

## RETRIEVER (CURLY-COATED)

*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 31/03/2016

### ORIGIN

Great Britain.

### UTILISATION

Retriever.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

*[ed. For interest, from AKC website: the Curly-Coated Retriever]:*

The ancestry of the "Curly" is unknown, but it is one of the oldest Retriever breeds, likely having being the first breed used for serious retrieving work. Originally developed in England, and being a long-time favourite of English gamekeepers, he was popular on the large estates. British artwork from 300 years ago features this distinctive dog, and written accounts go back to 1803. He has been purebred since the early 1900s, so records of his lineage don't exist before this. However, it is likely that some of the breeds in his background include the Poodle, the Newfoundland, and the Irish Water Spaniel, as well as some extinct breeds. The popularity of the Curly-Coated Retriever has waxed and waned over the years and, during both world wars, the population dramatically declined. Today, the breed is limited in numbers, with its popularity having been overthrown by the Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever.



*Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library*

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Strong, upstanding dog with a degree of elegance. Distinctive coat.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Intelligent, steady, reliable.

### TEMPERAMENT

Bold, friendly, self-confident, and independent. May seem aloof.

### HEAD & SKULL

Head wedge-shaped in both side and front profiles. In proportion to body size. Slight stop. Foreface and skull equal length. Planes of skull and muzzle parallel. Nose black in blacks and brown in livers.

#### Eyes:

Large, not prominent, oval-shaped, obliquely set. Dark brown in blacks, in livers brown tone to blend with coat colour.

#### Ears:

Rather small, set slightly above level of eye; lying close to head, covered with small curls.

#### 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.

### NECK

Strong and slightly arched, of medium length, free from throatiness and flowing freely into well laid back shoulders.

### FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well laid back and muscular. Upper arm and shoulder blade approximately equal length. Forelegs straight with strong pasterns and set well under body.

## BODY

Chest deep with well-sprung ribs, oval in cross section with brisket reaching elbow. Forechest visible. Ribs extend well back into short, deep and powerful loin. Slight tuck-up to flank. Topline strong and level. The dog should be slightly longer in body measured from point of shoulder to buttock than in height from withers to ground.

## HINDQUARTERS

Strong, muscular. Moderate turn of stifle. Hocks well let down and well-bent.

## FEET

Round, tight, with well-arched toes.

## TAIL

Flows from topline. Should reach approximately to hock; carried straight on a level with topline when moving.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Effortless, powerful gait with good extension and drive. Parallel movement. At speed, legs tend to converge.

## COAT

Body coat a thick mass of small tight, crisp curls lying close to skin, extending from occiput to tip of tail; without undercoat or bare patches. Elsewhere hair smooth.

## COLOUR

- Black or liver.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 69cm (approx. 27")

**Females:** 69cm (approx. 27")

*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. 110: CURLY-COATED RETRIEVER**

**FCI Classification: Group 8 – Retrievers, Flushing Dogs, Water Dogs**

Section 1 - Retrievers

With working trial.