

PEKINGESE

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.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. for interest – from Wikipedia: The Pekingese]:

The breed emerged in China from several kinds of small dog owned by aristocratic families. Unlike the others, it could only be owned by members of the Chinese Imperial Palace. Its name refers to the city of Peking (Beijing) where the Forbidden City is located. During the Second Opium War, in 1860, the Old Summer Palace in Beijing was sacked and set ablaze by a combined Anglo-French expeditionary force. A British soldier, Captain John Hart Dunne, came across a lone Pekingese, which he brought back to England and presented to Queen Victoria, who named it Looty. Around the turn of the century, Pekingese dogs became popular in Western countries and favoured as fashionable dogs to own. In recent years, their popularity has declined, eclipsed by similar small breeds.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, well-balanced, moderately thick-set with great dignity and quality. Any signs of respiratory distress, for any reason, or inability to move soundly, are unacceptable and should be heavily penalised. Not excessively coated.

CHARACTERISTICS

Leonine in appearance. Alert and intelligent expression.

TEMPERAMENT

Fearless, loyal, aloof, not timid or aggressive.

HEAD

Head fairly large, proportionately wider than deep. Skull moderately broad, wide, and flat between ears, not domed, wide between eyes. Nose not too short, broad, nostrils large and open. A slight wrinkle, preferably broken, may extend from the cheeks to the bridge of the nose in a wide inverted 'v'. This must never adversely affect or obscure eyes or nose. Pinched nostrils and heavy over-nose wrinkles are unacceptable and should be heavily penalised. Muzzle must be evident, but may be relatively short and wide. Firm underjaw. Lips not obscuring a well-defined chin. Defined stop. Black pigment essential on nose, lips, and eye-rims.

Eyes:

Clear, round, dark, lustrous and not too large. Free from obvious eye problems.

Ears:

Leathers heart-shaped, set level with the skull, carried close to the head, and not coming below line of muzzle. Long profuse feathering.

Mouth:

Level lips. Must not show teeth or tongue. Firm underjaw essential.

NECK

Relatively short and thick.

FOREQUARTERS

Relatively short, thick, heavily boned forelegs. Bones of forelegs may be slightly bowed between pasterns and elbows, accommodating ribs. Elbows should be close to the body. Shoulders laid back and fitting smoothly into the body. Standing well up on feet, not down on pasterns, which should be strong and not too close together. Absolute soundness essential.

BODY

Relatively short. Distinct waist. Broad chest and well-sprung ribs slung between forelegs. Level topline.

HINDQUARTERS

Hind legs strong and well-muscled but moderately lighter than forequarters. Excessively narrow hindquarters highly undesirable. Moderate angulation. Well-defined stifles. Firm, low hocks. Strong rear pasterns, parallel when viewed from the rear. Absolute soundness essential.

FEET

Large and flat, not round. Front feet may be slightly turned out. Excessively turned-out feet highly undesirable. Hind feet point straight ahead.

TAIL

Set high, carried tightly, slightly curved over back to either side. Long feathering.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Typically slow, dignified, rolling gait in front. Typical movement must not be confused with a roll caused by slackness of shoulders or with other indications of unsoundness. Any slackness of shoulders and elbows, and any indication of unsoundness in feet and pasterns unacceptable. Movement hindered by excessive body coat unacceptable.

COAT

Moderately long, straight, with mane, not extending beyond shoulders, forming a cape around neck. Top coat coarse with thick, softer undercoat. Feathering on ears, back of legs, tail, and toes. Length and volume of coat should neither impair the activity of the dog nor obscure the shapeliness of body. Excessive coat highly undesirable.

COLOUR

- All colours and markings are permissible and of equal merit.
- Parti-colours evenly broken.

* Albino, liver or merle unacceptable.

SIZE

Weight:

Males: not exceeding: 5kg.

Females: not exceeding: 5.4kg.

Dogs should look small but be surprisingly heavy when picked up; heavy bone and a sturdy well-built body are essentials of the breed.

***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. 207: PEKINGESE

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 8.1. Japan Chin and Pekingese

Without working trial.