

## The Shikoku Standard

**ORIGIN:** Japan.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD:** 05.06. 1995.

**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 goes back to medium-sized dogs that existed in Japan in ancient times. The Shikoku was bred as a hunting dog, mainly for hunting boar in the mountainous districts of Kochi Prefecture. It is sometimes called "Kochi-ken" (ken = dog). There were three varieties of this breed-Awa, Hongawa and Hata-all named after the area where they were bred. Among them, the Hongawa maintained the highest degree of purity, because the breeding area was not easily accessible from anywhere. These dogs are tough and sufficiently agile to run through a mountainous region. They are characterized by their sesame coloured coats. The breed took on the name of the region (island of Shikoku) and was designated as a "natural monument" in 1937.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** A medium-sized dog with well-balanced and well-developed clean-cut muscles. It has pricked ears and a curled or sickle tail. Conformation: strong, well boned and compact.

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

**BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT:** A dog of marked endurance, keen in sense with a naive feeling, energetic and highly alert; an enthusiastic hunter; docile towards his master.

### HEAD:

#### CRANIAL REGION

Forehead:

Broad.

Stop:

Shallow, but defined.

#### FACIAL REGION

Nose:

Black, nasal bridge straight.

Muzzle:

Rather long, wedge-shaped.

Lips:

Tight.

Teeth:

Strong, with a scissor bite.

Cheeks:

Well developed.

Eyes:

Relatively small, triangular, set well apart, dark brown in colour.

Ears:

Small, triangular, slightly inclining forward and firmly pricked.

**NECK:** Thick and powerful.

### BODY:

Withers:

High, well developed.

Back:

Straight and strong.

Loins:

Broad and muscular.

Chest:

Deep, ribs well sprung.

Belly:

Well drawn up.

**TAIL:** Set on high, thick and carried over the back vigorously curled or curved like a sickle. The tip nearly reaches the hocks when let down.

**FOREQUARTERS:**

Shoulders:

Moderately sloping with developed muscles.

Forearms:

Straight and clean-cut.

Elbows:

Set close to the body.

Pasterns:

Slightly inclining.

**HINDQUARTERS:** Powerful, with muscles well developed.

Hocks: Moderately angulated and very tough.

**FEET:** Tightly closed with well-arched toes. Pads hard and elastic. Nails hard and black or dark in colour.

**GAIT:** Resilient, with rather narrow strides, but light. Action is quick and quick turning is possible.

**COAT:**

Hair:

Outer coat rather harsh and straight, undercoat soft and dense. The hair on the tail is rather long.

Colour:

Sesame, black sesame and red sesame.

**SIZE:** Height at withers: Dogs 52 cm, Bitches 46 cm. (There is a tolerance of 3 cm.)

**FAULTS:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered as a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

- Shyness.
- Slightly overshot or undershot mouth.
- Long hair.
- Bitchy dogs/doggy bitches.

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:**

- Ears not pricked.
- Hanging tail, short tail.
- Extremely overshot or undershot bite.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.