

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Old English Sheepdog (Herding 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

Strong, square-looking dog with great symmetry and overall soundness. Absolutely free from leginess, profusely coated all over. A thick-set muscular, able-bodied dog with a most intelligent expression. The natural outline should not be artificially changed by scissoring or clipping.

CHARACTERISTICS

Of great stamina, exhibiting a gently rising topline, and a pear-shaped body when viewed from above. The gait has a typical roll when ambling or walking. Bark has a distinctive toned quality.

TEMPERAMENT

A biddable dog of even disposition. Bold, faithful and trustworthy, with no suggestion of nervousness or unprovoked aggression.

HEAD AND SKULL

In proportion to the size of the body. Skull capacious, rather square. Well arched above eyes, stop well defined. Muzzle strong, square and truncated, measuring approximately half of the total head length. Nose large and black. Nostrils wide.

EYES

Set well apart. Dark or wall eyes. Two blue eyes acceptable. Light eyes undesirable. Pigmentation on the eye rim is preferred.

EARS

Small and carried flat to side of head.

MOUTH

Teeth strong, large and evenly placed. Scissor bite - jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Pincer tolerated but undesirable.

NECK

Fairly long, strong, arched gracefully.

FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs perfectly straight, with plenty of bone, holding body well from ground. Elbows fitting close to brisket. Shoulders should be well laid back, being narrower at the point of withers than at the point of shoulder. Loaded shoulders undesirable. Dog standing lower at withers than loin.

BODY

Rather short and compact, with well sprung ribs and deep capacious brisket.

HINDQUARTERS

Loin very sturdy, broad and gently arched, quarters well covered, round and muscular, the second thigh is long and well developed, the stifle well turned but not exaggerated, and the hocks set low. When viewed from behind, the rear pasterns should be parallel, with the feet turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Small, round and tight, toes well arched; pads thick and hard.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked or natural bobtail.

Docked: Customarily completely docked.

Undocked: Natural carriage. Well feathered with abundant, hard-textured coat.

[*refer note below]

GAIT/MOVEMENT

When walking, exhibits a bear-like roll from the rear. When trotting, shows effortless extension and strong driving rear action, with legs moving straight along line of travel. Very elastic at the gallop. At slow speeds, some dogs may tend to pace. When moving the head carriage may adopt a naturally lower position.

COAT

Of good harsh texture, not straight but shaggy and free from curl. Undercoat of waterproof pile. Head and skull well covered with hair, ears moderately coated, neck well coated, forelegs well coated all round, hindquarters more heavily coated than rest of body. Quality, texture, and profusion to be considered above length and profusion.

COLOUR

Any shade of grey, grizzle or blue. Body and hindquarters of solid colour, with or without white socks. White patches in the solid area to be discouraged. Head, neck, forequarters and under belly to be white with or without markings. Any shade of brown undesirable.

SIZE:

Height: Dogs: 61cm (24in) and upwards Bitches: 56cm (22in) and upwards.

Type and symmetry of greatest importance and, on no account, to be sacrificed to size alone.

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.

***Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked, or natural. Under no circumstances are judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked, or natural tails and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.** (Fedco 12/2017 Amended DR/Feb 2018)



Copyright Kennel Club, London 10.2009 3.94. Reprinted with permission.

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

FCI Standard No 16 (Grp 1)

08.06.04

Fedco 05-2011/mb/updated 16.08.2011 04.12.2016

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01.02.2017

[Click here to download the PDF version of the official KUSA breed standard.](#)

Download