



REAL SOCIEDAD CANINA DE ESPAÑA

Declarada de Utilidad Pública por Real Orden del Ministerio de Fomento de 27-02-1918
Miembro de la Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) desde 1912

www.rsce.es



Majorero

RSCE Standard Nº 402 (Not Accepted FCI)

Origin: Spain

Utilization: Herding and guard dog

Classification RSCE:

Group 1

Section 1: Working dog



I. Background

Majorero dog is today a reality, lying the merit of its maintenance and purity of lines on the breeders and Majorero shepherds, island where it was celebrated what was considered the "I Exposición Monográfica", in the square Gran Tarajal, in Tuineje, on 21st April 1979, where known breeders, experts and cynophile national and international judges were present and which served to bring together the studies that were carried out about the breed. In a way, it was the firm starting point for the procedure that started after the recognition of this breed typical of the Canary Islands and whose result was the official recognition of the Majorero dog by the RSCFRCE and the CAC.

II. General Aspects

Using the popular terminology in the island where Majorero dog has survived, the appearance or look is known as "vitola", being the one of this breed:

Medium-size dog, nearly square, the croup a bit higher than the withers; compact, wide neck, that looks disproportionate comparing to the smaller head, but this is exactly what allows his strength and grip and firmness on the prey or bite; sturdy, marked figure without overhangs, laying the ears gathered to the head.

Wide and deep chest, factor that facilitates his great capacity of resistance to the gait, the heat and even to the lack of water.

Happy gait, live, firm but mitigated movement of the hands motivated by the irregularity and roughness of the different land and even more on the plentiful masses of lava, adapting his steps and footstep in a way that keeps the elegance of his gait, this being more tense in the trot and vertiginous runs while herding and doing the so-called "apañas".

Personal way of sitting, sideways, usually attentive to what is around, as reason of this proverbial guard condition.

III. Behaviour / Temperament

In view of his known courage, has no measure of the contrary or living being which he is defending himself from, or to whom he has to attack, no matter if it is a person or an animal.

Bright look, firm, attentive in front of a man, happy when it is his owners, family or acquaintances and distrustful and keeping the distance in front of strangers, no matter if he is on a leash or unleashed, ready to act if it is the time.

He is loyal, territorial; terribly defender with what he is entrusted.

Works well with the cattle, without hurting them and this is the reason why he is well appreciated in all the islands.



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Not being fierce, coming the moment to act, he does it with fearless- and ferociousness, basing on his power and firmness on the prey or bite provided by his strong teeth and muscled neck.

IV. Head

CRANIAL REGION:

The shape of the skull is wide, of a blunt cone.

The direction of the longitudinal upper axes of the skull and the muzzle are sloped and slightly diverging (A-E y B-A).

The upper outline lightly convex (A-E).

Superciliary ridges.

The shape of the frontal cavities is lightly pronounced, keeping the slope in triangle from the front to the muzzle.

The protuberance of the occipital crest well marked.

The degree of the naso-frontal depression "stop" little marked.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Wide, black, sloped inwards (C-G).

Muzzle: Slightly smaller than the skull (B-A). Knife-shape profile, keeps the line of the nose with relation to the head (C-G), having a conical shape, slightly thick-lipped, slightly sloped naso-frontal profile (A-B), the same as the cranio-facial line (A-F). Dark mucous.

Lips: Gathered, thin and close, pigmented in its outer part.

Jaws/Teeth: Triangular base jaws, powerful; complete teeth, with wide base and well aligned, scissor bite, without prognatism.

Cheeks: Without overhangs, flat and close to the bones.

Eyes: Medium size, slightly small, oval. Hazel or almond colour, accepting the tonalities from yellow to dark brown; pigmented rims, usually black and also slate grey. Frontally placed, to the height of the cranio-facial angle.

Ears: Back and high insertion, over the level of the eyes. Its line is irregularly triangular from the base to the tip, with the characteristic of bending them, in a way that the ear holes are shown. It markedly shows a double fold: the first is the one that tightens it on the base of the skull, with a wrinkle like an artichoke; the second one is appreciated on the tip, seeming it is divided, in a way that in no case they can be firmly upright.

Usual positions of the ears are: to open them sideways always with the tip bent; in a submissive attitude or being flattered they put them close to the head; in a defensive or fighting attitude and on heat they are close to the head and, in these cases they are scarcely distinguished, giving rise to that figure in which they do not stand out, seen from the front and in profile.

V. Neck

Another characteristic of the Majorero dog is his powerful neck, distinguishing:

Upper profile: Straight, not curved, almost forming a sloped line with the chest.

Length: Too short comparing to the body, between, approximately 22 cm, female and 25 cm male.

Wide: Very wide union with the trunk and narrower in that with the head.

Shape: Conical or triangular. Musculature: Strongly muscled.

Coat: Tight, without dewlap.



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VI. Body

Strong, compact, the topline slightly rising to the croup. Nearly square or very softly longer than wide.

Wither: A bit lower than the croup and softly set to the neck.

Shoulder: Straight upper line, well muscled.

Loin: Also well muscled and more in reaction to the beginning of the back.

Chest: Slightly rounded and deep rib cage reaching the height of the elbow or slightly higher. Wide chest, approximately around 13 cm, the females and 14 the males.

Abdomen: Slightly rounded lower outline, not flaccid, lightly tucked up.

Tail: Slightly high set.

Shape: Thick, rounded, light final pincer-shape.

Length: In repose it reaches the hock joint.

Thickness: Strong and even hair, not long, it is accepted that it hangs a bit or a short mop in the lowest part.

In repose: If it is complete, the light fold in the approximately final third reaches the hock joint; if it is cut, the tip is not longer than the hock joint.

In movement: It is another of his typical characteristics; to move the tail sideways, partly curling it up.

VII. Tail

Docking of tail: In Fuerteventura it is common that few days after the birth, the last vertebrae are cut, cutting even the so-called "rabuja".

The cut should not be longer than the hock joint. The minimum measure of the cut should not be longer than the third of the full tail from its birth to the hock joint.

VIII. Limbs

FOREQUARTERS

General Appearance: Firm, straight limbs, lightly shorter than the body, therefore he looks a bit rectangular.

Shoulders: Wide, well muscled, open scapular-humeral angle. The shoulder is longer than wide, strongly muscled.

Arm: Strong and straight.

Elbow: Close to the body.

Forearm: Straight and muscled.

Front feet: Catfeet, tucked up and straight. Slightly close toes, tucked up. Black nails, sometimes white in those dogs with white feet. It is essential the minimum presence of the so-called in the Canary Islands "Uña de Aire", atrophied toe on the foot, which sometimes due to its size and place is dragged using it as a fifth toe and is presented in the shape of simple, double, open or close ring, that sound if they rub together when they are very developed and also as a dewclaw.

HINDQUARTERS

General Appearance: Straight, well straight, with open angles. The angle of the hock joint is about 140°. Lightly higher than the former. Nor very low hock joint.



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The rest of the characteristics of the foot are similar to the former and similar requirements in relation to the “uñas de aire”, no matter if they are double or simple.

IX. Gait / Movement

Elegant and straight trot, without oscillations or sideways movements, he lies down or stretches in the short but decisive pursuit jolts always with a great power of adaptation to the irregular ground, thanks to his mitigated footstep and the support of his strong but not very open toes.

The gait is soft, relaxed.

The trot quick and elastic, shot at the start or jump. Ready for the jump, vital in a flat island but crossed by profusion of walls.

X. Coat

Thick, without wrinkles, well pigmented.

XI. Hair

Hair: Neither long nor very short, strong but soft and easily bright to the touch. A bit longer locks of hair, mop-type, in the low part of the tail and back of the thigh. Similar distribution in the rest of the body, without beard, mane nor longer on the neck.

Colour: Always brindle or “lagartado”, by its shape or layout they seem brindled locks that can be well marked or softly visible on the coats from greenish to beige, with tones of light or dark grey, honey or almond colour, yellowish and even very dark or black, but being essential to distinguish the mentioned locks – vertical from the loin.

The mask, also dark or black. With that type of basic coat, it can be seen white spots or zones: on the neck, sort of white colour; on the chest, as homogeneous or star-shaped spot, like the shape of a tie; on the bottom part of the foot or feet, like with shoes on; on the tip of the uncut tail; when they are old, both sides of the muzzle whitened as well as it can be seen a sometimes triangular line from the nose between the eyes, and even reaching the head. Also on the belly.

Not admitted colours: homogeneous black, with no stripes; white spots on the side and loin.

XII. Size and Weight

Height at the wither:

In males: 56 cm.

In females: 54 cm.

Withers:

Males: 57/63 cm.

Females: 55/61 cm.



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Weight:

Males: 30 to 45 Kg.

Females: 25 to 35 Kg.

It depends on the coarseness or agility of the dog being for treatment of dedication, as it can be seen while herding or guarding.

XII. 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.

Serious Faults

- Ears, wide at the base, triangular.
- Dewlap in the neck.
- Not homogeneous loin, saddle-back and very long body.
- Flat forehead and skull.
- Cut tail, its size smaller than two thirds of its insertion-hock joint length.
- Not well vertical limbs.
- Size over or under 2 cm.

Disqualifying Faults

- Over or undershot mouth.
- Absence of one premolar except the P1.
- Tail, shorter than the hock joint and curled up over the loin.
- Coat: white is not admitted and the lack of stripes.
- Compact black colour, homogeneous.
- Long face and muzzle, narrow.
- Erected or candle-shape ears.
- Lack of pigmentation on the nose
- Monorquids and cryptorquids specimens.
- Character: shyness; retiring; moving back or running away when excited; not holding his ground and being on the watch before any inciting situation, unknown presence, etc. Running away, hiding or going away in these cases and even more if the attack afterwards.

XIV. Notes for the Working Trials

The specific activities of the Majorero dog conditioned the rules for the Working Trials and the following notes can be given, notes that are feasible to be shaped in all its aspects and that are classified in these two fundamental tasks.

XV. Herding

Rapidity in "virar" – to go all the way round or drive the cattle – in normal herding.

Resistance while driving the cattle in the "apañadas".



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Quickly understand the instructions, whistles or signs of his owner or shepherd.

Keep expectant close to his owner, walking near him and being alert more than one day.

Obedience in being closed to the cattle once together in the field or sheltered in folds.

Faults:

To attack or bite the cattle.

Slowness and tiredness during the normal actions.

Disobedience and tendency to quarrel leaving his duties.

Not to pay attention to the call in case of setting off in pursuit of a person or animal, rabbit or squirrel, etc.

XVI. Guard and Vigilance

These two tasks present two alternatives of working: the dog being unleashed or leashed.

Unleashed:

The dog, docile and not aggressive, knows the area to look after, the nearby of the house, the cattle, the properties, plots of land, etc, and keeps alert, lying down or standing, changing his attitude when a stranger approaches. Then, his posture is to keep an eye on him, not to lose sight of him, to mark the distance and, if the person or animal gets into the area considered of attack, the dog is not frightened, but will jump or, in the case there are people behind him, into the house, etc, will bark hoarse and continuous warning of this presence.

If that was not necessary, because the stranger does not get into the space of security marked by the dog, he will keep alert until the stranger finally goes away.

Leashed:

Obviously, the dog changes his attitude, he is more prone to bark if someone or something alerts him, acting when they approach the area touching the leash.

In order to make this task easier, usually a cable with a sliding chain that allows the dog not only to move continuously but also to cover more space being able to increase his actions of guard and defence.

The gift for learning allows in both cases to exercise a good work on the part of the dog that begins with the distinction of regular people or normal actions, although some of them, due to his work, take a long time in accepting the presence of not too close people, apart from the owners and their families.

In any case, if the distinction is not correct, by means of the ear or the smell, that who approaches can be given a fright, no matter if he/she is a known person or closed to the owner.

This is more frequent during the nights or where there is lack of light, that is why he is a very feared dog.

Faults:

Barking continuously or frequently to the minimum sign of alert or excitement.

Being frightened and going away when unleashed or hiding after his kennel when leashed, when someone or something strange approaches and even more if he is frightened and his reaction is not going forward.

Avoiding the meeting with other dogs, no matter their gait or size.

The disobedience although this is more a factor of the ownership than of the dog himself.



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XVII. Procedure for its Recognition

The work has been long and, in a sense, persistent, until its recognition.

This started at the beginning of the 70s.

The work of recovery and recognising was done by some associations, such as "Solidaridad Canaria" y "Ascan", in Gran Canaria, Asociación Protectora del Perro Majorero in Fuerteventura, that became "Asociación Canaria Protectora del Perro Majorero Toto" afterwards and that finally became "CLUB ESPAÑOL DEL PERRO MAJORERO".

