

WHITE SWISS SHEPHERD DOG

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 01/02/2017

ORIGIN

Switzerland.

UTILISATION

Companion and family dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

In the USA and Canada, White Shepherd Dogs have gradually become to be accepted as a distinct breed. The first dogs of this breed were imported to Switzerland in the early 1970s. The American male "Lobo", whelped on 5 March, 1966, can be considered as the progenitor of the breed in Switzerland. The descendants of this male registered with the Swiss Stud Book (LOS), and other White Shepherd Dogs imported from the USA and Canada, gradually multiplied. Throughout Europe, there now exists a large number of White Shepherd Dogs, pure-bred over several generations. These dogs have been registered as a new breed in the appendix of the Swiss Stud Book (LOS) since June 1991.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

A powerful, well-muscled, medium-sized, White Shepherd Dog with erect ears, double-coated, which is either of medium length or long; elongated-shaped; medium-sized bone, and elegant, harmonious outline.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Moderately long rectangular shape: body length (from the point of shoulder to point of buttock) to height at withers = 12 : 10.
- The distance from the stop to the tip of the nose is slightly more than the distance from the stop to the occipital protuberance.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Lively and balanced temperament; enjoys action; attentive with good ability to be trained. Friendly and discreet. High social competence and devoted to his owner. Never afraid or aggressive without provocation. A joyful and easy-to-teach working and sporting dog with capability for all-round education. High social competence allows for a marked ability to adapt and integrate to all kinds of social events and situations.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Strong, clean-cut, and finely chiselled, in good proportion to the body. Wedge-shaped, seen from above and from the side. Axes of skull and muzzle parallel.

Skull: Only slightly rounded; central furrow only slightly perceptible.

Stop: Slightly marked, but clearly perceptible.

Facial Region:

Nose: Medium-sized; black pigmentation desired; snow-nose and lighter nose accepted.

Muzzle: Powerful and moderately long in relation to the skull; nasal bridge and lower line of muzzle straight, slightly convergent towards the nose.

Lips: Dry, closing tightly, as black as possible.

Jaws and teeth: Powerful and complete, scissor bite. The teeth should be set square to the jaw.

Eyes:

Medium-sized, almond-shaped, placed a little obliquely; colour brown to dark-brown; eyelids well-fitting with black eye-rims desirable.

Ears:

Erect ears, set high, parallel, and directed forward; in the shape of an elongated triangle with the tip slightly rounded.

NECK

Moderately long and well-muscled, with harmonious set-on to the body; without dewlap; the elegantly arched neckline runs in a continuous line from the moderately high-carried head to the withers.

BODY

Topline: Strong, muscular, medium-long.

Withers: Pronounced.

Back: Level, firm.

Loin: Strongly muscled.

Croup: Long and of medium width; gently sloping from the set-on to root of tail.

Chest: Not too broad; deep (about 50% of the height at the withers); reaching to the elbows; ribcage oval; extending well to the rear. Prominent forechest.

Underline and belly: Flanks slender, firm; underline moderately tucked up.

TAIL

Bushy sabre tail, tapering to the tip; set on rather low; reaching to at least the hock joint; at rest, it hangs either straight down or with a slight saber-like curve in its last third part; in action carried higher, but never above the topline.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Strong, sinewy, medium bone. Straight, seen from the front; only moderately broad stance; seen in profile, well-angulated.

Shoulder: Shoulder blade long and well laid back; well-angulated; whole shoulder strongly muscled.

Upper arm: Adequately long, strong muscles.

Elbow: Close-fitting.

Forearm: Long, straight, sinewy.

Metacarpus (pastern): Firm and only slightly oblique.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong, sinewy, medium bone. Seen from the rear, straight and parallel; standing not too wide; seen from the side, with adequate angulation.

Upper thigh: Medium-long, strongly muscled.

Stifle (knee): Adequate angulation.

Lower thigh: Medium-long, oblique, with solid bone, and well-muscled

Hock joint: Powerful, well-angulated.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Moderately long, straight, sinewy.

FEET

Forefeet: Oval, toes tight and well-arched; firm black pads; dark nails desired.

Hind feet: Oval, hind feet a little longer than forefeet; toes tight and well-arched; firm black pads; dark nails desired.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Rhythmical sequences of steps with even drive and endurance; front legs reaching out far, with strong thrust; trot is ground covering and easy.

SKIN

Without folds; dark pigmentation.

COAT

- **Medium length coat:** Dense, close-lying double coat; abundant undercoat covered with hard, straight protection [*ed. guard*] hair; face, ears, and front of legs are covered with shorter hair; at the neck and the back of the legs, the coat is slightly longer. Slightly wavy, hard hair is permitted.

- **Long coat:** Dense, close-lying double coat; abundant undercoat covered with hard, straight protection [ed. guard] hair; face, ears, and front of legs are covered with shorter hair; at the neck, the long coat forms a distinct mane; and at the back of the legs, it forms trousers, and the hair on the tail is bushy. The coat length should never be exaggerated. Slightly wavy, hard hair is permitted.

COLOUR

- White.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 58cm - 66cm (approx. 22" – 26").

Females: 53cm - 61cm (approx. 21" – 24").

Typical dogs slightly under- or oversized should not be disqualified.

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.

- Slight fawn-coloured overlay (light-yellow or fawn shade) on ear-tips, on back and upper part of tail.
- Partial loss of pigment of flecked appearance on nose, lips and/or eye-rims.
- Dewclaws, except in countries where their removal is forbidden by law.

Severe faults:

- Heavy appearance, too short build (square outline).
- Absence of sexual dimorphism.
- Missing more than two PM1; the M3 are not taken into account.
- Drop (hanging) ears, semi-pricked ears, button ears.
- Severely sloping backline.
- Ringtail, kinked tail, hook tail, tail carried over back.
- Soft, silky topcoat; woolly, curly, open coat; distinctly long hair without undercoat.
- Distinct fawn colour (distinct yellowish or tawny overlay) on ear tips, back and upper side of the tail.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Anxiety, high-grade fearfulness, aggressiveness due to anxiety, unnecessary aggression, lethargic behaviour.
- One eye or both blue; protruding eyes.
- Entropion, ectropion.
- Over- or undershot mouth, wry mouth.
- Total loss of pigment on nose, lips and/or eye-rims.
- Total loss of pigment in the skin and on the pads.
- Albinism.

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FCI Standard No 347: BERGER BLANC SUISSE (WHITE SWISS SHEPHERD DOG)

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

Section 1. Sheepdogs
Without Working Trial