



# VALENCIAN RAT DOG ( GOS RATER VALENCIÀ - PERRO RATONERO VALENCIANO ) PROPOSED BREED STANDARD

Elaborated by the CERVA  
Recommended for use by judges, breeders and enthusiasts

## R.S.C.E. Classification:

Group 3 - Terriers

Section 1: Large and medium sized terriers

## BREED HISTORY

It's origin is related to the examples of dog from the Valencian Community with similar size and characteristics that go back to the



early terrier imports from Great Britain and others that looked similar. Their existence has been documented in the Valencian Community since the last third of the XIX Century and were selected and highly valued by the people in the countryside farms and fields for their instincts to warn of and hunt vermin, as well as for their loyal friendship. Their beginnings coincide with the cultivation of oranges in the community. The social culture of the zone helped to fixate certain characteristics of the breed. Other names associated with the breed are: Rateret and Fusterrier

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

A small dog, well kept appearance, harmonious and well proportioned. Rustic in appearance, his expression is keen and intelligent. He is agile, strong and quick moving. His coat is very short and tight fitting and generally comes in tri-color, (black, tan with white markings that are variably distributed on the body). Although small, the breed is exempt of defects associated with dwarfism.

## TEMPERMENT AND USE

Character is lively, attentive, happy, intelligent, alert and active. Affectionate and loyal to his owner, to which he is always attentive. Suspicious of strangers but sociable and playful with those he knows. He is brave in the hunt and as a guardian for his owner and learns with ease. His ancestors hunted in houses and barns clearing out all types of vermin (rats, rabbits, ducks, moles and any other small animals). He is a good guardian and advises with his bark but he is also an excellent companion dog due to his characteristics and predisposition as well as other uses.

## HEAD

Well proportioned in regards to the body. No loose skin or folds. Harmonious, lively, elegant with an intelligent and intense expression.

**Head Proportions:** Width to Length 1/1

Muzzle Length to top skull with a tendency of 4/5

### CRANIAL REGION:

Slightly convex with parallel planes. Occiput is slightly obvious.

Brow line and forehead slightly obvious.

Stop is noticeable.

### FACIAL REGION:

**Nose:** black (brown in chocolate and tan colors) and of proportionate size not large.

**Muzzle:** straight and narrow. From profile, the nose appears as an integral part of the upper jaw. The lower jaw does not appear to be retracted.

**Lips:** thin, tight fitting and not markedly noticeable.

**Jaws/Teeth:** Strong jaws of appropriate size. Full white dentition (42 teeth) of adequate size and a scissors bite. Missing teeth, of up to 2 premolars is permissible.

**Cheeks:** tight fitting skin, not pendulous.

**Eyes:** Medium oval shape, separated but not bulging. Dark brown color preferred. Eyelids

well fitted over eyes with black eye rims or (brown on chocolate and tan colors).

**Ears:** Erect and of medium size (size guideline- if folded the tips would meet with the tear duct of the eye). They should be proportionate with the head, triangular in shape and thin. High set, of soft V in shape and convex due to the shape of the skull.

#### **NECK:**

High set and of medium length, narrow (oval shaped), arched, elegant and muscular. Exempt of any hanging skin.

#### **BODY:**

Square appearance, muscular and firm. Noticeable muscle tone, proportionate and fit for function.

**Proportions:** From shoulders to rear with the appearance of being square it is actually slightly longer than tall.

From shoulders to floor, the distance from floor to elbow is longer than the distance from elbow to tips of shoulders.

**Top line:** Shoulders are slightly noted, back is straight with a very slight slope towards tail.

**Croup:** Slight slope

**Chest:** Moderately wide, strong and deep with depth of chest reaching the level of the elbows without passing them.

**Ribcage:** Arched

**Underline:** Stomach has noted tuck up.

**TAIL:** Medium insertion. Thicker at base and finer at point of tail. It is of medium length with short tight fitted coat like rest of body. It is not curled or twisted and is carried elevated during movement. Traditionally it was amputated, leaving no vertebrae or only leaving the first few. Examples with no tails do exist.

#### **EXTREMITIES:**

**Front Assembly:** General appearance is muscular and well set. Straight and parallel. Noticeable angulations.

**Shoulders:** Inclined, solid and adequately muscular.

**Upper Arm and Chest:** Strong, solid and robust. Approximately the length of the scapula with well marked angles.

**Elbows:** should not be loose or too tightly fit to the chest.

**Wrist/Pasterns:** Strong and solid but flexible. Seen from the front they are straight and from profile have a slight inclination towards the floor.

**Feet:** Hare foot, well padded.

**Rear Assembly:** General appearance is muscular and well set. Very strong, noticeable angulations that allow the dog the

capability of performing high jumps. In total equilibrium with front assembly.

**Upper Thigh:** Muscular, strong, powerful and of great length.

**Lower Thigh:** Muscular, strong with proportionate length similar to upper thigh and of moderate angulations in respect to the thigh.

**Hock Area:** Pronounced, with defined tendons. Lower hock area is perpendicular to the floor, of moderate length and exempt of dewclaws.

#### **MOVEMENT:**

Quick, agile, elastic like float action with great jumping ability. Sufficient ground cover with adequate driving rear action. Efficient and without pacing. Front and rear should move parallel. Movement should give the impression of easy and effortless motion. Light on feet, floating appearance as if feet do not touch the ground.



#### **SKIN, COAT, COLOR AND MARKINGS:**

**Skin:** Thin and tight to body.

**Coat:** Fine, short, shiny and tight fitting to body (no more than 1, 5 cm in length).

**Color:** Predominant color is tri-color black and tan with white markings distributed on body. Chocolate and tan with white markings. Black and Tan and Chocolate and Tan. Some white markings are preferred.

Ticking is permissible such as in the white areas or in the legs, chest or rear.

**Markings:** The head is always black or chocolate with a tan mask which is obligatory. Markings are well defined and no white spots are allowed in this region of the body.

#### **SIZE:**

Males: 34 to 38 cm at shoulders, ideal is 36 cm.

Females: 31 to 36 cm at shoulders, ideal is 34 cm. In both sexes, 1 cm. over standard is tolerated always and only if the dog or bitch is

exceptional, harmonious, functional and balanced.

**FAULTS:**

Any deviation from the above mentioned criteria is considered a fault, the seriousness of any fault is taken into consideration in according to the effects it may have upon the health if the dog or its capacity to perform the job it was bred for. Any dog that presents any physical or temperamental abnormalities should be disqualified. Males should have two normal testicles, fully distended into the scrotum. Only examples that are functionally and clinically sound and healthy with correct conformation and breed type should be used for breeding.

**MINOR FAULTS:**

Absence of 1 or 2 premolars  
Presence of white hairs on front or on muzzle  
Length of coat slightly longer than 1.5 cm. en some areas  
Pacing Movement

**SERIOUS FAULTS:**

Timed Character  
Domed or apple shaped head  
Very low insertion of ears  
Lack of pigmentation on nose, muzzle or eye rims  
Absence of more than 2 up to 4 teeth  
Misalignment of teeth

Light colored eyes (except the lighter brown allowed in chocolate colors), bulging eyes or round eyes

Roach back or dipping top line  
Slab-sided or barreled ribcage  
Too much tuck up as in that of a greyhound  
Aspect of being heavy or ponderous  
Legs that are too long or too short  
Cat feet  
Hocks that are too close or too separated  
Movement that is clumsy, crossing over or ponderous

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:**

Lacking breed type  
Absence of mask or clarity and good definition of tan markings  
Aggressive, cowardly or extreme timidity with people or other dogs  
Monorchid or cryptorchid males  
Albinism  
Overshot or undershot bite and any bite that is other than scissors  
Incomplete dentition (lacking more than 4 teeth)  
Ears that are not completely erect in adults  
Presence of rear dewclaws  
Long coat or curly coat  
Rabbit tail  
Lack of pigment on nose, muzzle or eye rims  
Any other color pattern not described by the standard for the breed as correct  
Artificially altered or manipulated coloring or feature of the dog

