

## Official Breed Standard of the Turkish Shepherd Dog Akbash

<u>General Features</u>: Akbash is one of Turkey's most well-known livestock guardian dogs, being victorious in battles against wolves. They are intensely loyal to the herd, territory, and their owner. Akbash is considered the most powerful and fastest livestock guardian dog among their weight category. They are livestock guardians and field security dogs in many countries worldwide; moreover, they are family dogs. Akbash has high levels of watchful and guarding characteristics, are very strong-minded, and are highly intelligent when decision making.

<u>Physical Characteristics</u>: Akbash has lightweight anatomy with a slim and muscular body with a well-built bone and foot structure, allowing it to run fast. Akbash are different from other canines with their wolf-shaped skull, slanted eyes, and spiral-shaped tail.

**Eyes:** Eye color ranges from amber (honey-colored) to black and brown.

**Nose:** The nose has mostly dark pigmentation. However, there are varieties with light colors as well.

**<u>Head</u>**: The stop on their face is slightly apparent.

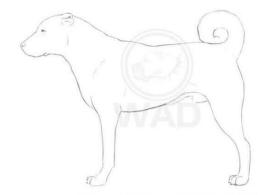
<u>Tail:</u> The tail lengthens till the hind leg knee joint when it is relaxed.

<u>Coat/Hair:</u> The coat attaches to the body firmly. An Akbash must have white hair color like its name, "Ak."

**<u>Lips:</u>** The lip color can be black or brown, and the lower discharge lip does not dangle down.

**Neck/ Skyline:** The posture of the neck and skyline intersects with a 45-degree angle.

<u>Size:</u> Shoulder length for adult males is between 65-75 cm, and weight is 48-55 kg. Also seen in males is a shoulder-length of 84 cm and 68 kilograms.



TURKISH SHEPHERD DOG AKBAŞ



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As for adult females, the shoulder length is between 60-73 cm, and the weight is 45-55 kilograms. Also seen is a shoulder-length of 82 cm and a weight of 65 kilograms.

Turkish Dog Federation: <a href="https://www.turkishdog.com">www.turkishdog.com</a> World Anatolian Dogs: <a href="https://www.wad.tc">www.wad.tc</a>