VOSTOCHNOEVROPEISKAYA OVCHARKA
(East European Shepherd Dog)

TRANSLATION: Russian Kynological Federation (RKF). Official authentic language – English (EN).

ORIGIN: USSR, Russia.

UTILISATION: Versatile service dog. Companion dog.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group I. Sheepdogs and Cattledogs (except Swiss Cattledogs).
Section 1. Sheepdogs.
With working trial.

It has not yet been recognized by the FCI.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The history of Vostochnoevropeyskaya Ovcharka (VEO) is closely connected with the history of the country where it was created and developed.

At the initiative of Vsevolod Yazykov, a scientist-kynologist, pioneer and founder of domestic dog breeding, the Central Educational and Experimental Kennel – school of military and sporting dogs was created in 1924 by order of the Revolutionary Council of the USSR No.1089. Later, since 1941 it was the Central Military Technical Dog Breeding School, which becomes the main center of service dogs breeding, training and using in the Soviet Russia.

The task of replenishing domestic services with suitable dogs capable of working in different climate conditions, from Central Asian deserts to the polar tundra, was very urgent. So, the main criteria for selection were physical and working qualities of dogs, endurance, unpretentiousness and climate adaptability, but not their bloods. As before in tsar Russia, there often used crossbreeding to get the necessary working qualities.

They managed to collect for stud work in the kennel both purebred dogs and mixes suitable for service. Local livestock was widely used at borders. For example, in the Far East they used Amur laikas, local laikas mixes with German Shepherds. Many of them possessed outstanding working qualities, such as the famous Indus I (later, in official documents – Ingus) owned by Nikita Karatsupa, border troops colonel, Hero of the Soviet Union, the author of books "My Life is the Border" (1983) and "Notes of Pathfinder" (1998). There were already thousands of such dogs across the country.

The Great Patriotic war (1941–1945) didn't pass traceless for native dog breeding. There were more than 60000 service dogs in the armed forces. Together with purebred dogs they widely used capable mixes in guard, search, sanitary, watchdog, anti-tank, mine-search, sledge, air signal, sabotage services, communication and chemical detecting services.

In the post-war years there was an active restoration of the domestic service dogs' population. Native kynologists worked with preserved, not always purebred dogs. They actively created a new shepherd breed on the basis of the existing heterogeneous population. It was to be adapted for use in the USSR, taking into account natural and climate conditions and special requirements of the ministries and agencies concerned. The main breeding center was the Red Star kennel, established in 1947 on the basis of the Central Military Technical Dog Breeding School.

So, it was time to recognize native shepherds as a unique breed, called Vostochnoevropeyskaya Ovcharka.

The first standard was approved by DOSAAF USSR Central Committee on September 15, 1955. In January 1964 Presidium of the Utility Dog Breeding Federation of the USSR approved a new standard edition. New amendments to the standard and new standard editions were made in 1970, 1972 and 1976, though the main requirements to the breed appearance and utilization were the same.

The breed was well spread in the USSR. Being really universal, it was widely used from sheep and guard services to guide dogs for the blind.

In 1991 Russian federations becomes a legal successor of the USSR. Russian Kynological Federation was formed in the same year. On November, 1, 2002 RKF Standard commission recognizes the breed Vostochnoevropeyskaya Ovcharka and approves its standard. In 2014 RKF Presidium adopts the new standard edition.

Behavior and character specifics allowed the Vostochnoevropeyskaya Ovcharka not only to be the most popular service breed in the national economy of the USSR, but to maintain its popularity even today. It remains the best guard and companion for numerous breed lovers both in Russia and in many countries of the world.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Vostochnoevropeyskaya Ovcharka is strongly built; over-medium sized, rectangular in outline, strong boned and well-muscled. Sexual dimorphism is well-pronounced: males are larger and more massive than females.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:
- The length of the head is about 40 % of the height at the withers.
- The height at elbows is equal or slightly superior to half of the height at the withers.
- The length of the body exceeds the height at the withers by 10–18 %.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT: Vostochnoevropeyskaya Ovcharka is a balanced, active, self-confident, attentive, easy in training dog. Reliable guard and companion.

HEAD: Wedge-shaped, in proportion to the body, dry of good volume, but not coarse.

CRANIAL REGION:
Skull: Plane, moderately broad and deep, tapering slightly to the muzzle. Occiput is slightly pronounced. Forehead is almost flat. Superciliary arches are moderately pronounced. In profile the lines of skull and muzzle are parallel.
Stop: Of medium length, moderately pronounced.

FACIAL REGION:
Nose: Big, black.
Muzzle: Wedge-shaped, gradually tapering to the nose, but shouldn't be pointed. The length is approximately equal to the half of the length of head, or a little less. Nose bridge is wide, straight or a little Roman nose.
Lips: Lean, closely fitting, black.
Jaws/teeth: Upper and lower jaws are well developed, with good pigmentation of gums. Teeth are strong, white, set close to each other and complete (42 teeth according to the full dental formula). Scissor bite. Incisors are set in line and square to the jaws.
Cheeks: Slightly rounded, not prominent.

EYES: Medium sized, slightly oblique, somewhat slanted, should be dark brown, as dark as possible. Eyelids lean, close fitting, black. Eye expression is lively, intelligent and alert.

EARS: Medium sized, erect, set high, in the shape of an isosceles triangle. Ears are parallel to each other when alert.

NECK: Of medium length, muscular, strong and dry. Set at approximately 45 degrees.

BODY: Solid, proportionally built, corresponding to a moderately long format.
Top line: Very smooth, straight from withers and slightly falling at croup to the base of tail.
Withers: Well pronounced, moderately long.
Back: Strong, muscular, straight, long.
Loin: Short, muscular and slightly arched.
Croup: Broad, long, muscular, slightly sloping, smoothly descending towards the base of tail.
Chest: Well-developed, long and deep (reaches to the elbows or lower), oval shaped, with moderately sprung ribs.
Underline and belly: Underline smooth, belly is reasonably tucked up.

TAIL: In line with the topline, sable shaped, of natural length, reaches to the hocks or a bit lower. Thick at the base, hanging down. When alert and in action it may be carried strained and ascended. Tail is evenly covered with thick hair.

LIMBS:

FOREQUARTERS:
General appearance: Set moderately wide, straight and parallel.
Shoulder: Long, oblique.
Upper arm: Approximately equal to the shoulders in length, oblique. Shoulder angulation is about 90–100 degrees.
Elbow: Directed strictly backwards, turned neither in nor out.
Forearm: Strong boned, straight and parallel.
Pastern: Strong, moderately long, elastic, slightly oblique in profile.
Forefeet: Oval in shape, arched, tight. Pads and nails are of dark colour.

HINDQUARTERS:
General appearance: Strong, with well-developed muscles. Seen from behind parallel and set moderately wide. In profile moderately pulled back, with well pronounced angulation.
Thigh: Of medium length, wide, with well-developed muscles.
Stifle (Knee): Strong, with pronounced angulation.
Lower thigh: Moderately long, about the same length as the thigh.
Hock joint: Lean, strong, well angulated.
Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Strong, moderately long, vertically set. Dewclaws should be removed (in the countries, where it is not prohibited by law).
Hind feet: Oval in shape, arched, tight. Pads and nails are of dark colour.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Typical gait is long reaching trot with strong push. Movements are free, well covering the ground, balanced and sound. Straight movements on trot seen from front or rear. At speed legs tend to converge.

SKIN: Closely fitting, elastic and well-pigmented.

COAT:
Hair: Outer (cover) coat is straight, moderately harsh on touch, dense and closely fitting, of medium length. Well-developed undercoat, thick and soft. Head, ears, the front side of legs and feet are covered with shorter coat; coat on the neck is a slightly longer and thicker. Coat on the backside of forearms is a bit longer and at the outer side of thighs it is even longer and forms moderate "trousers".

Colour:
Wolf:
– wolf grey of different shades;
– wolf red (from light fawn to red, bright red is not desirable).
– Saddle: blackish or black-grey saddle with tanning of varying intensity (from light fawn to red. Bright red tanning is not desirable).
– Black and tan: black with tan markings of varying intensity (from light fawn to red. Bright red tan markings are not desirable).
– Whole black (may be with black, grey or fawn undercoat).
Small white markings on the chest allowed but not desired.

SIZE:
Height at the withers:
Desirable height for males 67–72 cm, for females 62–68 cm.
In case the harmony in conformation is provided, slight deviation (up to 2 cm) from the standard height should not be regarded as a cause to lower the qualification.

FAULTS
Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault is regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

SEVERE FAULTS:
- Unsure behavior.
- Deviations from sexual types.
- Light, coarse or loose construction, weak muscles.
- Square or too long in format.
- Dampish, massive head with domed, too wide skull.
- Round, protruding, too big, too light eyes.
- Absence of P1 and M3.
- Convex or downfaced muzzle.
- Partially depigmented nose.
- Weak (soft) ears, floppy (one or both ears); low set, spreading out ears.
- Narrow loin.
- Short, straight or sunken croup.
- Sickle, corkscrew tail.
- Weak ligaments, cabriole limbs.
- Too straight or too pronounced angulations, sickle hock.
- Unbalanced movements, the dog turns to pace too often.
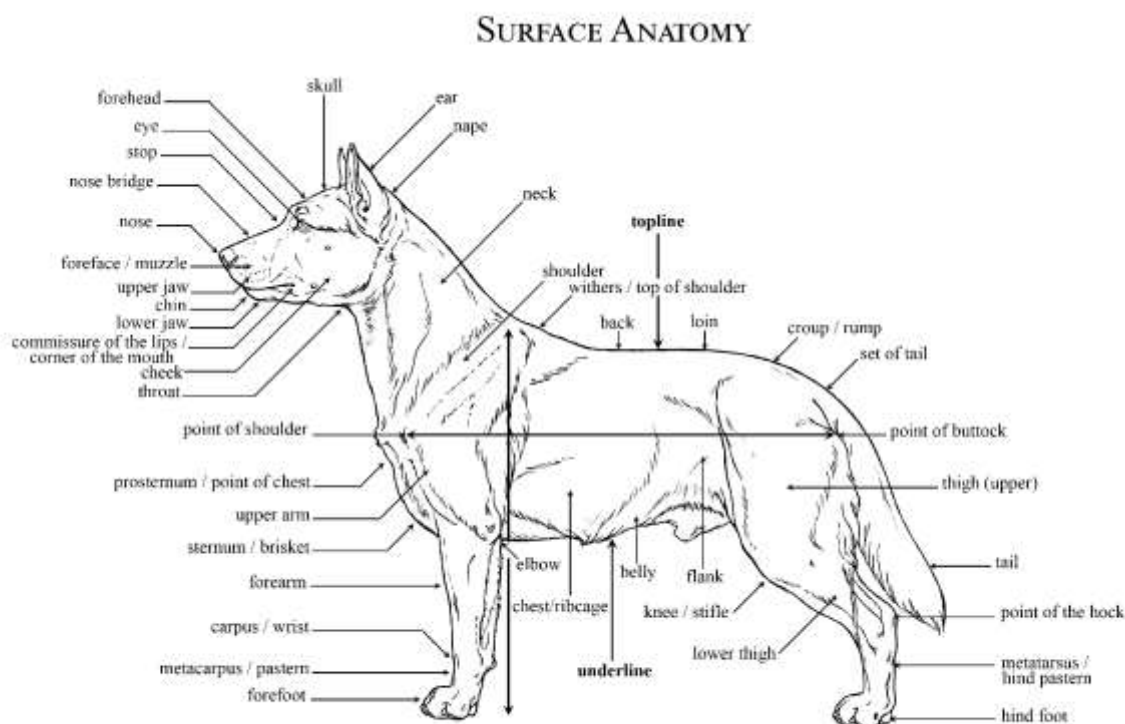
DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:
- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities.
- Untypical specimen.
- Height for males less than 65 and more than 74 cm and for females less than 60 and more than 70 cm.
- Absence of any tooth, except P1 or M3.
- Any departure from scissor bite.
- Entropion, ectropion.
- One or both ears hanging.

- Any colour, any eye color, any pigmentation of nose, lips or eyelids not described by the standard are disqualifying faults.
- Tail making the wheel, too short, kinked, fused vertebrae, bob tail.
- Unsteady, overlapping, rolling movements, constant pacing.
- Curly coat, long or short coat, absence of undercoat.

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.

The standard was agreed, edited and prepared for publication by the RKF Standard Commission on March 02, 2020.

SURFACE ANATOMY

Labels: forehead, skull, ear, eye, nape, stop, nose bridge, neck, nose, topline, foreface / muzzle, shoulder, withers / top of shoulder, upper jaw, chin, lower jaw, back, loin, croup / rump, commissure of the lips / corner of the mouth, cheek, set of tail, throat, point of shoulder, point of buttock, prosternum / point of chest, thigh (upper), upper arm, sternum / brisket, elbow, belly, flank, tail, forearm, chest/ribcage, knee / stifle, point of the hock, carpus / wrist, lower thigh, metacarpus / pastern, underline, metatarsus / hind pastern, forefoot, hind foot

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RUSSIAN KYNOLOGICAL FEDERATION
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This standard is approved by the RKF Board on 18.03.2020.
English version is approved by the RKF Board on 29.11.2022.