

## **Turkish Boz Shepherd**

### **ARBA Breed Standard (AVKIF-Aligned)**

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#### **I. Breed Purpose**

The Turkish Boz Shepherd is a livestock guardian dog (LGD) developed in the rural regions of southern Türkiye. The breed is a functional landrace, shaped by environmental demands rather than exhibition selection.

This standard is aligned with AVKIF (Anadolu Çoban Köpekleri Federasyonu) principles, recognizing the Boz Shepherd as a traditional working dog whose value is defined by performance, soundness, and temperament.

Its primary purpose is the independent protection of livestock and property against predators. All aspects of temperament, structure, and movement must support this role.

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#### **II. Core Temperament & Intelligence**

The Boz Shepherd is defined by its independent intelligence and decision-making ability.

- Naturally evaluates situations and responds without handler direction
- Calm, observant, and environmentally aware
- Displays a “thinking” nature—stoic under normal conditions
- Responds with decisive speed, power, and commitment when a legitimate threat is identified

#### **Disposition:**

- Deeply bonded to livestock and family
- Exceptionally tolerant of children
- Naturally protective and wary of strangers
- Stable, steady, and clear-headed; not prone to nervousness, high strung, or hyper-reactive behavior

**A correct Boz demonstrates confidence, patience, and composure in its working environment.**

**Faults:**

- **Overly shy, fearful, or avoidant behavior**
  - **Nervous, anxious, or overly hyper-reactive temperament**
  - **Lack of environmental awareness or engagement**
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### **III. General Appearance & Size**

**A large, powerful, and athletic guardian of balanced proportions, slightly square to rectangular in outline.**

**The Boz must present as:**

- **Strong but not cumbersome**
- **Substantial but not coarse**
- **Athletic, agile, and capable of sustained work**

**Height:**

- **Males: 30–38+ inches (75–95+ cm)**
- **Females: 28–34+ inches (70–86+ cm)**

**Weight:**

- **110–190+ lbs (50–85+ kg)**

**Dogs must always be in working condition. Excess weight or lack of conditioning is a serious fault.**

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### **IV. Head, Muzzle & Expression**

**The head is a defining characteristic of the breed and must reflect strength, functionality, and traditional type consistent with AVKIF-aligned descriptions.**

**Skull:**

- **Large, broad, slightly domed**

- **Stop: slight to moderate**

**Head Type:**

- **Preferred is the traditional “satır” (cleaver-type) head profile, characterized by depth, strength, and a powerful, functional appearance**

**Muzzle:**

- **Strong, well-developed, maintaining fill beneath the eyes**
- **Clean and functional, allowing efficient breathing during exertion**

**Lips (Flews):**

- **Firm and well-developed**
- **Slight looseness acceptable**
- **Must not be excessively pendulous or interfere with working ability**

**Bite:**

- **Scissor bite preferred**
- **Level bite acceptable**

**Eyes:**

- **Medium size**
  - **Color ranges from light amber to dark brown**
  - **Expression: calm, intelligent, and alert**
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**V. Ears**

- **Both cropped and natural ears are acceptable**
  - **Natural ears: V-shaped and carried close to the head**
  - **Proper ear set should support an alert, balanced expression**
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**VI. Body & Structure**

**Frame:**

- **Deep, well-developed chest**
- **Strong, level topline**
- **Moderate tuck-up for agility and speed**

**Neck:**

- **Strong, muscular, and well set**

**Bone & Substance:**

- **Heavy bone without coarseness**
  - **Balanced musculature throughout**
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**VII. Tail**

- **Long, typically reaching the hock**
  - **Carried low when relaxed**
  - **May form a crescent, sickle, or loose curl when alert or in motion**
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**VIII. Coat & Color**

**Coat:**

- **Double coat, weather-resistant**
- **Adapts seasonally**
- **Lies close to the body**

**Color:**

**As a landrace breed, color is not a primary defining trait and follows AVKIF-aligned acceptance of natural variation.**

**Common:**

- **Fawn, cream, grey (often with black mask)**

**Permitted:**

- **Black**
- **White**

- **Red / apricot**
- **Brindle**
- **Pinto patterns**

**Selection must prioritize health, structure, and working ability over color.**

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## **IX. Movement**

**Movement must reflect a functional working guardian capable of both endurance and rapid response.**

- **Free, balanced, and efficient**
- **Capable of covering large distances with minimal fatigue**
- **Demonstrates agility, coordination, and readiness**

**The Boz Shepherd must possess the structural capability for a double suspension gallop, enabling explosive speed when responding to threats.**

**Faults:**

- **Clumsy, restricted, or inefficient movement**
  - **Any gait that limits working ability**
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## **X. Disqualifying Faults**

**Temperament:**

- **Extreme fearfulness or instability**
- **Unprovoked aggression toward humans**
- **Overly aggressive toward livestock**

**Structural / Physical:**

- **Lack of soundness (including weak pasterns, poor hips, or structural instability)**
- **Obesity or poor physical conditioning**
- **Excessively droopy lips interfering with function**
- **Any trait that compromises the dog's ability to perform as a livestock guardian**

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## **XI. Guiding Principle**

**The Turkish Boz Shepherd is a working landrace first and foremost, consistent with AVKIF principles.**

**Evaluation of the breed must prioritize:**

- 1. Temperament**
- 2. Functional ability**
- 3. Structural soundness**

**Over:**

- Cosmetic traits**
  - Size exaggeration**
  - Coat color preferences**
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