

BICHON FRISÉ

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2017

ORIGIN

Franco-Belgian. (Patronage: France and Belgium)

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 215]

The Bichon Frisé was brought to France from Italy during the Renaissance. As it looked like a very small Barbet, it was given the name of “barbichon”, which was then shortened to “bichon”. In the 17th and 18th centuries, many renowned painters depicted these little dogs that accompanied kings, nobles, and other noteworthy persons. The breed came back into fashion under Napoléon III, and it was known at that time as the “Ténériffe”.

It was then popularised, becoming well-liked in both Belgium and France. It almost disappeared after the two world wars. It is thanks to the passion of a few French and Belgian breeders, that a population was able to be reconstituted. The first dog, registered in Belgium, was “Pitou”, born on 23 March 1924, and was registered in the Belgian studbook (LOSH) in 1932. N°. 1 in the French studbook (LOF) was attributed to Ida, a female Bichon Frisé on 18 October 1934. The current French name, “Bichon à poil frisé” was given in 1978 and was recognised as a Franco-Belgian breed.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced dog of smart appearance, closely coated, with handsome plume carried over the back. Natural white coat curling loosely. Head carriage proud and high.

CHARACTERISTICS

Gay, happy, lively little dog.

TEMPERAMENT

Friendly and outgoing.

HEAD

Ratio of muzzle length to skull length 3 : 5. On a head of the correct width and length, lines drawn between the outer corners of the eyes and nose will create a near equilateral triangle. Whole head in balance with body. Muzzle not thick, heavy, nor snipey. Cheeks flat, not very strongly muscled. Stop moderate but definite, hollow between eyebrows just visible. Skull slightly rounded, not coarse, with hair accentuating rounded appearance. Nose large, round, black, soft, and shiny.

Eyes:

Dark, round, with black eye rims, surrounded by dark haloes, consisting of well-pigmented skin. Forward-looking, fairly large but not almond-shaped, neither obliquely set nor protruding. Showing no white when looking forward. Alert, full of expression.

Ears:

Hanging close to head, well-covered with flowing hair longer than leathers, set on slightly higher than eye level and rather forward on skull. Carried forward when dog is alert, forward edge touching skull. Leather reaching approximately half-way along muzzle.

Mouth:

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Full dentition desirable. Lips fine, fairly tight, and completely black.

NECK

Arched neck fairly long, about one-third the length of body. Carried high and proudly. Round and slim near head, gradually broadening to fit smoothly into shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders oblique, not prominent, equal in length to upper arm. Upper arm fits close to body. Legs straight, perpendicular, when seen from front; not too finely boned. Pasterns short and straight, viewed from front, very slightly sloping, as viewed from side.

BODY

Forechest well-developed; deep brisket. Ribs well-sprung, floating ribs not terminating abruptly. Loin broad, well-muscled, slightly arched and well tucked up. Pelvis broad, croup slightly rounded. Length from withers to tail-set should equal height from withers to ground.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs broad and well-rounded. Stifles well-bent; hocks well-angulated and metatarsals perpendicular.

FEET

Tight, rounded, and well-knuckled up. Pads black. Nails preferably black.

TAIL

Normally carried raised and curved gracefully over the back but not tightly curled. Never docked. Carried in line with backbone, only hair touching back; tail itself not in contact. Set on level with topline, neither too high nor too low. Corkscrew tail undesirable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Balanced and effortless with an easy reach and drive, maintaining a steady and level topline. Legs moving straight along line of travel, with hind pads showing.

COAT

Fine, silky, with soft corkscrew curls, neither flat nor corded, and measuring 7cm – 10cm (approx. 3" – 4") in length. The dog may be presented trimmed or untrimmed.

COLOUR

- White, but cream or apricot markings acceptable up to 18 months.
- * Under white coat, dark pigment desirable.
- * Black, blue, or beige markings often found on skin.

SIZE

Height at withers:

23cm – 28cm (approx. 9" – 11").

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. 215: BICHON FRISÉ

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 1.1. Bichons and related breeds

Without working trial.