

POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG

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 has an effective date of 01/02/2021

ORIGIN

Poland.

UTILISATION

Easy to handle, he works like a sheepdog and guard dog. Moved to urban city life, he is a very good companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Polish Lowland Sheepdog]:

Known in its present form in Poland from at least the 13th century, the Polish Lowland Sheepdog, commonly referred to as the PON, is most likely descended from the Puli, Tibetan Terrier and other herding dogs. Legend has it that the PON was part-ancestor of the Bearded Collie.

Almost driven to extinction in World War II, the PON was restored, mainly through the work of Dr. Danuta Hryniewicz and her dog, "Smok" ("Dragon"), the ancestor of all PONs in the world today, who sired the first ten litters of PONs in the 1950s. In fact, Dr. Hryniewicz considered Smok to be the epitome of the breed, with a perfect anatomical build and a wonderful temperament. Smok set the standard and type that was emulated by PON breeders for generations to come, and from which the first official standard for the PON was finally written, and accepted by the FCI in 1959. He is considered to be the 'father' of the modern Polish Lowland Sheepdog. His moderate build lends itself to working effortlessly all day long, running with ease to herd the sheep.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium size, cobby, strong, muscular, fairly long, thick coat.

CHARACTERISTICS

Lively but self-controlled, watchful, bright, clever, perceptive, with excellent memory. Easy to train, works as a herding and watch dog.

TEMPERAMENT

Alert, equable.

HEAD & SKULL

Medium size, proportionate to body, not too heavy, carried moderately low. Profuse hair on forehead, cheeks and chin make head appear larger than it is. Proportions of occiput to stop and stop to nose approximately equal, but muzzle may be fractionally shorter. Skull moderately broad, slightly domed, furrow from stop to occiput apparent when handled. Well-defined stop. Nose blunt, wide-opened nostrils, colour dark as possible.

Eyes:

Medium size; lively, penetrating gaze; oval-shaped. Colour hazel to brown. Eye-rims as dark as possible, closely fitting and showing no haw.

Ears:

Medium size, heart-shaped, large at base and set moderately high, drooping with fore edge close to cheeks.

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. Strong and evenly placed teeth. Lips tightly closed and as dark as possible.

NECK

Strong, muscular, medium length without dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well-placed with good layback; muscular. Legs when viewed from front or side, straight with slightly slanting pastern.

BODY

Rectangular rather than square when viewed from side. Deep brisket with moderate spring of rib, neither flat nor barrel shaped. Withers distinctly marked; back level, muscular, with broad loin. Belly slightly drawn up. Croup short and slightly sloping. Proportions: height to length as 9:10.

HINDQUARTERS

Well-angulated, with broad and well-muscled thigh. From behind, legs straight, turning neither in nor out. Hocks strong and distinctly angled.

FEET

Oval, slightly arched but tightly fitting toes, with hard pads, nails dark.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Previously customarily docked if not born tailless or stumpy.

Undocked: Any length acceptable, longer tails well covered with hair. Tail-set is a continuation of croup. Carried high and slightly curved over back when alert. Never curled over back. At rest, tail hangs low.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smooth walking or trotting. Inclined to amble.

COAT

Whole body covered with long dense, shaggy thick coat of harsh texture with soft undercoat, but never impeding the dog's movement/action. Long/profuse hair on head, falling forward over the eyes in a characteristic manner, but not impeding the dog's vision. Slight wave permissible. No loose skin anywhere on body. No evidence of coat trimming to enhance or change the natural outline of the dog.

COLOUR

- All colours other than merle acceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 45cm – 50cm (approx. 17½ – 19½")

Females: 42cm – 47cm (approx. 16½" – 18½")

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.

***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.**

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.



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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No 251: POLSKI OWCZAREK NIZINNY (POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG)

FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial.