, with a very hairy underside on the third part of the tail. It has a graceful scimitar shape and is usually carried low; if the animal is excited, the tail rises over the top line, tilting up, forward and slightly sideways, but never down to touch the back.

## **LIMBS**

**FOREQUARTERS** : Strong and well muscled. Very straight, when seen from the front and sides; well developed bones.

**Shoulder** : Well developed joints. Medium angle between scapula-humerus.

**Upper arm** : Well developed with powerful muscles.

**Forearm** : Straight and gradually tapering from top to the pastern; well developed bones, somewhat cylindrical in shape.

**Metacarpus (Pastern)** : Neither too long nor too inclined.

**Forefeet** : Proportioned to the size and more round than long, tending to cat feet; with thick, tight-fitting toes, naturally arched, neither turning outwards nor inwards; well developed nails, black or dark grey, smooth, hard, moderately worn. Thick and hard pads.

**HINDQUARTERS** : Strong and well muscled. Very upright, when seen from the back; well developed bones.

**Thigh** : Well developed with powerful muscles, easily seen from behind.

**Stifle joint** : Moderately open femur-tibial angle.

**Second thigh** : Well developed bones, well muscled.

**Hock** : High; the hock line slopes slightly forward; well developed joints and moderately open tibia-tarsus angle.

Metatarsus (rear pastern) : Well developed bones, somewhat cylindrical in shape. May have single or double dewclaws.

Hind feet : Identical to the forefeet.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT** : The gait is rhythmical and easy, with the legs moving parallel to the middle body line. The most common gaits are a natural walk and sometimes an easy amble trot; it will only move faster (trot or gallop) when a strong reason urges it to do so.

### **COAT**

HAIR : Short hair on body (approximately 5 cm); without undercoat. Slightly dull, smooth, flat on most of the body and very thick; in general it is shorter and denser on the head and ears, where it is thin and soft, and on the limbs below the elbow and hock. The hair is thick and long on the buttocks, which are very hairy; thick, resistant and somewhat harsh to touch.

COLOUR : The most common is the wolf colour and the most preferred colour is the “mountain colour”, so called by the locals and considered as an ethnic trait by the breeders in Castro Laboreiro. It is a brindle coat with a base colour of different shades of grey overlaid with lighter and darker shades of black brindling. It is typical with hair of three different colours; ranging from pine-nut to reddish and mahogany. The brindling can be of lighter and darker shades on different parts of the body; darker on head, back and shoulders; medium dark on body, croup and thighs and lighter on belly and lower parts of the limbs. A small white spot is permitted on the chest.

### **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT** :

Height at the withers:

Males: 58 - 64 cm (with a tolerance of + 2 cm).

Females: 55 - 61 cm (with a tolerance of + 2 cm).

**Weight:**

Males: 30 - 40 Kg.

Females: 25 - 35 Kg.

**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 on the health and welfare of the dog.

- **Behaviour** : Animals showing signs of shyness or distrustfulness.
- **Head** : Too voluminous, bony or fleshy, too narrow, long or pointed.
- **Ears** : Atypical set-on, too big, fleshy and round.
- **Colour** : Small white spot outside the limits set by the standard.

**SEVERE FAULTS :**

- **Eyes** : Yellow, loose lids.
- **Tail** : Hunting-horn shape, curled or with hook at the tip.

**ELIMINATING FAULTS :**

- **Behaviour** : Aggressive or overly shy.
- **Skull/Muzzle** : Convergent longitudinal superior cranium-facial axes.
- **Nose** : Any colour other than black.
- **Jaws** : Undershot or overshot.
- **Eyes** : Wall eye or difference in sizes.
- **Deafness** : Congenital.
- **Tail** : Docked or rudimentary. Anurous.
- **Colour** : Albinism. Pied or very different from breed type.
- **Size** : Oversized or undersized.

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.