

CHINESE CRESTED

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

China. (Patronage: Great Britain)

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 288]

The Chinese Crested Dog comes in two varieties - the Hairless and the Powder Puff. The Hairless have a crest of hair on their head extending part way down their neck, socks covering their toes, and a plume on their tail.

The rest of their body is, as their name implies, hairless. The Powder Puff variety is covered entirely with a veil of long, soft hair. While it is difficult to pinpoint their origin, it is said that they were owned by families of the Han Dynasty of China. Chinese Cresteds were developed at this time as guardians of the treasure houses and, in a larger, heavier form, as hunting dogs. They were seen at shows in America from 1885 to 1926 but then were rarely ever seen for some fifty years.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

A small, active, and graceful dog; medium- to fine-boned, smooth, hairless body, with hair on feet, head, and tail only; or covered with a soft veil of hair.

CHARACTERISTICS

Two distinct types of this breed:

Deer type: racy and fine boned.

Cobby type: heavier in body and bone.

TEMPERAMENT

Happy, never vicious.

HEAD

Slightly rounded and elongated skull. Cheeks cleanly chiselled, lean, and flat, tapering into muzzle. Stop slightly pronounced but not extreme. Head smooth, without excess wrinkles. Distance from base of skull to stop equal to distance from stop to tip of nose. Muzzle tapering slightly but never pointed, lean without flews. Nose a prominent feature, narrow, in keeping with muzzle. Nose any colour. Head presenting graceful appearance, with alert expression. Lips tight and thin. An ideal crest begins at the stop and tapers off down neck. Long and flowing crest preferred, but sparse acceptable.

Eyes:

So dark as to appear black. Little or no white showing. Medium-sized, almond in shape. Set wide apart.

Ears:

Set low: highest point of base of ear level with outside corner of eye. Large and erect, with or without fringe, except in Powder Puffs, where drop ears are permissible.

Mouth:

Jaws strong, with perfect, regular, scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. The hairless variety will have the primitive trait of forward pointing canines and should not be penalised for absence of full dentition.

NECK

Lean, free from throatiness, long and sloping gracefully into strong shoulders. When moving, carried high and slightly arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders clean, narrow, and well laid back. Legs long and slender, set well under body. Elbows held close to body. Pasterns fine, strong, nearly vertical. Toes turned neither in nor out.

BODY

Medium to long. Supple. Chest rather broad and deep, not barrel-ribbed. Breast bone not prominent. Brisket extending to elbows; moderate tuck-up.

HINDQUARTERS

Rump well-rounded and muscular, loins taut, stifles firm and long, sweeping smoothly into the well let down hocks. Angulation of the rear limbs must be such as to produce a level back. Hind legs set wide apart.

FEET

Extended hare-foot, narrow, and long. Nails any colour, moderately long. Socks ideally confined to toes, but not extending above top of pastern. Feet turning neither in nor out.

TAIL

Set high, carried up or out when in motion. Long and tapering, fairly straight, not curled or twisted to either side, falling naturally when at rest. Plume long and flowing, confined to lower two-thirds of tail. Sparse plume acceptable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Long, flowing, and elegant with good reach and plenty of drive.

COAT

No large patches of hair anywhere on body. Skin fine-grained, smooth, warm to the touch. In Powder Puffs coat consists of an undercoat with soft veil of long hair, veil coat is a feature.

COLOUR

- Any colour or combination of colours, except merle, which is unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 28cm – 33cm (approx. 11" – 13").

Females: 23cm – 30cm (approx. 9" – 12").

Weight:

Varies considerably, but should not be over 5.4kg

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 upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 288: CHINESE CRESTED DOG

