

PUG

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. 253]

A certain amount of speculation has taken place regarding the origin of this breed, which would seem to have come from the Orient. His home country is listed as China, where snub-nosed dogs have always been in favour. He found his way to Europe with traders of the Dutch East India Company and, as far back as the 1500s, was being admired in the Netherlands. In fact, the Pug became the symbol for the royal patriots. The Pug arrived in England when William III came to the throne. Until 1877, the breed was seen only in fawn, but in that year a black pair was introduced from the Orient.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Decidedly square and cobby, it is "multum in parvo" [ed. a great deal in a small space] shown in compactness of form, well-knit proportions, and hardness of muscle, but never to appear either low on legs or leggy.

CHARACTERISTICS

Great charm, dignity, and intelligence.

TEMPERAMENT

Even tempered, happy, and lively disposition.

HEAD

Head relatively large and in proportion to body, round, not apple-headed, with no indentation of skull. Muzzle relatively short, blunt, square, not up-faced. Nose black, fairly large, with well-open nostrils. Wrinkles on forehead clearly defined without exaggeration. Eyes or nose never adversely affected or obscured by over-nose wrinkle. Pinched nostrils and heavy over-nose wrinkle is unacceptable and should be heavily penalised.

Eyes:

Dark, relatively large, round in shape, soft and solicitous in expression, very lustrous, and when excited, full of fire. Never protruding, exaggerated, or showing white when looking straight ahead. Free from obvious eye problems.

Ears:

Thin, small, soft like black velvet.

Two kinds: 'button ear' – ear flap folding forward, tip lying close to skull to cover opening
'rose ear' – small drop ear that folds over and back to reveal the burr.

Mouth:

Slightly undershot. Wide lower jaw with incisors almost in a straight line. Wry mouths, teeth or tongue

showing all highly undesirable and should be heavily penalised.

NECK

Slightly arched to resemble a crest, strong, thick, with enough length to carry head proudly.

FOREQUARTERS

Legs very strong, straight, of moderate length, and well under body. Shoulders well-sloped.

BODY

Short and cobby, broad in chest. Ribs well-sprung and carried well back. Topline level, neither roached nor dipping. Should be hard of muscle. Substance must not be confused with obesity, which is unacceptable.

HINDQUARTERS

Legs very strong, of moderate length, with good turn of stifle, well under body, straight and parallel when viewed from rear.

FEET

Neither so long as the foot of the hare, nor so round as that of the cat; well-split toes; the nails black.

TAIL

High-set, tightly curled over hip. Double curl highly desirable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Viewed from in front, should rise and fall with legs well under shoulder, feet keeping directly to front, not turning in or out. From behind action just as true. Using forelegs strongly putting them well forward with hind legs moving freely, and using stifles well. A slight unexaggerated roll of hindquarters typifies gait. Capable of purposeful and steady movement.

COAT

Fine, smooth, soft, short, and glossy, neither harsh, off-standing, nor woolly. Any stripping or trimming of the coat that alters the length, texture, or outline should be penalised.

COLOUR

- Silver, apricot, fawn, or black.
- * Each clearly defined, to make contrast complete between colour, the trace (black line extending from occiput to tail), and mask.
- * Markings clearly defined: muzzle or mask, ears, moles on cheeks, thumb mark or diamond on forehead, and trace as black as possible.
- * Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Weight:

6.3kg – 8.1kg.

***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. 253: PUG

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 11.1. Small Molossian-type dogs

Without working trial.