

**The standard is approved by RKF
Presidium 15.10.2014.
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**VOSTOCHNOEVROPEISKAYA OVCHARKA
(EAST EUROPEAN SHEPHERD)**



Origin: USSR, Russia

FCI Classification:

Group I. Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs).

Section 1. Sheepdogs (Shepherds).

With working trials.

The breed is not recognized by FCI by now.

Utilization: Universal service dog. Companion dog.

Brief historical summary: The history of East European Shepherd is closely connected with the history of the country where it was created and developed.

Leonid Sabaneev, hunting and fishing business promoter and organizer, editor of the "Nature and Hunting" magazine created by him, mentions in his works shepherd dogs of Russian peasants, called "sheep" and common in central Russia provinces ("Greyhounds and Hounds", vol.2, published in the "Hunting" magazine in 1895-1899).

Russian Empire occupied a vast territory with different climate and geographical zones, where different sheep, guard and utility dogs, usually local ones, were used. Among the primitive sheep dogs one could see both dogs of Northern type, looking like modern shepherds and longhaired ones. All of them differed not only in construction varieties, but also in the degree of working abilities development.

In pre-revolutionary Russia on the border of 19-20 centuries the formation of domestic sheepdogs, to which the East European Shepherd belongs, took place in several directions. In regions with steppe and mountain landscape sheepdogs able to provide reliable protection from predators were used. In the central regions of Russia with developed agriculture the requirements for sheepdogs were completely different and much more serious. It was necessary to move a herd, sometimes not as numerous as in the steppe, to the pasture with ideal precision.

In 1908 a Russian Promotion of the Use of Dogs to police and watch service Society was formed in St. Petersburg. Native guard and watch dogs, as well as representatives of breeds imported from Europe, were used to carry out the tasks set by the society. Conditions for police dog breeding development were formed, one of the founders of which in Russia was Vasily Lebedev (1868-1930), a professional detective and head of the detective police. He made a huge contribution to kynology promotion (V. Lebedev. "Guidelines on Police and Military Dogs Training". St. Petersburg, Interior Ministry publishing house, 1911).

The whole native pure dog breeding was affected greatly by the Great October Revolution and the civil war (1917-1921). After USSR was founded (1922-1991) a new period of rapid development of the service dog breeding starts. East European Shepherd later takes its special place and becomes the main service breed in dog breeding for the needs of criminal investigation and public order protection.

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 East European Shepherd.

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.

A vast contribution to the breed selection was made by well-known Soviet kynologists: A. Mazover, U. Shar, A. Neunylova, A. Archangelskaya and many others.

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 East European Shepherd and approves its standard. In 2014 RKF Presidium adopts the new standard edition.

Behavior and character specifics allowed the East European Shepherd 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: East European Shepherd (VEO) is strong-built; over-medium sized, rectangular, powerful, 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 40 % of the height at withers;
- The height at the elbows is equal or a bit more than the height at withers;
- The body length exceeds the height at withers by 10-18 %;

Behaviour/temperament: East European Shepherd 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: flat, 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, should be dark brown, as dark as possible. Eyelids lead, closely 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 in alert.

Neck: of medium length, muscular, strong and dry. Set at approximately 45 degrees.

Body: Solid, proportional, moderately elongated.

Topline: 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 falling, smoothly descending towards the base of tail.

Chest: well-developed, long and deep (reaches to the elbows or lower), oval shaped, with moderately rounded ribs.

Bottom line and belly: smooth, belly is moderately tucked up.

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

Limbs:

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: moderately widely set, straight and parallel.

Shoulders: long, oblique.

Upper-arms: approximately equal to the shoulders in length, oblique. Shoulder angulation is about 90-100 degrees.

Forearms: strong boned, straight and parallel.

Elbows: directed strictly backwards, turned neither in nor out.

Pasterns: strong, moderately long, elastic, slightly slanted in profile.

Forefeet: oval in shape, arched, tight. Pads and nails are of dark colour.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: strong, with well-developed muscles. Parallel and moderately widely set from the back. In profile – moderately pulled back, with well pronounced angulation.

Thigh: of medium length, wide, with well-developed muscles.

Stifle: strong, with pronounced angulation.

Lower thigh: moderately long, about the same length as thigh.

Hock joints: lean, strong, well-angulated.

Rear pastern: strong, moderately long, vertically set. Dewclaws should be removed (in the countries, where it is not prohibited by law).

Rear feet: oval in shape, arched, tight. Pads and nails are of dark colour.

Gait/movements: typical gait is spacious trot with strong push. Movements are free, well covering the ground, balanced and sound. Straight movements on trot seen from front and rear. At speed, legs tend to converge.

Skin: closely fitting, elastic and well-pigmented.

Coat:

Coat: Outer coat is straight, moderately harsh on touch, dense and closely fitting, of medium length. Well-developed undercoat, thick and soft. Head, ears, front of legs and feet are covered with short coat. Coat on the neck is a little longer and thicker. On the back sides of forearms coat is a bit longer and at the outer side of thighs it is even longer and forms moderate “pants”.

Colours:

- solid black;
- pale with black saddle (black saddle of different intensity and depth and patches from grey-pale to pale colour, red patches are undesirable);
- black with tan (tanning from light grey-pale to pale, red tanning is undesirable);
- wolf grey (grey).

Small white marks on chest are allowed, but undesirable.

Size:**Height in withers:**

Desirable height for males 67-72, for females 62-68 cms.

Slight departure (up to 2 cms) from standard height in case harmonious build is kept can't affect evaluation.

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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

Severe faults:

- Unsure behaviour;
- Departure from sexual type;
- Light, coarse or loose construction, weak muscles;
- Square or too long in coupling;
- Dampish, massive head with domed, too wide skull;
- Round, protruding, too big, too light eyes;
- Absence of P1 and M3;
- Humpback or lowered muzzle;
- Partially depigmented nose;
- Weak (soft) ears, falling of one or both ears; low-set, spreading out ears;
- Narrow loin;
- Short, straight or slanting croup;
- Sickie tail, corkscrew tail;
- Weak joints, crooked quarters;
- Too straight or too pronounced angulations, sickie hock;
- Unbalanced movements, frequent pacing.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified;
- Not of breed type;
- Height for males less than 65 and more than 74 cms and for females less than 60 and more than 70 cms;
- Absence of any tooth, but P1 or M3;
- Any departure from scissor bite;
- Entropy, ectopy;
- 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 in ring, too short, kinked tail, fused vertebrae, bob tail;
- Unsteady, overlapping, rolling movements, constant pacing;
- Curly coat, long or short coat, absence of undercoat.

NB:

- 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.

Application to the standard**East European Shepherd (Vostochno-evropeiskaya ovcharka) colours to be used in RKF stud book and pedigree**

№	Russian	English
1	Черный	Black
2	Палевый с черным чепраком	Pale with black saddle
3	Черный с палевым подпалом	Black with pale tan
4	Зонарно серый	Wolf grey

Acceptable color breeding combinations

№	Colours	Forbidden to mate with
1	Black	No restrictions
2	Pale with black saddle	No restrictions
3	Black with pale tan	No restrictions
4	Wolf grey	No restrictions

The list of East European Shepherd (Vostochno-evropeiskaya ovcharka) working tests, necessary for admission to working class at any RKF dog show

OKD+ZKS, IGP 1-3, IGP-FH, IPO-MR, IPO-R, KS, IHT 1-3, HWT-TS, FCI trials of sheep dogs WTLGD (from 2021)

Number of certificates for East European Shepherd at any dog show:

№	Type of dog show	Name and number of certificates
1	International CACIB FCI dog show	2 CH RKF, 8 CAC
2	National CAC / CH RKF dog show	2 CH RKF, 2 CAC
3	National CAC / CH Federation dog show	2 CAC
4	National CAC group I dog show	2 CAC
5	National special show "National Breed Club Winner – year"	2 CW, 8 Cand.to Club Champion
6	Special Candidate to Club champion shows with special status	8 Cand.to Club Champion
7	Special Candidate to Club champion shows	2 Cand.to Club Champion