

JAPANESE CHIN

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

Japan. (Patronage: Great Britain)

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 206]

According to ancient documents, it is assumed that the ancestors of the Chin were presented as gifts from the rulers of Korea, during the Silla Dynasty (age 377–935), to the Japanese court. For a successive 100 years, there appears to have been a large number of Chins coming into Japan. Historical records also indicate that envoys sent to China, during the Tung Dynasty (age 618–910), and North Korea, during the Po H'ai

Dynasty (age 698–926), brought back dogs of this breed directly. During the reign of the Shogunate Tsunayoshi Tokugawa (1680–1709) the breed was raised as an indoor Toy dog in the Castle of Edo. In 1613 a British Captain named Searles, brought a Chin to England and, in 1853, Commodore Perry, from the USA, brought several to the USA, of which two were presented to Queen Victoria of England. Since 1868, the Chin has been favoured as a lapdog by ladies of the upper classes, and currently is being widely spread as a companion dog.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Elegant and aristocratic, smart, compact, with profuse coat.

CHARACTERISTICS

Intelligent, happy, lively little dog that has a look of astonishment, peculiar to this breed.

TEMPERAMENT

Gay, happy, gentle, and good-natured.

HEAD

Fairly large in proportion to size of dog, moderately broad skull, rounded in front, and between ears, but never domed. Nose large with open nostrils, black, except in red-and-whites, where the colour can be appropriate to markings. Muzzle short, wide, well-cushioned, i.e. upper lips rounded on each side of nostrils, jaws level.

Eyes:

Moderately large, dark, set far apart. Size should be in proportion to size of skull. Small amount of white shows in the inner corners, giving characteristic look of astonishment. Eyes should be forward facing, not set on side of head.

Ears:

Small, set wide apart, high on head, carried slightly forward, V-shaped, well-feathered.

Mouth:

Bite preferably level or slightly undershot; wry mouth or tongue showing highly undesirable.

NECK

Moderate length, carried proudly.

FOREQUARTERS

Legs straight with strong, fine bone, giving slender appearance, well-feathered down to the feet.

BODY

Square and compactly built, wide in chest, 'cobby'. Length of body equal to height at withers.

HINDQUARTERS

Straight, viewed from behind, good turn of stifle, profusely feathered from the back of thighs.

FEET

Slender, hare-footed, feathered at tips, pointing neither in nor out.

TAIL

Set high on level back, profusely feathered, closely curved or plumed over back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Stylish, straight in movement, with good reach and elevation when in motion; no plaiting, and showing no weakness in hind movement.

COAT

Profuse, long, soft, straight, of silky texture. Absolutely free from curl or wave, not too flat, having a tendency to stand out especially at frill of neck.

COLOUR

- Black-and-white or red-and-white.
- * Never tri-colour.
- * Red includes all shades of sable, lemon, or orange. The brighter and clearer the red the better.
- * Colour evenly distributed on cheeks and ears and as patches on body.
- * White should be clear, not flecked.
- * Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Weight:

1.8kg – 3.2kg.

Daintier the better, providing type, quality, and soundness are not sacrificed.

***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.*

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. 206: CHIN (JAPANESE CHIN)

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 8.2. Japan Chin and Pekingese
Without working trial.