

The Miniature American Shepherd

BREED STANDARD EDUCATION PRESENTATION



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.



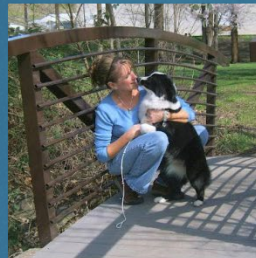
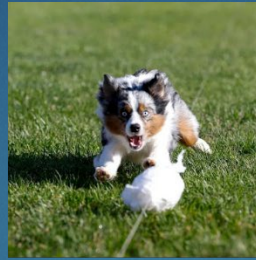
Cordova's Spike

- MASCUSA was incorporated in 1993 as a Registry and Parent Club for the Miniature Australian Shepherd.
- In May 2011, AKC accepted the Miniature American Shepherd as a new breed and MASCUSA was selected as the parent club.
- July 1st, 2015, the Miniature American Shepherd became fully recognized in AKC and advanced into the Herding Group.

Our Versatile Heritage

➤ The Miniature American Shepherd has the willingness and versatility to be a loyal family companion, herd livestock and excel in AKC events and other venues.

➤ They can easily succeed in events such as Rally, Obedience, Fast Cat, Agility, Dock Diving, Barn Hunt, Carting, Disc Dog and more.



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
- Loyal companion with a watchful expression
- Medium length double coat
- Coloring offers variety and individuality
- Docked or natural bob tail is preferred



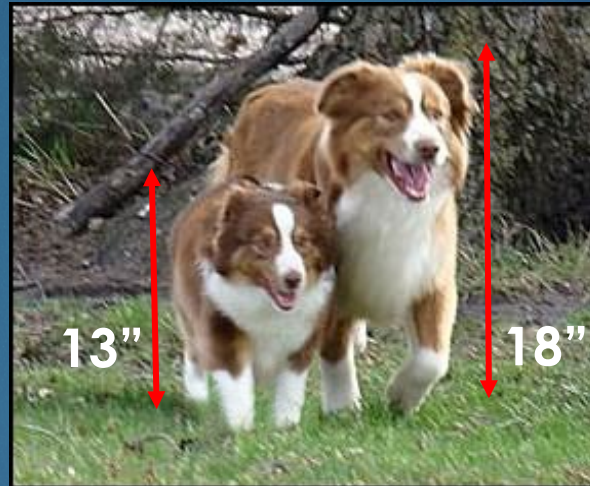
Height

No preference to size within the standard

➤ 13" - 17" Bitches

➤ 14" - 18" Dogs

➤ **Measure** rather than withhold proper placement because of perceived size



MAS/Aussie

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 may add or detract from the appearance of the amount of 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 may not have the same amount of bone as larger sized dogs, but all sizes appear athletic and capable of performing various farm tasks.

Head: Female and Male

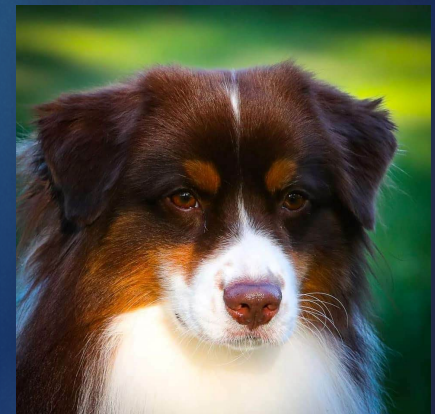
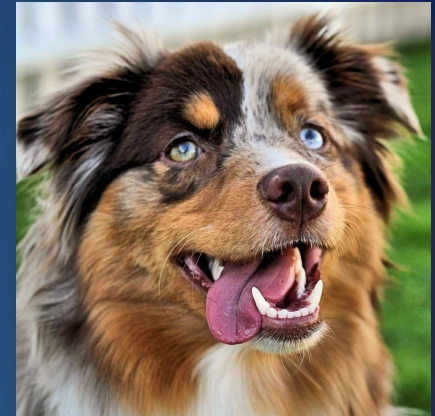
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Female



- 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 to his handler. 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 affect the expression, so it is important to understand that "Expression" is NOT a key factor during judging.

Eyes

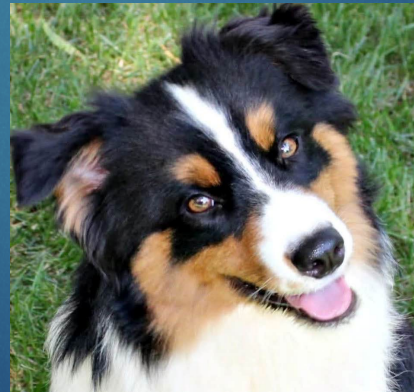
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- Brown, blue, hazel, amber or any variation or any combination including flecks and marbling (one or both eyes)
- Almond shaped, not protruding nor sunken, set obliquely
- Blue merles and blacks have full black pigmentation on eye rims
- Red merles 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

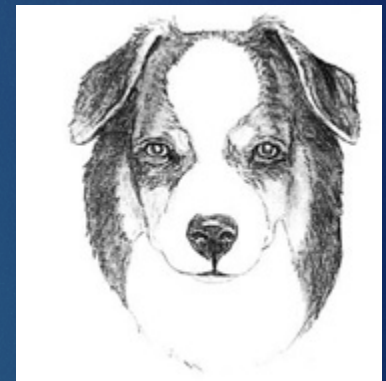
- Triangular
- Moderate size
- Set high on head
- At full attention ears break forward and over, or to the side as a rose ear
- May have two different ear sets on one dog.



Ears: Acceptable Styles

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- 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 ear styles are equally correct



Ears: Severe Faults

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

Examples of severely faulted ears



prick ear



ear with no lift

Skull

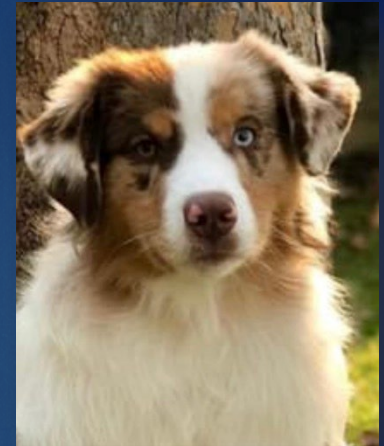
- Crown: top flat to slightly round. It may show a slight occipital protuberance
- The width and the length of the crown are equal



Stop & Muzzle

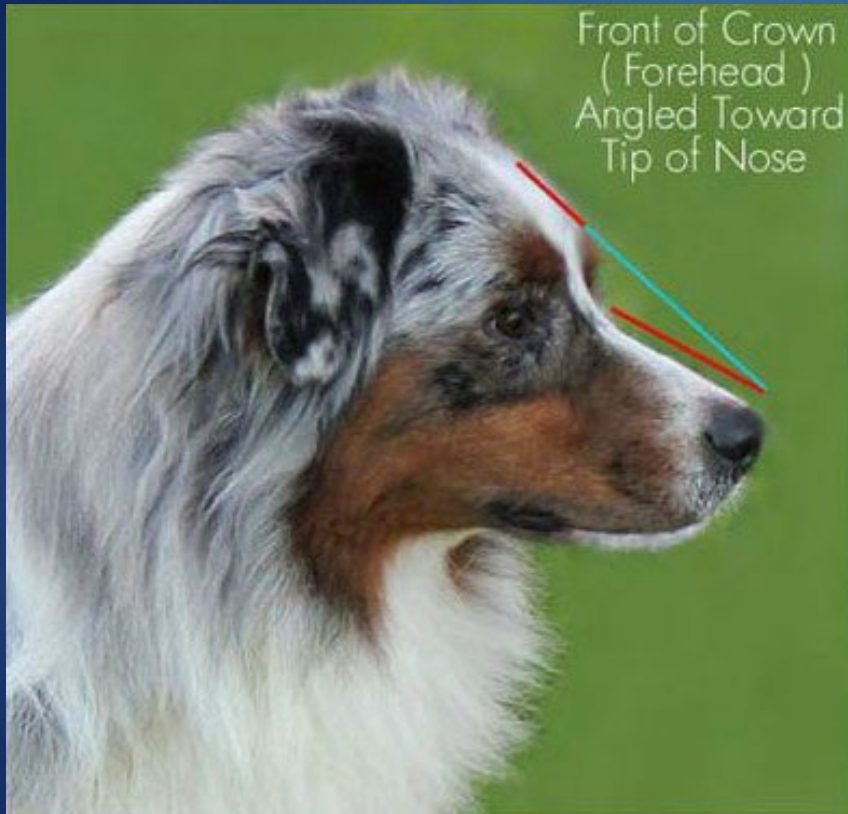
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- Stop:
 - Moderate, but defined
 - Keep in mind that the angle of the stop must allow for a kick to glance off
- Muzzle:
 - Medium width and depth
 - Tapers gradually from base to nose and is rounded at the tip



Head Planes

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- 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

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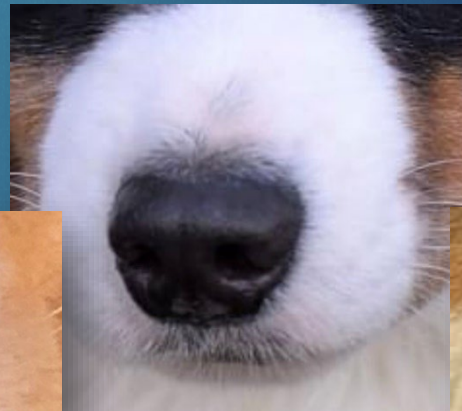
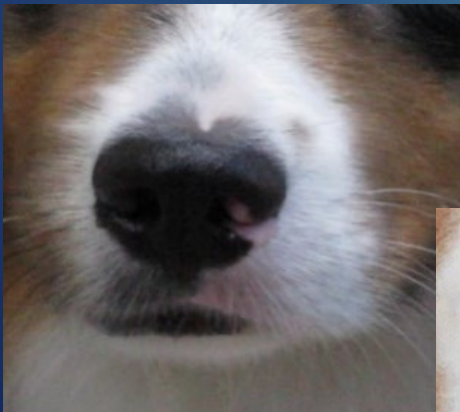


- Length of muzzle is equal to the length and width of the crown

Nose

18

- Blue 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



Too much pink?

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Severe Fault



Disqualification



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

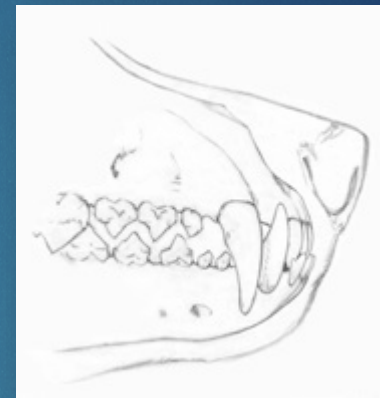
Teeth

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

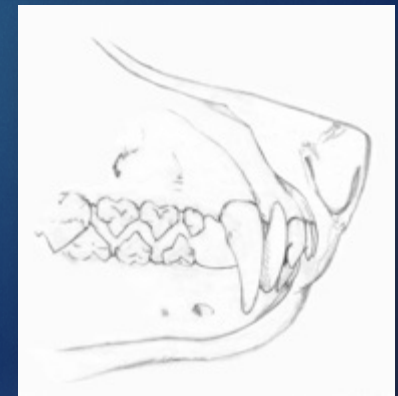


Teeth Disqualification



- Undershot

- Overshot



Neck

- Firm and clean.
- In proportion to the body
- Medium length
- Slightly arched at crest
- Fitting well into the shoulders



Topline and Croup

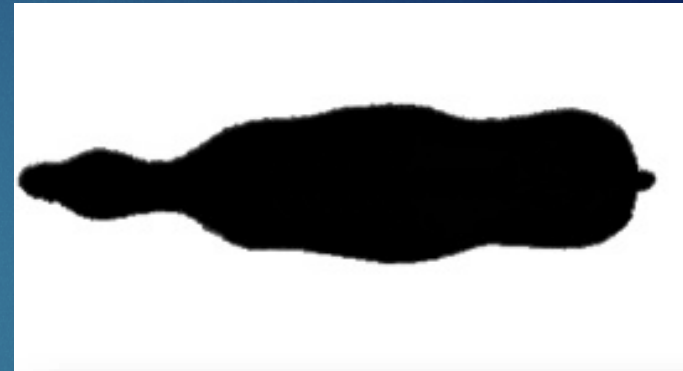
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- Firm and level
 - Loin strong and broad
 - Body is firm and well conditioned
 - Croup moderately sloped
- The strength of the back is important.
- The croup slope will be more apparent in dogs that are out of coat or carry less coat. If in doubt 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



Chest, Ribs and Underline

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- Full and deep
- Lowest point reaches the elbow
- Well sprung ribs
- They are neither barrel chested nor slab sided
- The underline shows a moderate tuck-up



Tail

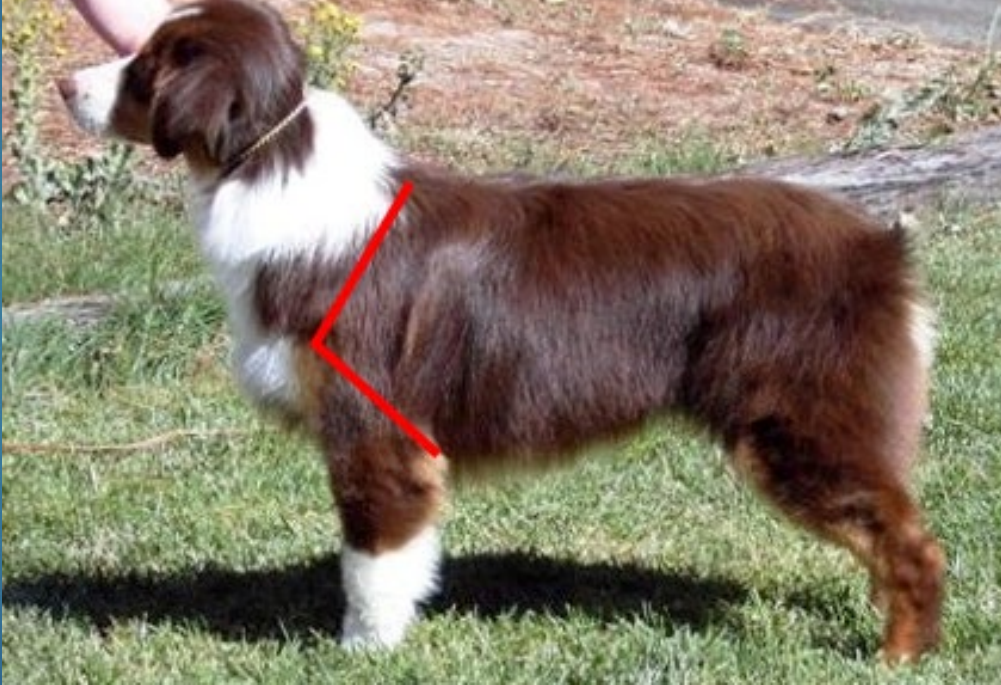
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- The docked or natural bobtail is preferred.
- A docked tail is straight, not to exceed three (3) inches.
- The undocked tail when at rest may hang in a slight curve.



When excited or in motion the tail may be carried raised with the curve accentuated.

Forequarters

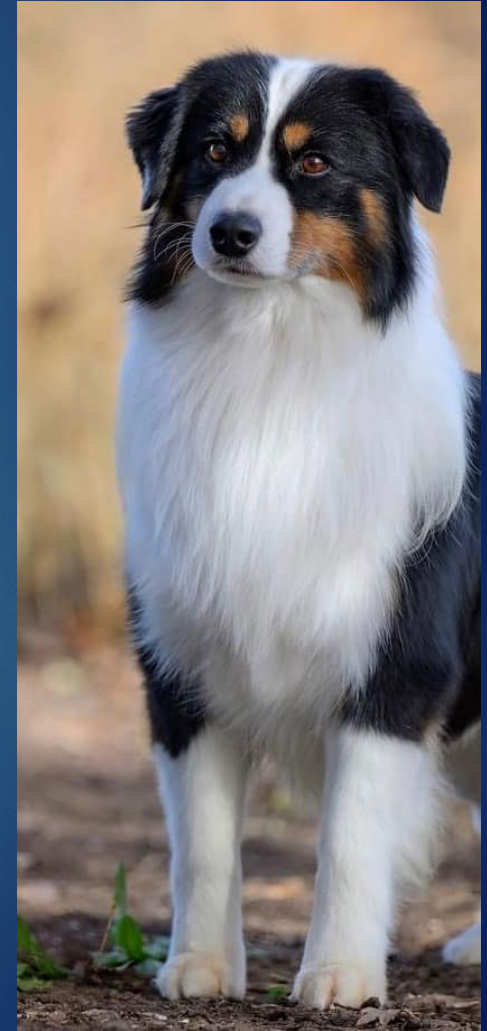
- Well conditioned and balanced with the hindquarters.
 - Upper arm (humerus) is equal in length to shoulder blade.
 - Attaches at an approximate right angle to the shoulder line
- 
- The image shows a side view of a brown and white dog standing on grass. A red line is drawn over the dog's shoulder and upper arm area, forming a right-angled shape that illustrates the relationship between the humerus and the shoulder blade.
- Shoulder blades long, flat, fairly close set at the withers, well laid back

Front

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



Elbow

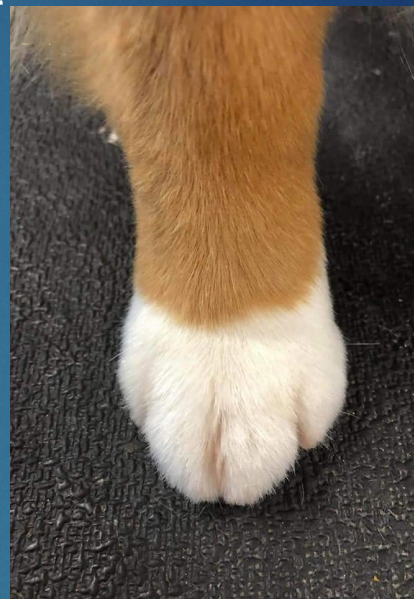
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- The elbow joint is equidistant from the ground to the withers
- Viewed from the side, the elbow should be directly under the withers
- The elbows should be close to the ribs without looseness

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
- Dewclaws should be removed



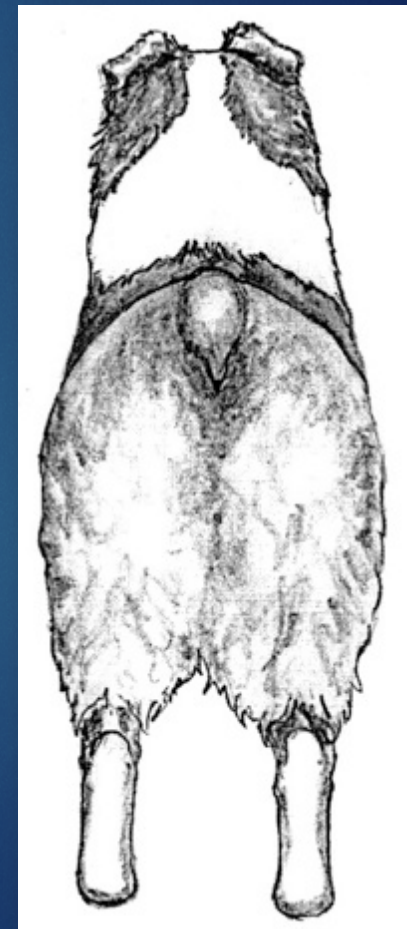
Front



Rear

Hocks

- Hocks are short
- Perpendicular to the ground
- Parallel to each other when viewed from rear
- Rear dew claws should be removed



Coat

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- 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

- Trimming is allowed only on ears, feet, back of hocks, pasterns and tail.
- Untrimmed whiskers preferred.
- Shown in a natural coat.



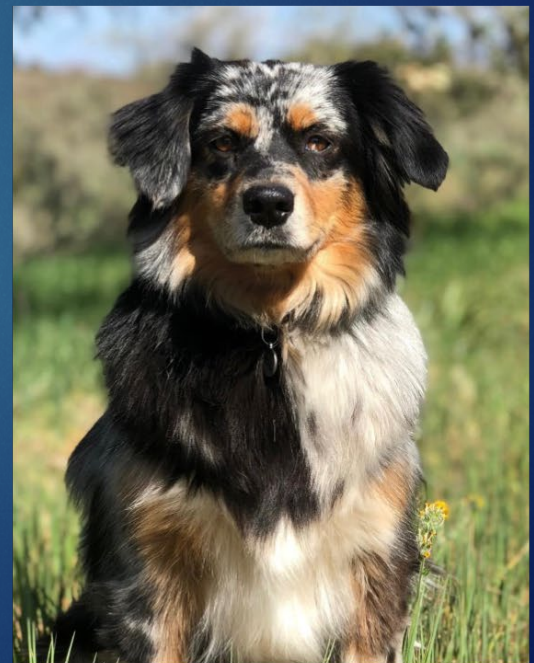
Color

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- 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



Acceptable Color Variations 35



Tan markings

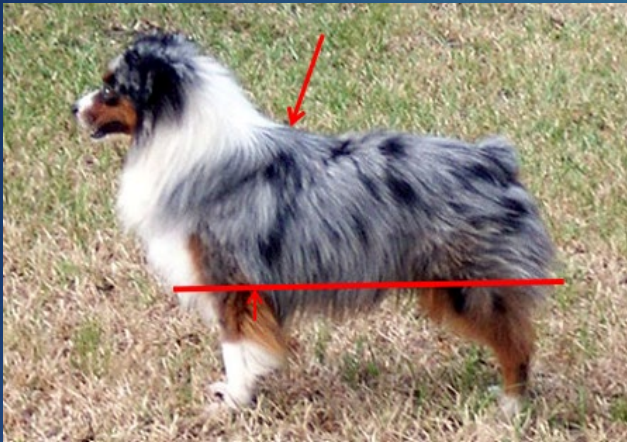
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- Not required
- When present is acceptable around eyes, on feet, legs, chest, muzzle, under neck, face, inside ear underline, base of tail and breeches
- Vary in shades from creamy beige to dark rust, with no preference
- The Miniature American Shepherd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



White Markings

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- 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
- A small amount of white extending from the underline may be visible from the side, not to exceed one inch above the elbow
- Ticking may be present in white markings

White That is a Fault

- Eyes that are not fully surrounded by color & pigment
- White on the collar (at the skin) that exceeds the point of the withers
- White on the underline that exceeds 1 inch above the elbow
- White on ears that exceeds 25% of ear



Minimal Merle

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- Minimal merles do occur in our breed and may not look like a typical merle but will have a small patch of merle somewhere.
- 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

40

- Smooth, free, and easy exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced, ground-covering stride
- Agile and able to change direction or alter gait instantly



Gait from the Side #2

➤ Well balanced gait with the back remaining firm and level



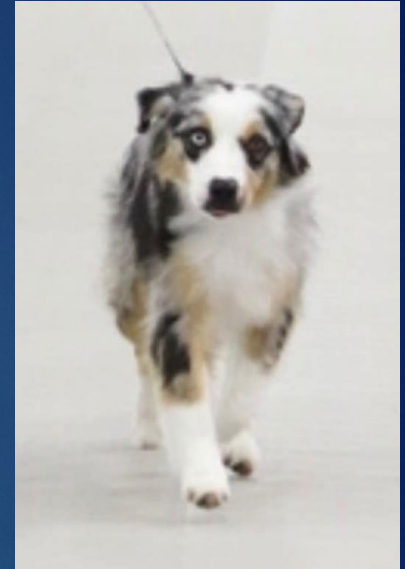
➤ When traveling at a trot, the head is carried in a natural position with neck extended forward and nearly level or slightly above the topline



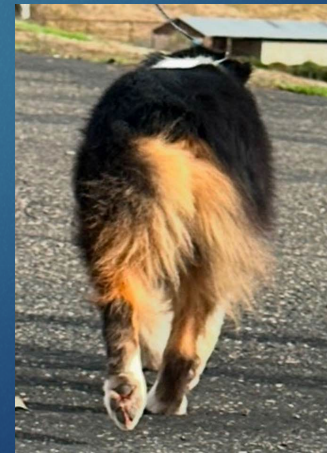
Coming and Going

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- Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of the body



- The MAS is not a single-tracking breed, but as speed increases, the feet, both front and rear, converge toward the center line of gravity



Must be Agile

43

- *Able to turn direction or alter gait instantly*



Temperament

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- 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



Severe Faults

45

- Prick ears & ears that hang with no lift
- 25-50% un-pigmented nose leather
- Non typical coats
- White markings exceeding 25% on ears

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.

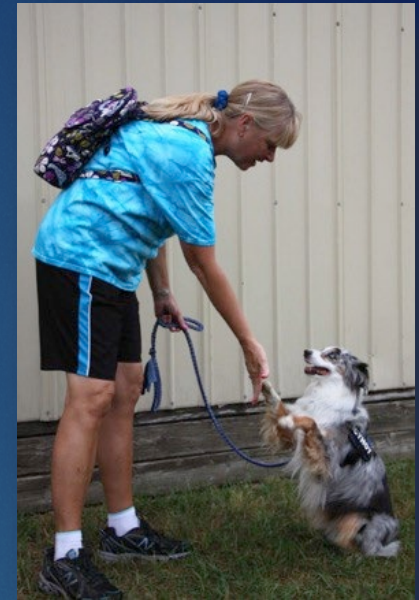
Easy to Train

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Playful Companion

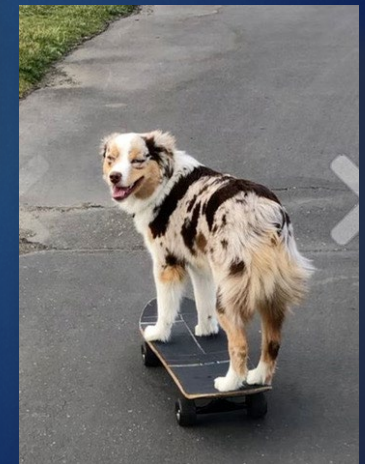
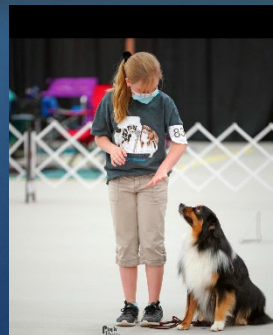
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Our dogs can and will do it all...

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- Herding
- Agility
- Disc Dog
- Obedience
- Conformation
- Tracking
- Dock Diving
- Search & Rescue
- Therapy
- Farm Dog
- Fast CAT
- Nose work
- Carting
- And more



THANK YOU

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That's the end of our presentation...



BUTT, we hope you enjoy judging our breed!