

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Keeshond (Utility Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Short, compact body, confident carriage. Fox like head with small pointed ears, alert expression, large ruff, well feathered tail curled over back. Clear differentiation in size between the sexes, with males obviously masculine but never coarse: bitches feminine but without weakness of structure.

CHARACTERISTICS

Sturdy, intelligent and adaptable, ideal companion, good watchdog.

TEMPERAMENT

Confident, alert and friendly. Always ready to raise the alarm.

HEAD & SKULL

Well proportioned, wedge shaped when seen from above; from side showing definite stop. Dark muzzle equal to length of flat skull. Neither coarse nor snipey. Nose black.

EYES

Dark, medium size, almond shaped, obliquely set. Well defined 'spectacles' shown as a delicately pencilled black line slanting from outer corner of eye to lower corner of ear, coupled with distinct marking and shading forming expressive short eyebrows.

EARS

Dark, small ivy leafed in shape. Erect, velvety texture. Well set on head, neither too wide nor meeting.

MOUTH

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Lips black.

NECK

Moderately long and arched, covered with thick, profuse coat forming large ruff.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders well sloped. Straight front of medium width with good bone.

BODY

Short, compact; length from withers to tail equal to height at withers, well sprung in rib. Good depth of brisket.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong muscled, hindlegs straight when viewed from behind. Hock showing slight angulation when viewed from side, profuse light coloured trousers down to hocks.

FEET

Well padded, round, cat-like, tight, cream in colour; black nails.

TAIL

Moderately long, high set, tightly curled over back, double curl highly desirable.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Clean, brisk, straight and sharp.

COAT

Harsh, off standing, straight. Dense ruff, well feathered on forelegs and profuse trousers, not feathered below hock. Soft, thick, light coloured (not tawny) undercoat. Never silky, wavy or woolly, nor forming a parting on back. Any shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline should be penalised, with the exception of feet and pasterns which may be lightly trimmed.

COLOUR

A mixture of grey and black. Undercoat very pale grey or cream (not tawny). All shades of grey acceptable, body hairs black tipped. Shoulder markings well defined and all markings definite. Forelegs and hocks cream with no black below wrist or hock. Pencilling acceptable.

Pencilling acceptable.

SIZE: Ideal height: Dogs: 46cm (18 in) bitches: 43cm (17 in)

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE:

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



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