

GERMAN SHORT-HAIRED POINTER

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 has an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Versatile hunting dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 119]:

The history of the German Short-haired Pointing Dog starts with the dogs that were used for the hunt with nets on feathered game, especially in the Mediterranean countries, and in combination with falconry. Via France, Spain, and Flanders, the Pointers came to the German courts. The most important distinctive feature of these dogs was their pointing performance. After the first double-barrelled gun was made (1750), a pointing dog was even more required. In full sight of the dog, game birds

in flight were shot. That was the beginning of the transition from a mere Pointer to a versatile Gundog. As a fundamental basis for the structure and development of the breed, the "Zuchtbuch Deutsch-Kurzhaar" (Studbook) has been published since 1897. It was Prince Albrecht zu Solms-Braunfeld, who compiled breed characteristics, judging rules for conformation, and finally also simple trial regulations for hunting dogs. Today the German Short-haired Pointing Dog still passes through the filter of elaborated breeding- and trial regulations. The standard stipulates the constitution of the German Short-haired Pointing Dog as a versatile hunting dog, which enables him to perform all requirements in connection with hunting activities, even when advanced in age.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Noble, steady dog showing power, endurance, and speed, giving the immediate impression of an alert and energetic dog, whose movements are well-coordinated. Of medium size, with a short back standing over plenty of ground. Grace of outline; clean-cut head; long, sloping shoulders; deep chest; short back; powerful hindquarters; good bone composition; adequate muscle; well-carried tail and taut coat.

CHARACTERISTICS

Dual purpose Pointer / Retriever, very keen nose, perseverance in searching, and initiative in game finding, excellence in field; a naturally keen worker, equally good on land and water.

TEMPERAMENT

Gentle, affectionate, and even-tempered. Alert, biddable, and very loyal.

HEAD & SKULL

Clean-cut, neither too light nor too heavy, well-proportioned to body. Skull sufficiently broad and slightly round. Nasal bone rising gradually from nose to forehead (this more pronounced in dogs) and never possessing a definite stop, but when viewed from side, a well-defined stop effect due to position of eyebrows. Lips falling away almost vertically from somewhat protruding nose and continuing in a slight curve to corner of mouth. Lips well-developed, not over-hung. Jaws powerful and sufficiently long to enable the dog to pick up and carry game. Dish-faced and snipey muzzle undesirable. Nose solid brown or black depending on coat colour. Wide nostrils, well-opened, and soft.

Eyes:

Medium size, soft, and intelligent, neither protruding nor too deep-set. Varying in shades of brown to tone with coat. Light eye undesirable. Eyelids should close properly.

Ears:

Broad and set high; neither too fleshy nor too thin, with a short, soft coat; hung close to head, no pronounced fold, rounded at tip and reaching almost to corner of mouth when brought forward.

Mouth:

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

NECK

Moderately long, muscular, and slightly arched; thickening towards shoulders. Skin not fitting too loosely.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder sloping and very muscular, top of the shoulder blades close; upper arm bones, between shoulder and elbow, long. Elbows well laid back, neither pointing outwards nor inwards. Forelegs straight and lean, sufficiently muscular and strong, but not coarse-boned. Pasterns slightly sloping.

BODY

Chest must appear deep rather than wide but in proportion to rest of body; ribs deep and well-sprung, never barrel-shaped nor flat; back ribs reaching well down to tucked-up loins. Chest measurement immediately behind elbows smaller than about a hand's breadth behind elbows, so that upper arm has freedom of movement. Firm, short back, not arched. Loin wide and slightly arched; croup wide and sufficiently long, neither too heavy nor too sloping, starting on a level with back and sloping gradually towards tail. Bones solid and strong. Skin should not fit loosely or fold.

HINDQUARTERS

Hips broad and wide, falling slightly towards tail. Thighs strong and well-muscled. Stifles well-bent. Hocks square with body and slightly bent, turning neither in nor out. Pasterns nearly upright.

FEET

Compact, close-knit, round to spoon-shaped, well-padded, turning neither in nor out. Toes well-arched with strong nails.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Starts high and thick, growing gradually thinner, customarily docked to medium length by two-fifths to half its length. When quiet, tail carried down; when moving, horizontally; never held high over back or bent.

Undocked: Moderately long, not reaching below hocks. Strong at root, becoming gradually thinner. Carried horizontally or just below line of back.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smooth, lithe gait essential. As gait increases from walk to a faster speed, legs converge beneath body (single tracking). Forelegs reach well ahead, effortlessly covering plenty of ground with each stride and followed by hind legs, which give forceful propulsion.

COAT

Short, flat, and coarse to touch; slightly longer under tail.

COLOUR

- Solid liver, liver and white spotted, liver and white spotted and ticked, liver and white ticked.
- Solid black or black and white, same variations

* Not tri-colour. Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: minimum: 58cm (approx. 23"); maximum: 64cm (approx. 25")

Females: minimum: 53cm (approx. 21"); maximum: 59cm (approx. 23")

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally

and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

***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.**

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. 119: DEUTSCH KURZHAAR (GERMAN SHORT-HAIRED POINTER)

FCI Classification: Group 7 - Pointing Dogs.

Section 1.1. – Continental Pointing Dogs – Braque type.

With working trial.