

headstrong so require a firm, experienced owner. Their protective nature coupled with great strength mean ongoing training and socialisation is vital.

Provided they are properly socialised from a young age and introduced correctly they get on well with children, other pets and livestock.

Although not bred for dog aggression they can be confrontational and are not likely to back down from a challenge so careful handling is required around other dogs.

This breed thrives on the company of its family and should not be left alone for long periods of time. Doing so could result in behavioural difficulties including destructiveness.

Exercise

The Cane Corso is an active, athletic breed requiring regular exercise. This is a dog that will enjoy accompanying its owner on long walks or activities such as cycling, jogging and horse-riding. If given sufficient exercise they are calm and quiet around the house.

Until at least 18 months of age running, jumping, going up and down stairs, playing rough and slippery floors should all be avoided to prevent damage to developing joints.

Health

The lifespan of a Cane Corso is around 10 or 11 years.

Due to having a brachycephalic (short-nosed) skull they can be sensitive to heat and anaesthetic.

As with any breed Corsos can be prone to particular health problems: -

- Hip dysplasia
- Elbow dysplasia
- Eye problems (e.g. cherry eye, ectropion and entropion)
- Cardiomyopathy
- Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus ('bloat')
- Epilepsy
- Thyroid conditions
- Demodectic mange

Choosing a reputable breeder is imperative, as they will try their best to avoid breeding an inherited condition by health testing and not using affected dogs.

Fun Facts

Corsos can have a tendency to drool, snore, shed hair and pass wind!

A Cane Corso featured in the 2010 movie From Paris with Love.

Celebrity owners: Vin Diesel (actor), Tracy Morgan (actor), LeBron James (basketball player), Patti LaBelle (singer and actress) and Laila Ali (former professional boxer and daughter of Muhammad Ali).

For more information please visit: -

British Cane Corso Society

www.canecorso.org.uk

Friends of Cane Corso Community

www.thefocc.com

Introduction to the **CANE CORSO**



History

The Cane Corso (pronounced kah-ney kor-soh) is a rare, ancient Italian molosser. It is also known as the Cane Corso Italiano, Italian Mastiff, Sicilian Branchiero or Cane di Macellaio.

The word 'mastiff' comes from the Latin 'massivus', meaning massive. 'Cane' is Italian and comes from the Latin Canis, meaning dog. There are a number of theories regarding the origin of the word 'Corso'.

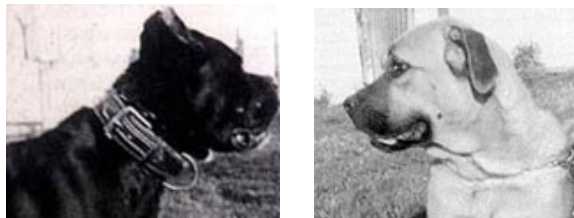
The Cane Corso is believed to share its ancestry with the Neapolitan Mastiff; both descending from the now extinct Roman Molosser 'Canis Pugnax' over 2,000 years ago. Whereas the Neo was bred to be massive and heavy the Corso is its lighter, more agile cousin.

They are a working dog and were originally used by the Romans for a number of reasons: -

- As war dogs
- As "gladiators" fighting bulls, bears, lions, dogs etc in the coliseums
- As butcher's dogs
- To hunt large game such as wild boar, wolf and bear
- For herding
- To guard flock, family and property from predators and thieves



Over the years numbers declined drastically to the point where the Corso faced extinction. However, in the 1970s and 1980s a small number of dedicated enthusiasts set out to save the breed and create a breed standard.



In 1994 the Cane Corso Italiano was accepted by the Italian Kennel Club ENCI (Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana) as the fourteenth Italian breed. In 1996 the Corso became a recognised breed of the FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale), which is an international federation of Kennel Clubs.

These days they are mainly kept as family pets or guard dogs and are believed to be "the only true coursing mastiff".

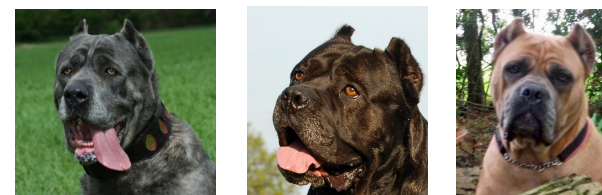
At present the Cane Corso Italiano is not recognised by the UK Kennel Club.

Appearance

The Corso is a medium to large breed being 24" to 27" high and weighing 40kg to 50kg. It is a muscular, powerful dog yet lean and athletic. The head is large with a deep, broad muzzle and strong jaw. Eyes are medium sized and almond shaped. Their alert expression is captivating. Ears are triangular, medium sized and drop forward (traditionally they would be cropped; however, this is illegal in the UK). The tail is fairly high set, thick at the base and should not be held curled or erect

(traditionally the tail would be docked but again this is illegal in the UK). The Corso has thick, close-fitting skin without excess wrinkle and a short, dense, glossy coat with a light undercoat.

There are two basic coat colours – black and fawn. Genetic dilution gives rise to blue (dilute black) and formentino (dilute fawn). Any of these colours can be brindled and small white patches are acceptable.



The CC has a long striding gait and moves in an extended trot.

Temperament

The Cane Corso is a loyal, reliable and stable dog devoted to its family. They are calm, gentle and affectionate but very protective due to a strong natural guarding instinct. The breed is aloof with strangers, vigilant and brave. They have a high pain tolerance.

The CC should not be over-protective or aggressive and should be able to tell the difference between friend and foe. The instinct to roam is low and they will stay within their boundary protecting family and home. They do not tend to bark excessively, only when needed.

Corsos are very intelligent, easily trained and eager to please but can be challenging and