



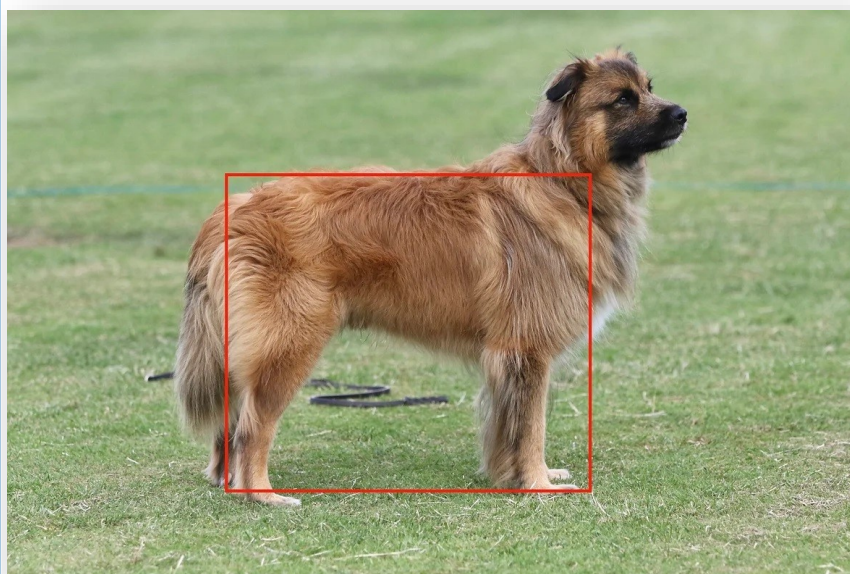
Pyrenean Sheepdog (Smooth Faced)

- Alert, lively, mischievous & enquiring
- May be wary of strangers but never nervous or aggressive
- Body Shape almost square
- Fine type hair/ dense and fairly short/ shaved appearance on head/face and front of legs



Who is the Smooth Faced Pyrenean Sheepdog?

The Smooth Faced Pyrenean Sheepdog shares many similar character traits to its Long Haired cousin but significantly differs in structure, size and coat. Intelligent, resourceful, capable of initiative and entirely devoted to their owner. They are alert and inquisitive and may be wary of strangers but they are in general more easy going and more biddable than the Long Haired variant. They have a fairly independent nature and good training is needed to make the most of their intelligence and alertness. They can be sensitive which when combined with their intelligence, independence and athleticism means that a patient and knowledgeable owner is required to train them well. They are generally larger with more substance than the Long Haired type and are more of a medium sized sheepdog in reality.



They naturally want to work and need some way of channelling their intelligence and energy. Totally focused on their owners they need a partnership approach that earns their respect along with plenty of exercise. This is a dog that can excel at Canine sports - tracking, obedience, agility, working trials, herding as well as exhibiting in show competition.

The predominant coat colour of the breed is fawn of varying shades; other colours are light to dark grey, black, blue merle, slate blue or brindle.

Height: Dogs 40-54 cm (15½ - 21 in); Bitches: 40-52 cm (15½ - 20 1/2 in).

Is the Smooth Faced Pyrenean Sheepdog for You?

Both variants of the Pyrenean Sheepdog are truly unique and remarkable dogs, but can be quite demanding. Ideally this is a dog best suited to an active country lifestyle, but with adequate exercise and companionship can cope in more urban environments. The most important thing for a Pyrenean Sheepdog is to be with their owner – this is not a dog suited to being left alone for long periods. This is a dog that must be occupied or they can become noisy and difficult to live with. Having said that given enough exercise and plenty to do it is a dog that you can take anywhere with you. They can become very possessive of their owners and members of the family, so needs very good socialisation from a very young age. They should not be nervous or aggressive even if they can appear “stand-offish” with those they don’t know. The coat of the Smooth Faced is not hard to care for and can be managed with a short grooming session once a week. You will need to have the time to commit to this dog and knowledge and patience to train him well. In general, we don’t recommend this as a dog for a first time owner.

History and Origins of the Breed

The Smooth Faced Pyrenean Sheepdog is known in its native country as Le Berger des Pyrénées à Face Rase. It is an old indigenous breed that has always remained in its place of origin, the mountainous region of the Haute Pyrénées in the Central Pyrenees. The individual evolution of the Smooth Faced variant is likely a result of outcrossing the Long Haired type with dogs from the Sub Pyrenean Region. Early records note that the Smooth Face variant was particularly valued by the horse traders and livestock dealers of the region as a drovers dog. The larger size and more upright stance and working gait would be valued for driving larger livestock on the very long journeys to market..



Formal recognition of the breed outside of this really began at the turn of the last century when during the 1914-18 war both variants were used by the French Army as a messenger dog where they excelled due to their speed and intelligence, although the very high losses took their toll on breed numbers. French Army records identify “**no other French breed has paid such a high ransom of blood as he**”.

Smooth Faced numbers in the Pyrenees have always been significantly smaller than the Long Haired variant. Current breed databases in Europe identify Smooth Faced numbers at about 15% in comparison to the long Haired type.

The Smooth Faced Pyrenean Sheepdog received formal recognition from the SCC (French Kennel Club) in 1937 (Long Haired recognised in 1926). FCI recognition for both variants was in 1955. More recently the Smooth Faced was formally recognised by our own KC in January of 2021. A breed standard has been agreed and from the 1st September 2021 the breed has been eligible to compete in the show ring. There is much to do to build up numbers of both variants but the PSD club of GB looks forward to the time when both variants will be seen in UK Pastoral Group Ring.

For more information contact:

The Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain

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