

Dogo Argentino



Presented by Pamela Gilley

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NOTE:

This presentation is based on a proposed standard that seeks to incorporate the original standard as written by Antonio Nores Martinez and Agustin Nores Martinez, the brothers that created the Dogo Argentino, and clarifies and simplifies the standard as recorded by the American Kennel Club (AKC) as of July 2012. The author of this proposed standard is Pamela Gilley, founder of the American Dogo Argentino Club (ADAC). This standard is subject to change and is not yet the official AKC standard for the Dogo Argentino.

About Pamela Gilley

Pam Gilley has been a professional handler for thirty years. During her career she has taken six different Mastiffs to forty all-breed Best in Shows and six different Mastiffs to nine National Specialty wins. She handled the top-winning Mastiff in the history of the breed (Ch Southport's Sherman), the top winning brindle Mastiff (Ch Iron Hills Into the Night), and was co-breeder of the top winning Mastiff bitch (Ch Ironclads Iron Hills Ivana).

On a weekend trip to a rare breed show in 1994 she met her first Dogo Argentino bitch, Snowy Mountain Waldens Jasmine. She immediately fell in love with this bitch that went on to become Pam's own foundation bitch. The two prominent Dogos in the ring at that time were Jasmine's sire, Ch Alto Chocair De Choyoy, who had won more nationals than any other Dogo, and Multi-National Ch Guri De Lago Puelo ("Gaurani"), the most titled Dogo at the time. Though of different styles, both were beautiful and Pam drew from each to establish her own lines.

About Pam (cont)

Pam went on to make Jasmine the first number-one Dogo bitch in the United States. Years later, she showed multiple BISS dual Ch Snowy Mountain Chakotay at Iron Hills, a Gaurani son, and made him number one in both the U.S. and Canada. After several years hiatus from showing Dogos due to her busy AKC handling schedule, she has had the opportunity to once again to return to show ring with the Dogo Argentino in AKC's Miscellaneous Group, and is a founding member of the American Dogo Argentino Club (ADAC). Pam is a loyal Dogo enthusiast who recognizes the need to preserve the integrity and original purpose and temperament of the Dogo and maintain their extraordinary ability to hunt, but to also maintain a high level of conformation to the standard created by the original founders of the breed. In America we are very lucky to have people who are able to work with their Dogos and preserve their instinctive hunting temperament and also be able to evaluate their conformation in the show ring. As a breed near and dear to Pam's heart, she works to educate people on the breed's versatility and ability to maintain their original purpose, their natural guarding instinct and their ability to be a loving and joyful member of a family. She will continue to strive to preserve and protect this breed, especially as they become more popular here in the United States. Pam has recently bred her newest generation of Dogos under the Mata Cerdos prefix and looks forward to new competition in the Dogo ring!

HISTORY From AKC Website:

This breed has its origin in the province of Cordoba, in the central (Mediterranean) region of the Republic of Argentina.

Its creator was Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez, a (renowned) doctor and member of a traditional family. In 1928, his passion for dogs, perhaps a family legacy, led him to set the bases and a standard for a new dog breed which he named Dogo Argentino. His work was based upon the methodical crossbreeding of several purebreds with the old fighting dog from Cordoba, a dog which was very strong and vigorous.

After a thorough and minute character study and selection, through different generations, Dr. Nores Martinez accomplished his purpose, obtaining the first family. At the beginning it was generally considered a dog for fighting but Dr. Nores Martinez's liking for hunting led him to take the dog to one of his habitual hunting trips, where the new breed demonstrated its skills, thus becoming a key figure in all his trips. Thus it became quickly an excellent big-game hunting dog.

With the passing of time, this adaptating capacity has made this dog very versatile as regards functions; it has proved to be a noble companion and a loyal and insurmountable protector of those it loves. Its strength, tenacity, sharp sense of smell and bravery make it the best dog among those used for hunting wild boars, peccaries, pumas and other country predators which can be found in the vast and heterogeneous areas of the Argentinean territory. Its harmony, balance and its excellent athletic muscles are ideal characteristics for enduring long trips in any weather conditions and then fighting fiercely with the pursued prey.

In 1973 the breed was accepted by FCI as the first and only Argentinean breed, thanks to the great passion, work and effort of Dr. Augustin Nores Martinez, its creator's brother and successor.

History per the Writings of Agustin Martinez

In 1925, Antonio Nores Martinez and his brother Agustin Nores Martinez were teenagers in Argentina. Both had a great love of dogs and hunting. Agustin credits his brother Antonio for the creation of the breed in that he developed the idea of creating a dog capable of running down and killing the wild boar of their farmlands and woods. He wanted a dog of size, courage, strength and the fighting spirit of the Viejo Perro de pelea Cordobes (Old Cordoba Fighting Dog) but without that breed's instinct to fight amongst themselves which made them useless for hunting in packs.

The Martinez brothers prepared for this daunting challenge by carefully studying everything they could find about dog breeds, structure and genetics beginning with their father's books, some of which they had to translate themselves. Antonio went on to be a doctor and his scientific nature and education in biogenetics, physiology and anatomy made him well-suited to accomplish his dream of creating the Dogo Argentino.

They started with the Old Cordoba Fighting Dog which itself was a combination of breeds--the Bullterrier, Boxer, Mastiff and Bulldog. Starting with about thirty bitches, they brought in various stud dogs to begin shaping what would become today's Dogo.

History (cont)

Size was an important characteristic and the brothers very much wanted to use the magnificent Irish Wolfhound, a dog they studied and felt strongly about using. However this breed did not exist in Argentina at the time. Early on they were able to use a Irish Wolfhound/Great Dane mix and later purebred Irish Wolfhounds. For size, they also used Great Danes, Mastiffs and the Pyrenean Mastiff (Great Pyrenees), the latter also being used for its color. A great hunting nose was also a main criteria and for this the Pointer was used. It should be noted that the specific Great Pyrenees the brothers used demonstrated a keen sense of smell as well. The English Bulldog and Bullterrier contributed courage and powerful jaws. The Dogue de Bordeaux and Boxer were also used for their courage, but also for their intelligence and head shape.

In the history of the Dogo Argentino written by Agustin Nores Martinez, he recalls many of the dogs used to create the Dogo by name and discusses their strengths, temperaments, pedigrees and how they contributed to their breeding program. They sought out purebred dogs that were excellent representatives of their breeds and many were titled dogs from well-known pedigrees.

Dr. Antonio Martinez died young and brother Agustin Martinez saved the Dogo from disappearing and continued to work on developing the breed after his brother's death. In 1964 he was able to present a pack of 67 Dogos for official recognition of the breed.

General Appearance

A hunting dog with a muscular, sturdy body within the desirable proportions without gigantic dimensions. Its appearance is harmonic and vigorous due to its powerful muscles which stand out under the consistent and elastic skin adhered to the skin with semi-lax subcutaneous tissue. It walks quietly but firmly, showing its intelligence and quick responsiveness and revealing by means of his movement his permanent happy natural disposition. Of a kind and loving nature, of a striking whiteness, its physical virtues turn it into a real athlete.



Size, Proportion, Substance

As an animal with a muscular, sturdy body no part stands out from the whole body which is harmonic and balanced. The height at the withers is equal to the height at the croup. The depth of the thorax is approximately 50% of the height at the withers. The length of the body exceeds the height at the withers by approximately 10% making the Dogo a slightly off-square dog. Height at the withers for males is 24" to 27", and bitches 23-1/2" to 26".





Head

Looks strong and powerful without abrupt angles or distinct chiseling. Its profile shows an upper line which is concave - convex: convex at the skull because of the prominence of its masticatory muscles and its nape; and slightly concave at the foreface. Length of muzzle to backskull is a one-to-one ratio. The head joins the neck forming a strong muscular arch.



CRANIAL REGION :

Skull : Massive, convex both lengthwise and widthwise due to relief of the chewing muscles and muscles of the neck. Its zygomatic arches are far apart from the skull, forming a large temporal cavity which enables the large development of the temporal muscle. The central depression of the skull is slightly noticeable.



CRANIAL REGION (cont) :

Occiput: There should be no relief at the base of the skull because the powerful neck muscles cover it completely, the head and neck join in the form of an arch.

Stop : Slightly defined, as a transition from the convex skull region to the slightly concave forehead. From the side, the superciliary ridges are evident.



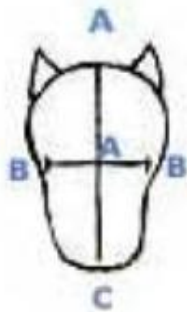
FACIAL REGION :

As long as the skull.

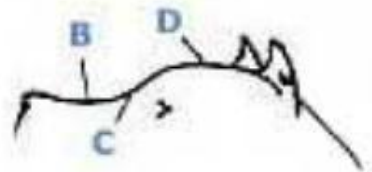
Nose : Ample nostrils. Black pigmentation. It is slightly elevated forwards, finishing off the concave profile of the muzzle. From the side, the front line is perpendicular and straight, coinciding with the maxillary edge or slightly projected forward.

Muzzle : Strong, a bit longer than deep, well developed in width, with sides slightly converging. The upper line is slightly concave.

CORRECT



$A-A=B-B=A-C$



- A. Correct Proportions
- B. Muzzle-Slightly Concave
- C. Stop
- D. Top Skull-Slightly Convex

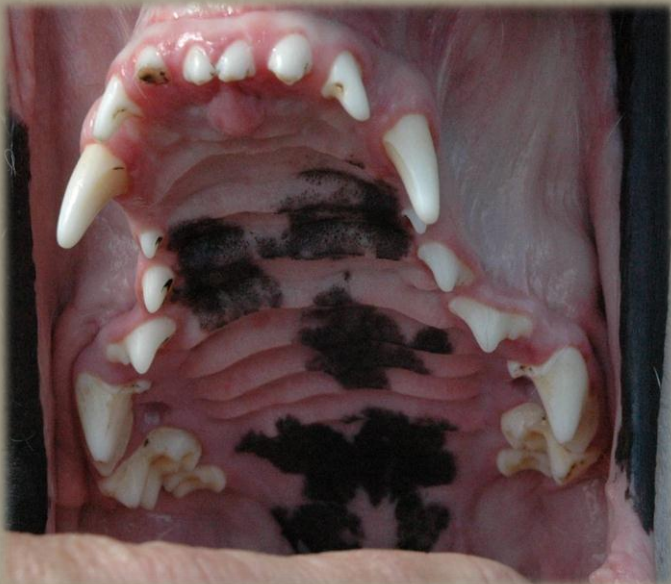
Lips : Short, tight, with free edges preferably pigmented in black. Short lips are demanded, so that when the dog is holding, he can breath through the corner of his lip. If the lip is pendulous, even though the jaw is long enough, the lip turns into a valve cover when inhaling and closes the corner of the lips which impedes the animal from supplementary breathing through the mouth during the catch, having to let go due to asphyxiation.



Jaws/Teeth : Jaws strong and well developed with maximum bite capacity. No under- or overshot mouth. The jaws should be slightly and evenly convergent. Teeth big, well developed, firmly implanted in line, looking clean without caries. Complete dentition is recommended, priority being given to the matching dental arches. Pincer bite, though scissor bite is accepted.

Cheeks : Large and relatively flat, free from folds or bulges.





Eyes : Dark, protected by lids preferably with black pigmentation though the lack of pigmentation is not considered a fault. Almond-shaped. The distance between them must be wide. As a whole, the expression should be alert and lively, but at the same time remarkably firm.



Ears : High and laterally inserted, set well apart due to the width of the skull. Functionally, they should be cropped and erect, in triangular shape and with a length which does not exceed 50% of the front edge of the auricle of the natural ear. Without being cropped, they are of mid-length, broad, thick, flat and rounded at the tip. Covered with smooth hair which is a bit shorter than on the rest of the body; they may show small spots, not to be penalized. In natural position they hang down covering the back of the cheeks. When the dog is alert they may be half-erect.



Neck, Body and Topline

NECK: Strong, well muscled, of medium length, arched and graceful. Truncated cone-shaped, it joins the head in a muscular arch and fits to the thorax in a large base. It is covered by a thick and elastic skin that freely slips over the subcutaneous tissue which is a bit more lax than on the rest of the body. It has non-pendent smooth folds at the height of the throat, a fundamental trait for the function of the animal. The coat in this part is slightly longer than on the rest of the body.



BODY: The length of the body (from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock) exceeds the height at the withers by approximately 10% making the Dogo a slightly off-square dog. Abdomen: Slightly tucked up but never greyhound-like. Strong with good muscular tension in the flanks and loins.

TOPLINE:

Withers: High, very strong and muscular.

Back: Large and strong, with fully developed muscles forming a slight rise towards the loins.

Loins: Strong and hidden by the developed lumbar muscles which form a median furrow along the spine. Rising very slightly to the top of the croup.

Croup: Of medium length, large and muscular, with a slightly convex slope to insertion of tail. Its width is equal or a bit less than that of the chest.

Chest: Broad and deep reaching to the elbow or below. Large chest cavity providing maximum respiratory capacity, with long and moderately curved ribs (neither barrel-chested nor slab-sided).



TAIL: Set following the line of the croup. Of ample curvature upwards, reaching to the hocks but not further down. At rest it hangs down naturally; when the dog is in action, it is carried level or raised above the level of the topline (but never gay) and in constant lateral movement.



Forequarters

As a whole, they form a sturdy and solid structure of bones and muscles, proportionate to the size of the animal. Forelegs straight and vertical, seen from the front or in profile.

Shoulders : High and proportioned. Very strong, with great muscular contours without exaggeration. Slanting of 45° to the horizontal.

Upper arm : Of medium length, proportionate to the whole. Strong and very muscular, with an 45° angle to the horizontal.



Elbows: Sturdy.

Naturally situated against the chest wall of which they seem to be part.

Forearm: As long as the upper arm, perpendicular to the horizontal, straight with strong bone and muscles.

Pastern joint: Broad and in line with the forearm, without bony prominences or skin folds.

Pastern: Strong, well boned, slightly slanting.



Hindquarters

With moderate angulation matching front angulation. As a whole, they are strong, sturdy and parallel, creating the image of the great power their function requires. They ensure the proper drive and determine the dog's characteristic gait.

Hock joint / Hock : Moderately let down, strong and firm. Sturdy hock joint with a noticeable calcaneus (tip of hock). If present, dewclaws should be removed.



Feet

Rounded; with short, sturdy, very tight toes. Fleshy, hard pads, covered by rough-to-the-touch skin.

Coat

Uniform, short, plain and smooth to the touch, with an average length of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch. Variable density and thickness according to different climates. In tropical climates the coat is sparse and thin (letting the skin shine though and making pigmented regions visible which is not a cause of penalty). In a cold climate it is thicker and denser and may present an undercoat.



Color

Completely white; only one black or dark coloured patch around the eye may be admitted, provided that it does not cover more than 10% of the head. Between two dogs of equal conformation, the judge should always choose the whiter one.

Skin

Slightly thick, but smooth and elastic. Adhering to the body through a semi-lax subcutaneous tissue which ensures free movement without forming relevant folds, except for the neck area where the subcutaneous tissue is more lax. With as little pigmentation as possible, though this increases with the years. An excessive pigmentation of the skin is not accepted. Preference should be given to dogs with black pigmentation of the rims of lip and eye rims.



Gait

Agile and firm; with noticeable modification when showing interest in something, changing into an erect attitude and responding to reflexes quickly, typical for this breed. Calm walk, extended trot, with a good front suspension and a powerful rear drive. At gallop, the dog shows all of its energy displaying its power fully. Ambling (pacing) is not accepted and is considered a serious fault.



Size

Height at the withers :

Dogs: 24 to 27 inches.

Bitches: 23 ½ to 26 inches.









Chaco Del Bañal





Temperament

It is cheerful, frank, friendly, and not a hard barker, always conscious of its power. It should never be aggressive, a trait that should be severely penalized. However, its domineering attitude makes it continuously compete for territory with specimens of the same sex. As a hunter, it is smart, silent, courageous and brave.



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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.

Serious Faults

- Poor bone and muscle development (weakness).
- Nose with little pigmentation.
- Pendulous lips.
- Small, weak or decayed teeth. Incomplete dentition.
- Eyes excessively light; entropion, ectropion.
- Barrel chest; pigeon chest.
- Slab-sided.
- Excessive angulation of the hindquarters.
- Hock too long.
- Untypical movement.
- Excessive skin pigmentation in **young** dogs.
- Appearance of small areas with colored hairs on body.
- Unsteady temperament.



Disqualifying Faults

- Aggressiveness.
- Nose without pigmentation.
- Over-or undershot mouth.
- Light blue eyes; eyes of different color.
- Deafness.
- Long coat.
- Patches in the body coat. More than one patch on the head.
- Height under 23 ½ inches and over 27 inches.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- More than two missing teeth.
- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Questions

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Dogo Argentino

Thank you
for your
attention!



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