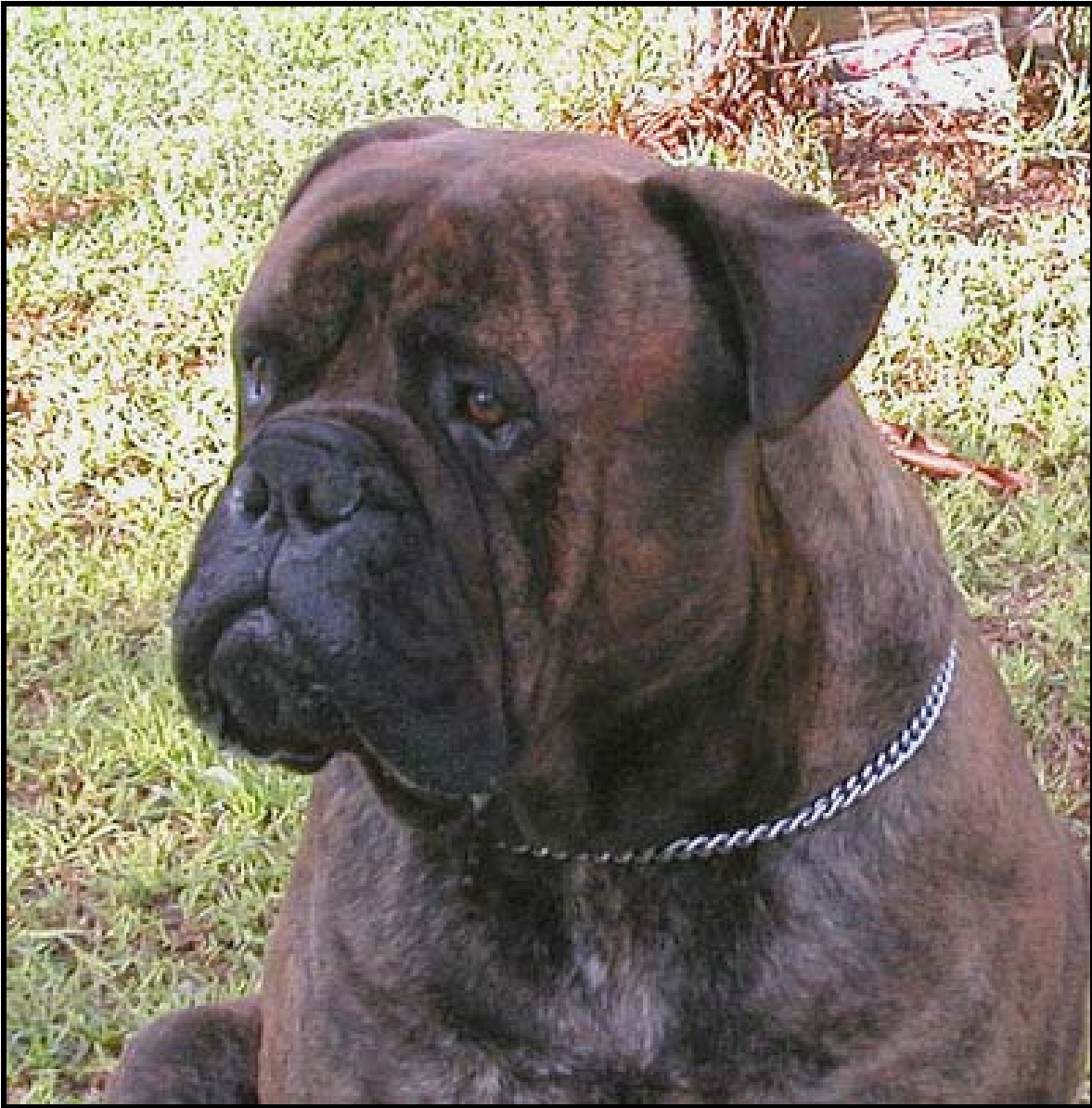


THE BULLMASTIFF



ORIGINS OF THE BREED

Their history dates back to the 1860's when the breed was developed in England to serve as a companion and estate guard dog. Their purpose was to discourage the common practice of poaching on the numerous large English estates. Their strength and apparent ferocity proved very successful in combating the poacher problem. Referred to as "the gamekeeper's night dog", the Bullmastiff would intercept poachers and their very strength and weight would hold the intruder down on the ground until their master arrived on the scene. This is an important point for fanciers to remember. Do remember that the breed standard calls for "a symmetrical

animal, showing great strength, powerfully built, but active. The dog is fearless yet docile, has endurance and alertness".

Bullmastiffs are a man-made breed comprising of 60% Mastiff and 40% Bulldog. The original colour of the Bullmastiff was brindle so as to blend with its background at night therefore making it undetectable to the poachers.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Bullmastiff typically has a powerful build, symmetrical, showing great strength, sound and active. A well socialised animal will be high spirited, alert and faithful. They will however, be wary and cautious of strangers or strange situations.

A hallmark of the Breed is its head. The skull is large and square. It should have a definite stop between its eyes its muzzle should be short and broad. They should always have what is known as 'a mask'. This is a black muzzle, with further black markings around the eyes. Ear colour ranges from black to darker than its coat colour.

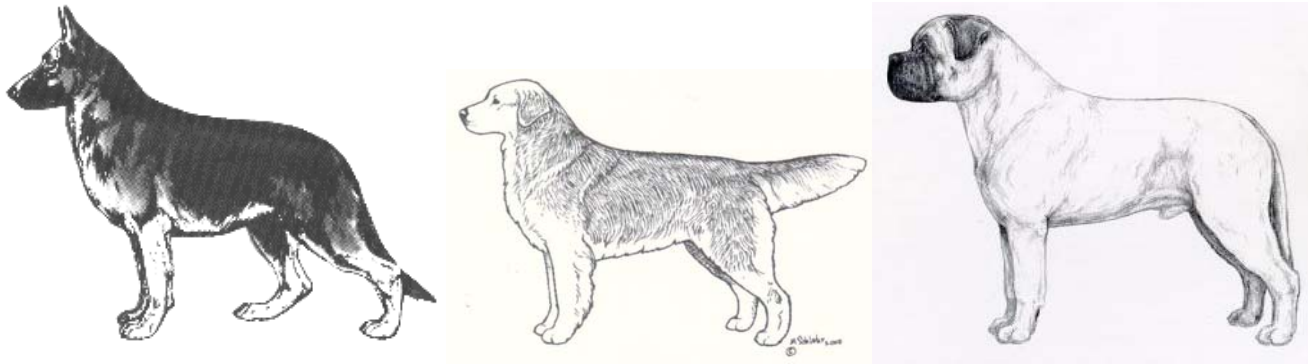
The breed comes in 'Three Colours Only', which comprise of any shade of brindle, red & fawn. A small white mark on the chest may be evident but no other white should appear on them. The coat should be short not wavy, curly or long.



The Bullmastiff bitch is smaller than its male counterpart. The Bullmastiff can measure between 24 – 27 inches (60 – 68cm) to the shoulder and commonly weigh in between 110 – 150lbs (50 – 70kgs).

All Bullmastiffs should have long tails, however there are some that may have been born with a genetic defect and possess what is known as a 'crank' tail, which can appear to be a bend or twist in the tail, not unlike a British Bulldog tail. It may also be significantly shorter in length.

Size comparison between the German Shepherd Dog, the Golden Retriever and the Bullmastiff



A Height comparison between an adult male Bullmastiff and his owner.



The height of the Bullmastiff varies between dog and bitch. Here is a large male Bullmastiff next to his female owner. The owner is 157.5 cm (5'2") tall the dog measured 66cm (26") to the top of the shoulder and he weighed in at 70kgs.