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**Working**

## Pyrenean Mastiff (Imp)

The Pyrenean Mastiff was once known as the Navarra Mastiff as it was developed in the Pyrenean region between Aragon and Navarra. The breed is of the Molosser family and has always been used as a flock guardian, protecting their herds from predators such as the wolf and bear. To give it some protection in its work, the Pyrenean Mastiff would often wear a heavy spiked collar to protect its neck and throat from assailants.

Like all of the Mollosoid breeds, the Pyrenean Mastiff is large and powerful. Ideal height for males is 81 cm (32 in) with bitches standing around 73.5 cm (29 in). He should be strong, rustic and powerful, with strong bone, deep chest and a large strong head and wide, deep muzzle. The strong neck is protected by loose skin and double dewlaps. The coat is thick, abundant and coarse in texture. The coat colours most frequently seen are white with gold, grey or badger markings on head, ears and neck. The main body colour should always be white. Sometimes colour may be found on the hindquarters.

The Pyrenean Mastiff is remarkably light on his feet for his size. The tail is carried low, and can curl at the tips and should never be carried above the level of the back. He is calm in temperament but can be aggressive when doing the job for which he was bred. Wonderfully loyal to his master and family he had adapted well to modern life and his role of guardian of the home.

Breed Group	Working
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Large
How much exercise?	Up to 1 hour per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	Every day
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Small/Medium
Lifespan	Under 10 Years

## Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth)

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

## What Screening is relevant for the Pyrenean Mastiff (Imp)?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- Eye testing

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

## Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or
- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
- 5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or

6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

## **Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions**