

RETRIEVER (FLAT-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

Gundog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Flat-Coated Retriever]:

Originating in the mid-19th century in England, the Flat-Coated Retriever gained popularity as a gamekeeper's dog. Part of its ancestry is thought to have come from stock imported from North America from the, now extinct, St. John's water dog, but this is unverified. Canadian seafarers are thought to have brought

Newfoundlands to British ports, and they factored into the ancestry of the Flat-Coated Retriever. Collie-type dogs may have been added to increase the breed's trainability along with the Newfoundland for strength and Setter blood for enhanced scenting ability. The first examples of the breed were introduced around 1860, but the final type was only established 20 years later.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A bright, active dog of medium size with an intelligent expression, showing power without lumber, and raciness without weediness.

CHARACTERISTICS

Generously endowed with natural Gundog ability, optimism, and friendliness demonstrated by enthusiastic tail action.

TEMPERAMENT

Confident and kindly.

HEAD & SKULL

Head, long, and nicely moulded. Skull, flat, and moderately broad with a slight stop between eyes, in no way accentuated, avoiding a down or dish-faced appearance. Nose of good size, with open nostrils. Jaws long and strong, capable of carrying a hare or pheasant.

Eyes:

Medium size, dark brown or hazel, with a very intelligent expression (a round prominent eye highly undesirable). Not obliquely placed.

Ears:

Small and well set on, close to side of head.

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. Teeth sound and strong.

NECK

Head well set in neck, the latter reasonably long and free from throatiness, symmetrically set and obliquely placed in shoulders, running well into the back to allow for easy seeking of trail.

FOREQUARTERS

Chest deep and fairly broad, with well-defined brisket, on which elbows should move cleanly and evenly. Forelegs straight, with bone of good quality throughout.

BODY

Fore-ribs fairly flat. Body well ribbed up showing a gradual spring and well-arched in centre, but rather lighter towards quarters. Loin short and square. Open couplings highly undesirable.

HINDQUARTERS

Muscular. Moderate bend of stifle and hock, latter well let down. Should stand true all round. Cow hocks highly undesirable.

FEET

Round and strong with toes close and well-arched. Soles thick and strong.

TAIL

Short, straight, and well set on, gaily carried, but never much above level of back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and flowing, straight and true as seen from front and rear.

COAT

Dense, of fine to medium texture and good quality, as flat as possible. Legs and tail well feathered. Full furnishings on maturity complete the elegance of a good dog.

COLOUR

- Black or liver only.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 58cm – 61cm (approx. 23" – 24")

Females: 56cm – 58cm (approx. 22" – 23")

Weight in hard condition:

Males: 27kg – 36kg

Females: 25kg – 32kg

***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. 121: FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER

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

Section 1 - Retrievers

With working trial.