

**Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog** All purpose working ranch dog. A medium to medium-large dog, short coated dog, well-muscled, yet trim. Powerful, but denotes agility and great endurance. It is a moderate breed and should not resemble either a sighthound or a bulldog in appearance. The Catahoula is independent, protective, and territorial. Aloof, lack of animation may cause some to draw away from judges when being examined. They should never be excessively aggressive or shy.

**Size:** Male 22-26, Females 20-24, with the mid preferred. Weight may range from 50-95 lbs with females generally 20 lbs less than males.

**Proportion:** Body is slightly longer than tall and the distance from the elbow to the ground should equal 50-60 percent of the dog's height from the withers to the ground. A dog with legs shorter than the ideal is to be more heavily penalized than a dog with longer legs. Catahoulas should always be presented in hard, working condition. Any deviation from the ideal must be judged by the extent of the deviation, and the effect it has on the dog's ability to work.

**Head:** Powerful build without exaggeration. Gender differences should be apparent. Full dentition is desired, worn or broken teeth should not be faulted. **Nose pigment, any color.**

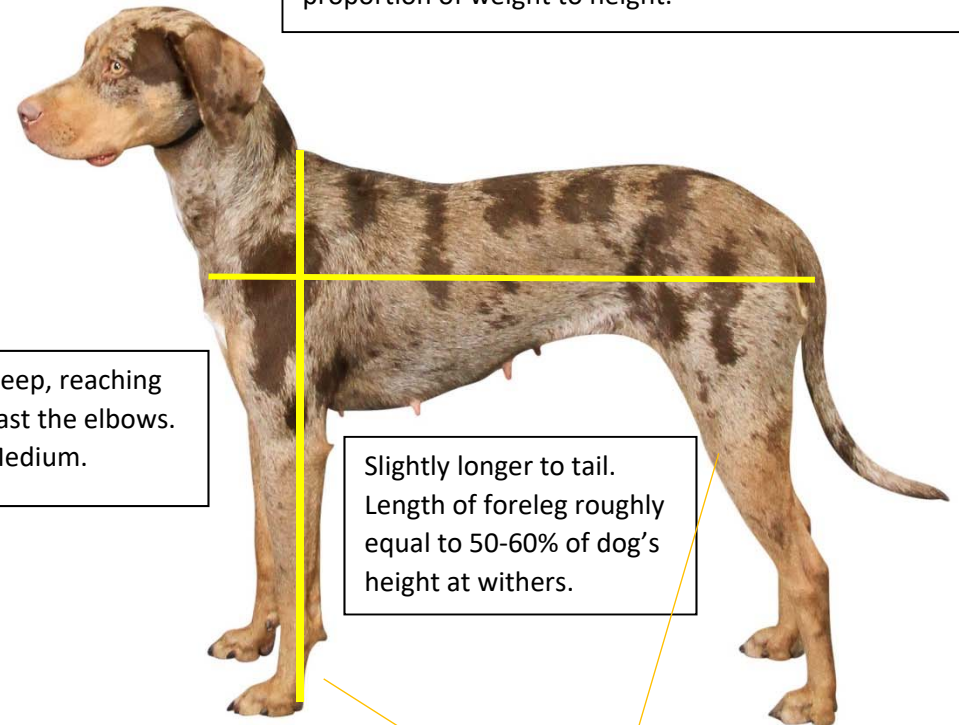


**Muzzle:** Viewed from the side, the length of skull and muzzle are approximately equal in length. The planes of the top skull and the bridge of the muzzle are roughly parallel to one another. The muzzle is strong and deep. Viewed from above, the muzzle is moderately wide and tapering toward the nose.

**Teeth,** a complete set of evenly spaced white teeth. A scissor bite is preferred, but a level bite is acceptable. Full dentition is desired, but dogs

should not be penalized for worn or broken teeth. **Faults:** Snipey muzzle. **Serious Faults:** Overshot or undershot bite.

**Eyes:** Any color without preference. Eye rims are tight and may be any color or combination of colors. **Serious Faults:** Malformed pupils; pupils not centered; sagging eyelids making haw visible; functional abnormality of eyelids or eyelashes.



The Catahoula must be both powerful and agile so actual weight and height are less important than the correct proportion of weight to height.

Chest deep, reaching to at least the elbows.  
Bone Medium.

Slightly longer to tail.  
Length of foreleg roughly equal to 50-60% of dog's height at withers.

Short slightly sloping.  
Stifles well bent.  
Tuck up apparent.

**Ears:** drop, short to medium in length. Proportionally wide at the base, gradually tapering to the slightly rounded tip. They should fold over and be generally triangular in shape. The top of the ear fold is level or just slightly below the top line of the skull. Then the dog is at attention, the inner edge of the ear lies close to the cheek. Laid back ears acceptable, but not preferred. **Faults:** Any ear type other than described above.

**Disqualification:** Cropped ears.

**Skull:** The skull is broad and flat. **Cheeks:** are well developed. **Stop:** is well defined and of moderate length. There may be a slight median furrow between the eyes and running back to the occipital bone. **Lips:** may be tight or slightly pendulous with pigment of any color of combination of colors. **Faults:** Excessively broad skull; narrow skull.



**Neck:** Muscular and of good length, not overdone. The circumference of the neck widens from the nape to where the neck blends smoothly into the shoulders. **Faults:** Neck too short and thick or too thin and weak; excess skin forming dewlap.

**Shoulders** are strong and smoothly muscled. The shoulder blades are long, wide, flat and well laid back. The upper arm is roughly equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an angle sufficient to ensure that the foot falls under the withers.

**Forelegs** are straight, and of medium bone, indicating strength without excessive thickness. The elbows are close to the body and do not turn out. **Pasterns** are strong, short, and slightly sloping. **Faults:** Forequarters significantly heavier than the hindquarters; bone too heavy or too fine; straight shoulders; out at elbows; weak pasterns.

**Body:** Slightly longer than tall. The topline slightly downward from withers to level back. A slightly elevated rear resulting from slightly straighter rear angulation should not be penalized too severely. **Loin:** a broad back, slightly arched loin. A slightly longer loin is acceptable in females. **Ribs** extend well back and are well sprung from the spine. **Chest** is deep, reaching at least to the elbows, and broad. **Tuck-up** is apparent, but not exaggerated. **Croup** is medium to long and slightly sloping. A slightly elevated rear resulting from straighter rear angulation should not be penalized too severely. **Faults:** Chest too broad, too narrow or too shallow; soft topline; exaggerated or absent tuck-up; loin too long.

**Hindquarters:** Strong and smoothly muscled. In balance with the forequarters. **Stifles** are well bent, and the **hocks** are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are

perpendicular to the ground and, viewed from the rear, parallel to one another. **Faults:** Thin, weak hindquarters; cow-hocked; open-hocked.

**Feet:** Oval in shape, toes long. Pads thick. Strong nail. Dewclaws may be removed. **Fault:** cat foot.

**Coat:** Single coated, short to medium. Texture ranges from smooth to course without preference. **Disqualification:** Long, Fuzzy coat.

**Tail:** Natural extension of topline. Thicker at base and tapers. Natural bobs permitted but not preferred. Full length tail may be carried upright with tip curving forward when dog is alert. **Faults:** Ring tail; docked tail. **Disqualification:** Complete absence of a tail (no external coccygeal vertebrae evident.)



**Color:** Because of the breed's name, many people assume that all Catahoulas have the so-called "leopard" markings and blue eyes. In fact, the breed is noted for its many and unusual coat colors and patterns, as well as varied eye color. In evaluating the Catahoula as a true, multi-purpose working dog, coat color is not a primary consideration. No coat color or pattern is preferred. Color should not be a primary consideration. **Serious Fault:** 70 percent or more white. **Disqualifications:** 90 percent or more white coat color; solid white head; albinism.

**Gait:** Possibly the most important feature. Smooth, fluid and effortless. Good but not exaggerated reach with powerful drive. The topline remains level with only a slight flexing to indicated suppleness. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in or out, nor do feet cross or interfered with each other. As speed increased, feet tend to converge toward center of balance. Poor movement should be penalized to the degree to which it reduces the dogs ability to perform the tasks it was bred to do. A dog not gaiting smoothly should not be chosen as a better specimen.



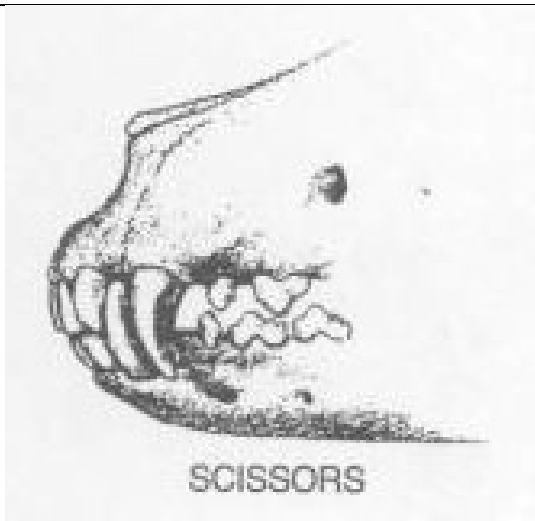
**Endless variety of colors and pattern with no preference. Color should not be a primary consideration. Serious Fault: 70 percent or more white. Disqualifications: 90 percent or more white coat color; solid white head; albinism.**



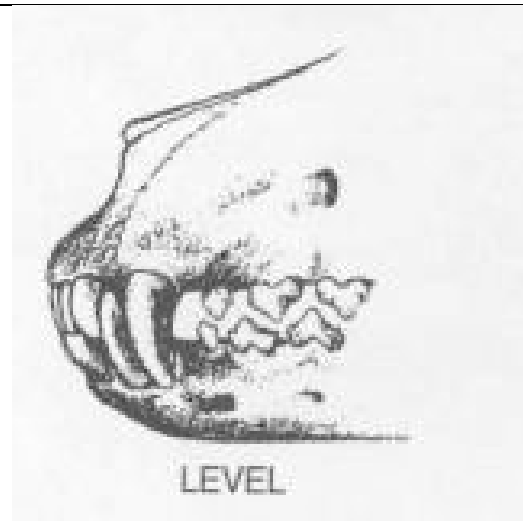


Eyes, color without preference. Eye rims are tight and may be any color or combination of colors. **Nose pigment, any color.**





**Preferred Bite – Scissor**



**Acceptable Bite - Level**

The Catahoula is billed as the world's most versatile Ranch dog. They can be trained for most any purpose, but care should be taken when judging that the historical use of the dog is represented well in the specimen shown.



