

The Miniature American Shepherd

Breed Standard Education Presentation



Versatile and Athletic ~ Herding Breed ~ Loyal Companion



www.mascusa.org

Origin: U.S.A.

- 1980: The National Stock Dog Registry (NSDR) allows Cordova's Spike to register as the first Miniature Australian Shepherd
- The small size quickly gains popularity throughout the USA, largely due to the community of horse owners attending rodeos and horse shows.
- MASCUSA was incorporated in 1993 as a Registry and Parent Club for the Miniature Australian Shepherd.
- In 2012 the Miniature Australian Shepherd became the Miniature American Shepherd, and the "A" in MASCUSA changed to "American".
- In June 2012 the AKC recognized the Miniature American Shepherd as a new developing breed and gave the breed "Foundation Stock Service" status.



Our Heritage



General Appearance

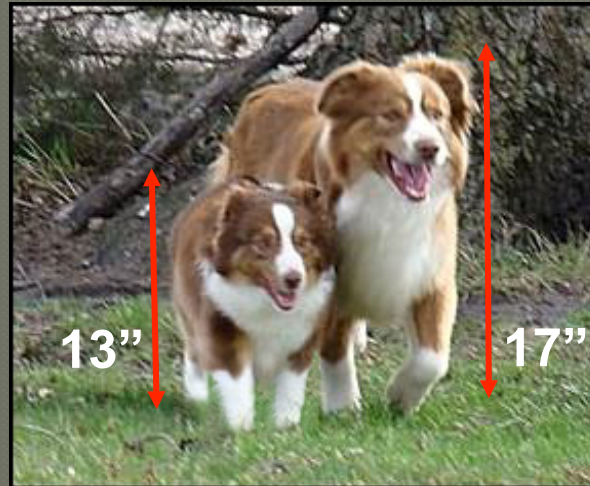
- Slightly longer than tall
- Moderate bone in proportion to body without extremes
- Smooth, easy & well balanced gait
- Versatile and exceptionally agile with strength & stamina
- Devoted and a biddable worker with superior intelligence
- A loyal companion with a watchful expression
- Medium length double coat
- Coloring offers variety and individuality
- Traditional docked or natural bob tail



Height

No preference to size within the standard

- 13" - 17" Bitches
- 14" - 18" Dogs
- Measure rather than withhold proper placement because of perceived size



Important Proportions



Square



Correct



Too Long

- Slightly Longer than Tall—measuring from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks and from the highest point of the shoulder blade to the ground

Substance



Blue Merle Male



Red Merle Female

- Solidly built with moderate bone in proportion to body height and size.
- Dog appear masculine without coarseness. Bitches appear feminine without being slight of bone.
- Hair goes a long way to adding or detracting from the appearance of the amount bone/substance an animal has.
- The breed does NOT have a heavy or stocky build, but it is a sturdy breed with a solid build that can work over a variety of terrain with agility and stamina. The breed is not exaggerated nor extreme in any way. Smaller sized dogs do not have the same amount of bone as the larger sizes but all sizes appear athletic and capable of performing various farm tasks.

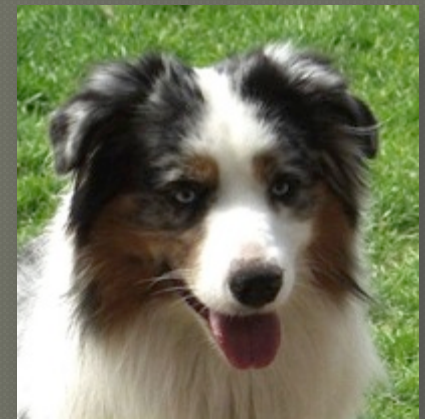
Head: Female and Male

Female



- The head shall be smooth, clean of excessive skin, tight and strong, without being coarse or over refined.
- It should also be in proportion to the body and according to sex and substance of the dog.
- Faults would include loose, wet flews and droopy eyelids.

Male



Expression

- Alert
- Attentive
- Intelligent
- Watchful



- The breed can be reserved with strangers and may not acknowledge a judge who is trying to get their attention.
- Although the MAS reserves his affections for those he knows and trusts, he should be accepting of a judge's touch. In the ring he should be attentive of his handler and exhibit some enthusiasm. The gaze is eager and intelligent. During the individual table examination, the judge should not expect or try to get "expression" from the dog. Expression is better assessed on the floor where the dog is in a more neutral setting.
- Ear styles and/or the eye colors can also effect the expression, so it is important to understand that "expression" is not a key factor during judging.

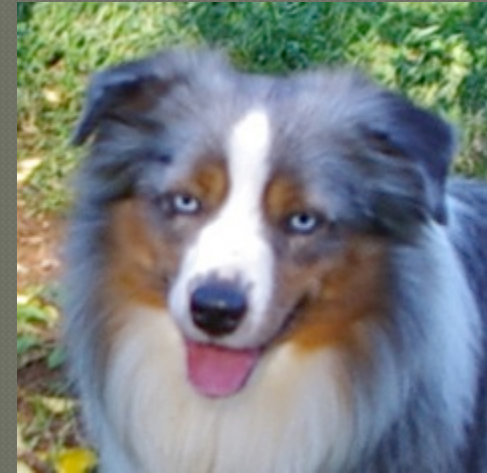
Eyes

- Brown, blue, hazel, amber or any variation or any combination including flecks and marbling (one or both eyes)
- Almond shaped, not protruding nor sunken, set obliquely
- Blue merles and blacks have full black pigmentation on eye rims
- Red merles and reds have full red (liver) pigmentation on eye rims
- Each eye is surrounded with hair color other than white
- Eye color does not have to correspond with coat color



Ears

- Triangular
- Moderate size
- Set high on head
- At full attention ears break forward and over, or to the side as a rose ear
- You can have two different ear sets on one dog



Ears: Acceptable Styles



- It is important for ears to be of a medium size, triangular in shape and to set high on the head and for the ears to have some amount of lift at the base

- All of the below styles are just as equally correct as the above ears.



Ears: Severe Faults

Severe Faults: Prick ears and ears that hang with no lift.

Examples of severely faulted ears



prick ear



ear with no lift

Crown

- Crown: top flat to slightly round. It may show a slight occipital protuberance



Stop & Muzzle

➤ Stop:

- Moderate, but defined
- Abrupt stops are undesirable.
- Keep in mind that the stops angle must allow for a kick to glance off.

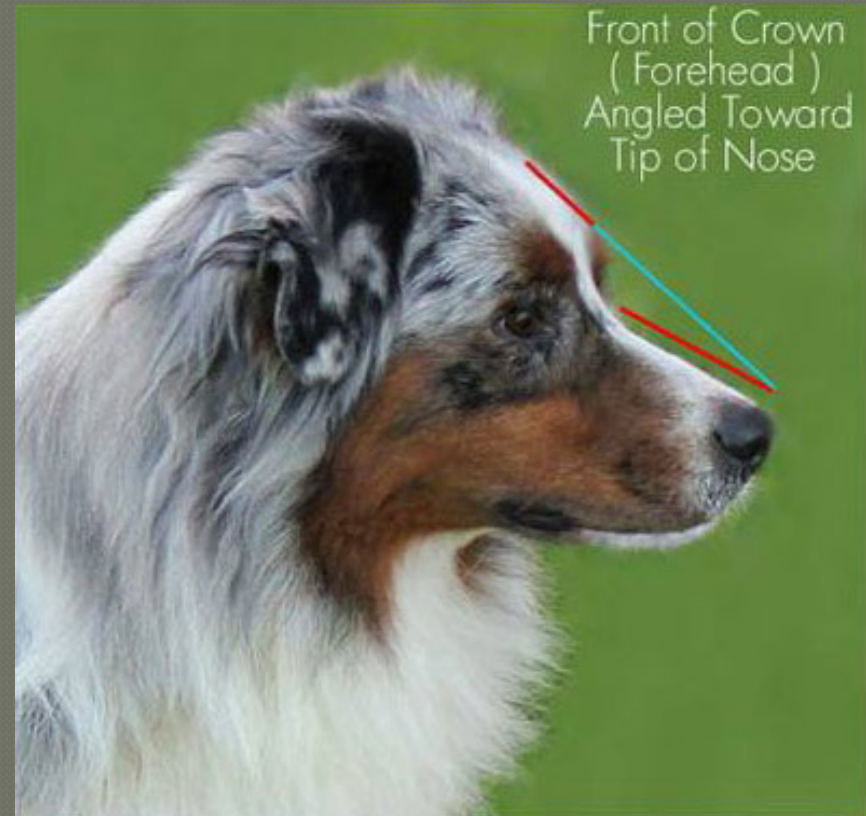
➤ Muzzle:

- Medium width and depth
- Tapers gradually from base to nose and is rounded at the tip
- Untrimmed whiskers are preferred

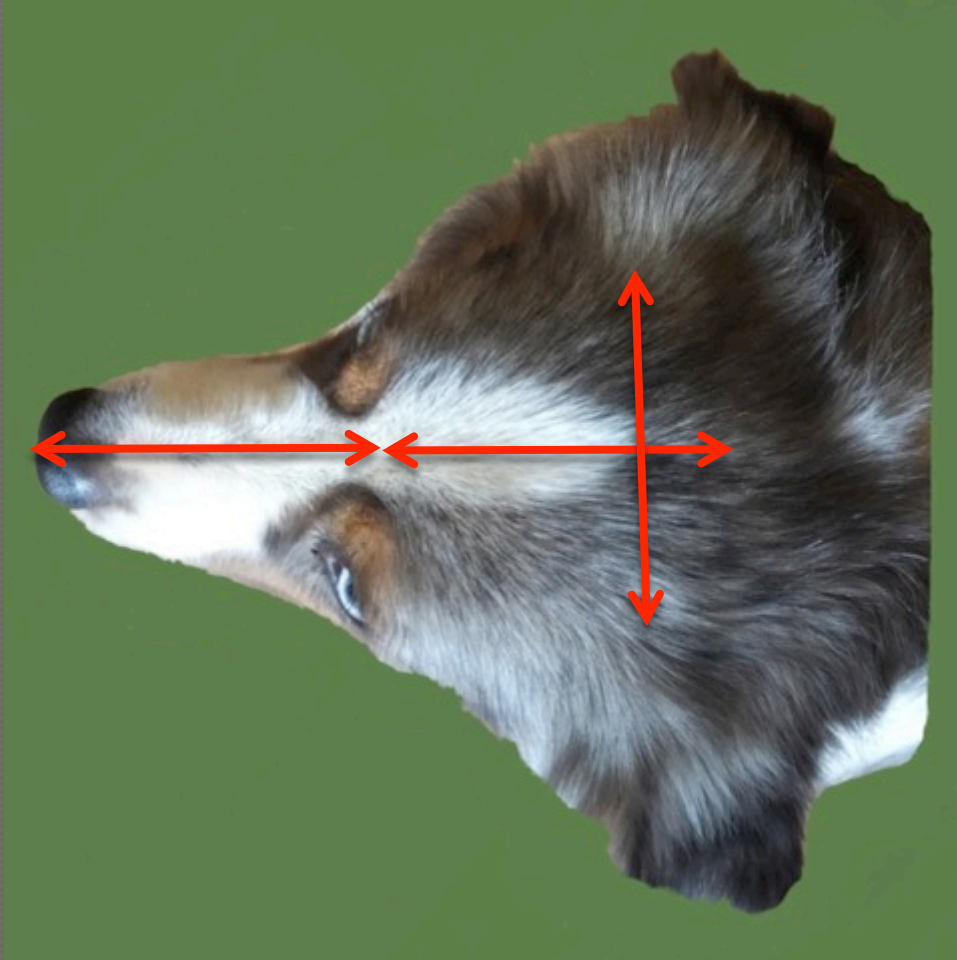


Head Planes

- Viewed from the side, muzzle and top line are slightly oblique to each other
- The front of the crown is on a slight angle downward toward the nose



Head Proportions



- Length of muzzle is equal to the length and width of the crown

Nose



- Blues merle and black tri's have black pigmentation on the nose
- Red merle and red tri's have red (liver) pigmentation on the nose
- Although fully pigmented noses are preferred, small pink spots should NOT be faulted, particularly on the merle pattern and younger dogs

Too much pink?

Severe Fault



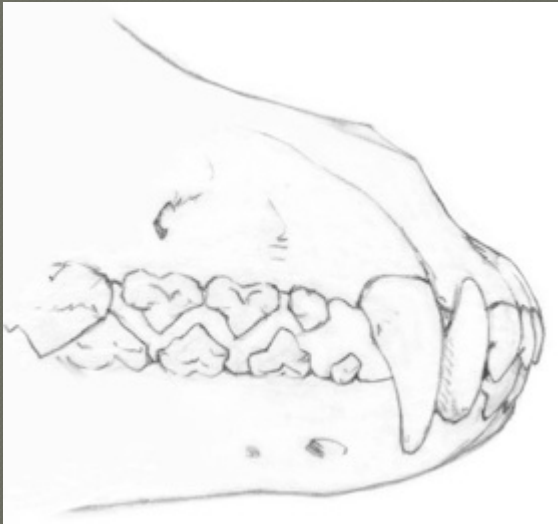
Disqualification



- Fully pigmented noses are preferred
- **Severe Fault: 25-50% un-pigmented nose leather**
- **Disqualification: Over 50% un-pigmented nose leather**

Teeth

- Full complement of teeth
- Scissor bite
- Teeth broken, missing or discolored by accident are not penalized



Teeth Disqualification



- Undershot

- Overshot



Neck

- Firm and clean
- Strength without bulkiness
- In proportion to the body
- Medium length
- Slightly arched at crest
- Fitting well into the shoulders



Topline

- Firm and level
- Loin strong and broad
- Body is firm and well conditioned
- Croup moderately sloped



- The strength of the back is important. Coat over the hips and croup areas can be coarser and more dense than the rest of the hair coat along the topline, causing the dog to appear high in the rear.
- Dogs are often presented with a groomed level topline that may obscure the croup angle. The slope will be more apparent in dogs that are out of coat or carry less coat.
- If in doubt about a dog's topline use your hands to feel what is under the coat.

Loin

- The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top
- A docked or natural bobtail is preferred.
- A docked tail is straight, not to exceed three (3) inches



Croup & Underline

- The croup is moderately sloped
- The underline shows a moderate tuck-up
- Dogs are often presented with a brushed level topline that may obscure the croup angle. The slope will be more apparent in dogs that are out of coat or carry less coat.



Chest

- Full and deep
- Lowest point reaches the elbow
- Well sprung ribs
- They are neither barrel chested nor slab sided.



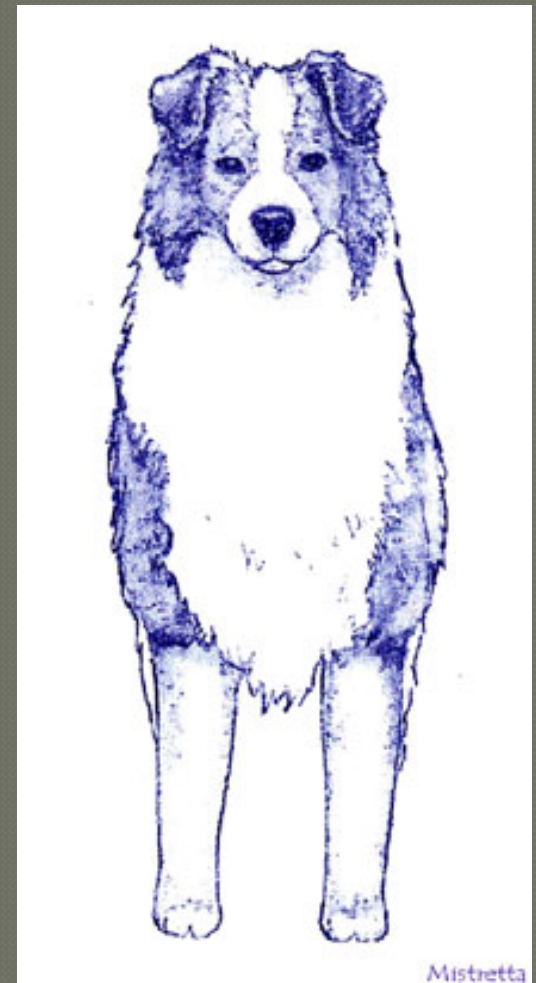
Forequarters

- Well conditioned and balanced with the hindquarters.
- Upper arm (humerus) relatively the same in length as the shoulder blade.
- Attaches at an approximate right angle to the shoulder line
- Shoulder blades long, flat, fairly close set at the withers, well laid back

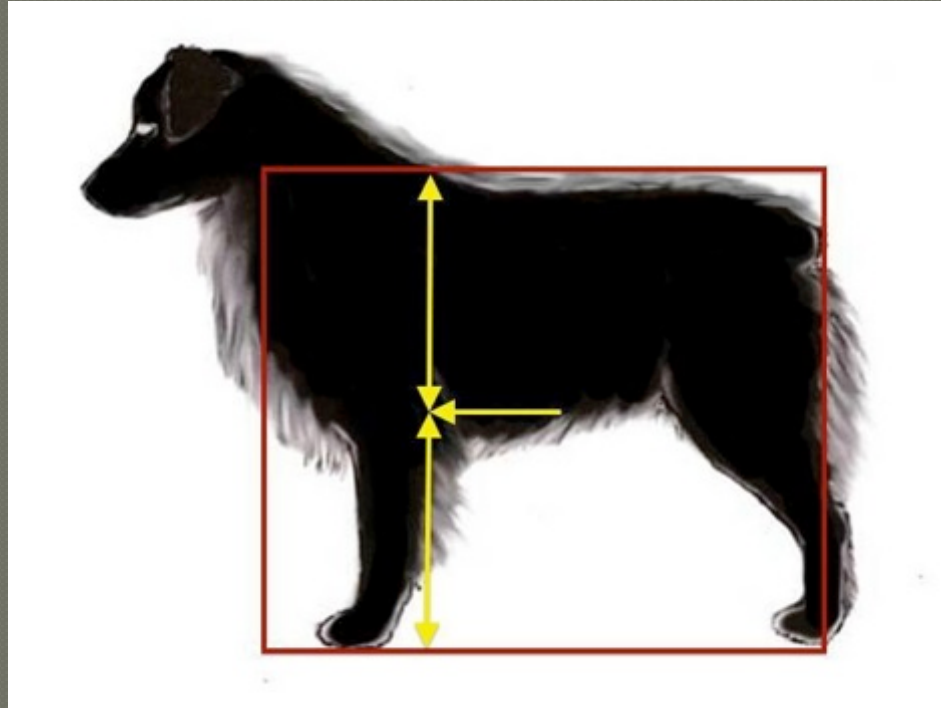


Front

- Forelegs drop straight and perpendicular to the ground
- Legs straight and strong
- Bone strong and oval



Elbow



Note: The dog is NOT square. The width is longer than height, it's an optical illusion.

- The elbow joint is equidistant from the ground to the withers
- Viewed from the side, the elbow should be directly under the withers
- The elbows should be close to the ribs without looseness

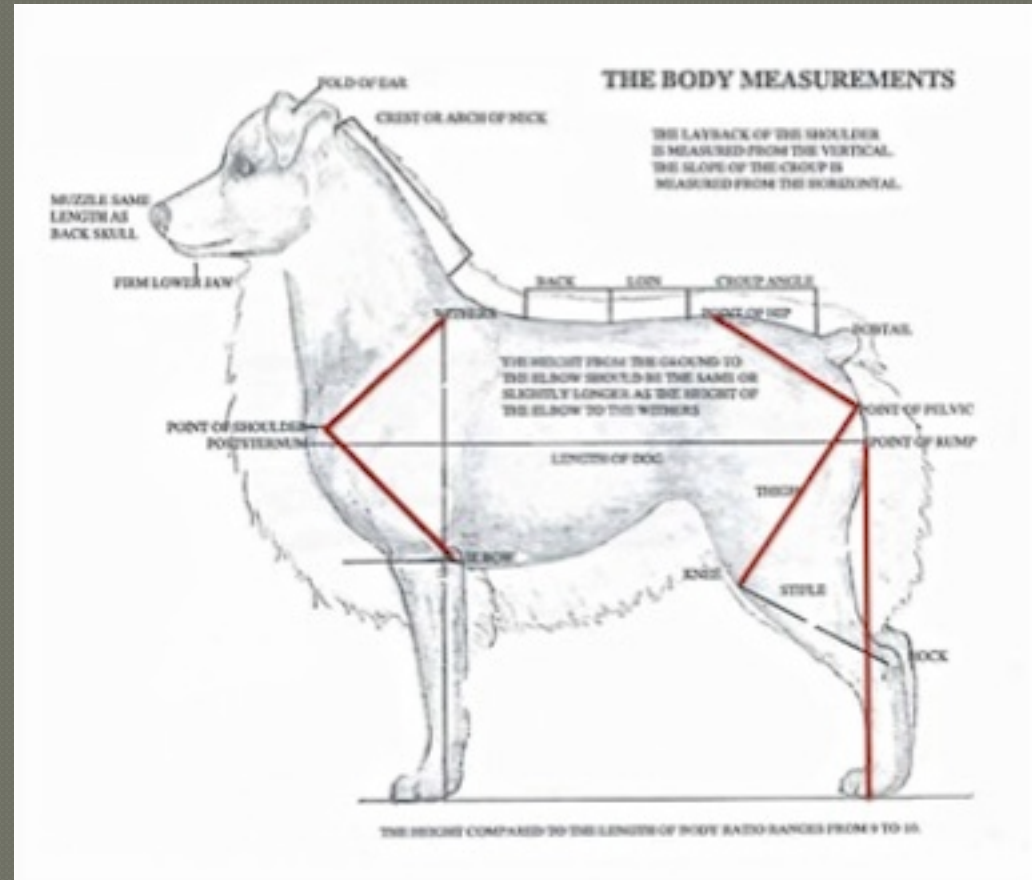
Feet

- Pasterns: Short, thick and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side
- Front and rear feet are oval
- Compact
- Toes close knit and well arched
- Pads thick and resilient
- Nails short and strong and any color
- Front dewclaws should be removed



Hindquarters

- Hindquarter angulation mirrors the forequarter angulation
- Stifles clearly defined
- Hindquarters width is *approximately* equal to the forequarters width at the shoulders



Hocks

- Hocks are short
- Perpendicular and parallel to each other
- Rear dewclaws should be removed



Illustration courtesy of Vicky Mistretta

Coat

- Moderation is the overall impression of the coat
- Hair is of medium texture, straight to wavy and weather resistant
- Short and smooth on head, ears, front of forelegs and below the hocks
- Moderately feathered backs of forelegs and britches
- Mane and frill is more pronounced in males
- The undercoat will vary in quantity according to climate



Presented Naturally

- Dogs should not be sculpted.
- Trimming is allowed only on ears, feet, back of hocks, pasterns and tail.
- Untrimmed whiskers preferred.
- Shown in a natural coat.



Color



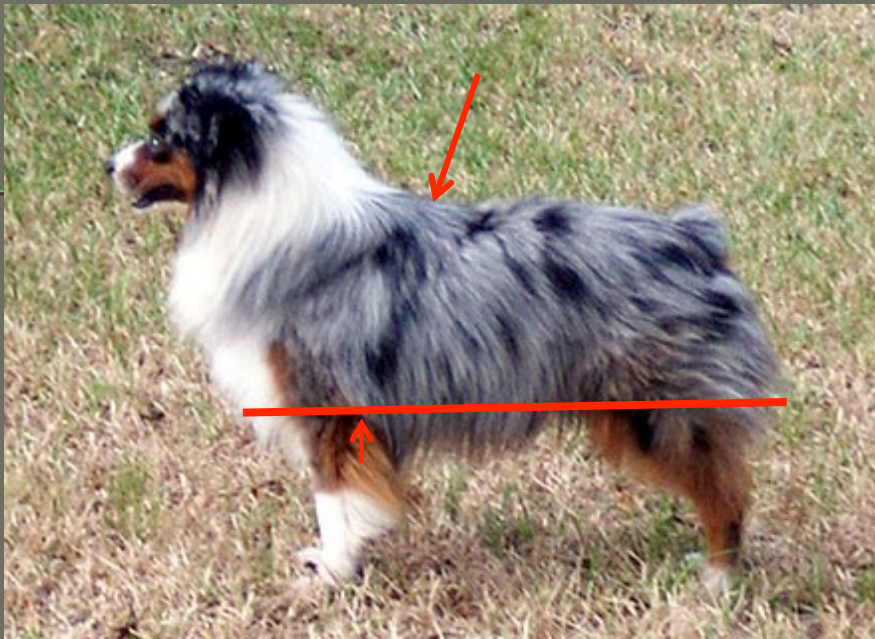
- Blue Merle, Black, Red Merle, Red: with or without white or tan (copper) markings, **with no order of preference**
- **With no preference** the merle will exhibit in any amount of marbling, flecks, or blotches
- Asymmetrical markings are not faulted

Tan markings

- Not required
- When present is acceptable around eyes, on feet, legs, chest, muzzle, under neck, face, inside ear underline, base of tail and breeches
- Vary in shades from creamy beige to dark rust, with no preference
- The Miniature American Shepherd should never be assessed based on lack of trim color or asymmetrical markings.



White



- A white collar is not required, but when present the hairline of a white collar does not exceed the withers at the skin
- White is acceptable on neck (either in part or as a full collar) chest, legs, muzzle, underparts, blaze on head but does not predominate
- White extension from under part is measured one inch from a horizontal line at the elbow
- Ticking may be present in white markings

Cryptic Merle



- Cryptic merles do occur in our breed. The dog will not genotypically look like a merle, but will breed as a merle.
- In cases where the merling is light it is sometimes necessary to separate the hair and compare the patch to a known white area.

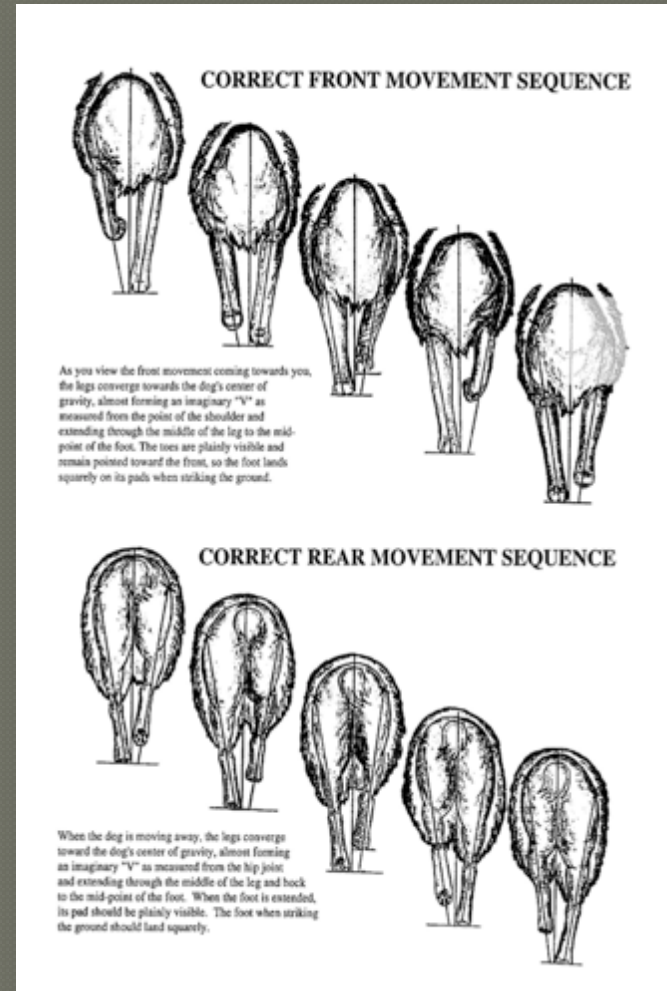
Gait from the Side

- Smooth, free, and easy; exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced, ground-covering stride
- As speed increases, the feet, both front and rear, converge toward the center line of gravity
- Agile and able to change direction or alter gait instantly
- Well balanced gait with the back remaining firm and level
- The head extended forward and nearly level or slightly above the topline.



Coming and Going

- Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of the body
- The MAS is not a single-tracking breed, but a breed whose feet converge toward a center line as the speed increases.



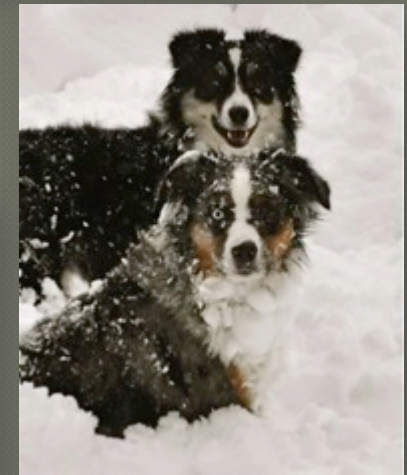
Must be Agile

- *Able to turn direction or alter gait instantly*



Temperament

- Exceptional companion and easily trained
- Intelligent working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts
- Protective, good natured, devoted and loyal
- May be reserved with strangers but does not exhibit shyness
- He is a resilient and persistent worker



White that is Faulted

- Color other than white does not surround the right eye.
- White on the collar (at the skin) exceeds the point of the withers.
- White on the underline exceeds 1 inch above the elbow
- The ears have too much white



Severe Faults

- Prick ears & Hanging ear
- Overly long coats, overabundant or wooly coats, very curly coats, very short and stiff coats and wiry coats
- 25-50% un-pigmented nose leather



Disqualifications

- Under 14 inches and over 18 inches for dogs; under 13 inches and over 17 inches for bitches. Minimum heights shall not apply to dogs or bitches under 6 months of age.
- Over 50% un-pigmented nose leather
- Undershot or overshot bite
- Other than recognized colors.
- White body splashes, between wither and tail, on back or sides between elbows and back of hindquarters.

Easy to Train

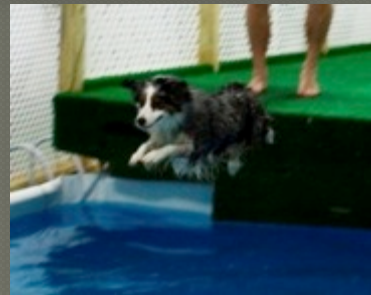


Playful Companion



One dog can do it all

- Herding
- Agility
- Disc Dog
- Obedience
- Conformation
- Tracking
- Dock Diving
- Search & Rescue
- Therapy
- And more



THANK YOU

That's the end of our presentation...



Butt we hope you enjoy judging our breed.