

What is a Catahoula Leopard Dog?

The Catahoula Leopard Dog is an excellent herder and all-purpose working dog.

By Allan Reznik

Q. Is there a breed called the "Catalooga Cow Dog?"

A. The breed you are thinking of is the Catahoula Leopard Dog, an excellent herder and all-purpose working dog. The breed's name comes from the Parish of Catahoula, a county in northeastern Louisiana. In 1979, the Catahoula was declared the state dog of Louisiana.

The Catahoula stands about 20 to 26 inches at the shoulder, weighs 40 to 50 pounds, and has a short, dense coat. The breed comes in a variety of solid-colored and mottled, merled coat colors. Some have glass blue eyes, which give the dogs a particularly haunting expression.