

COLLIE (SMOOTH)

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/01/2026

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Sheepdog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Smooth Collie]:

The early history of the Smooth Collie, like that of many dog breeds, is a matter of speculation. Even the origin of the breed's name is unclear, variously claimed to describe the early shepherd dog's dark colour ("coaly") or derived from the name of a breed of sheep with black faces once commonly kept in Scotland ("Colley") or derived from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "useful." The modern history of both the Smooth and Rough Collie began in the reign of Queen Victoria, who became interested in the shepherds' dogs while at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. In 1860, she purchased some of the dogs for her own kennel. With the Queen's interest, it became fashionable to own Smooth Collies. Thus began the breed's transformation from working farm dog, similar to the modern Border Collie, to the dog bred as a pet and for the sport of conformation showing that we know today.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Appears as gifted with intelligence, alertness and activity. Stands with dignity governed by perfect anatomical formation, with no part out of proportion, giving appearance of working capability. Physical structure on lines of strength and activity, free from cloddiness and with no trace of coarseness. Expression most important. In considering relative values, it is obtained by perfect balance and combination of skull and foreface, size and shape, colour and placement of eye, correct position and carriage of ears.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Viewed in profile, top of skull and top of muzzle lie in two parallel, straight lines of equal length divided by a slight, but perceptible stop or break. Body slightly long compared with height.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Friendly disposition with no trace of nervousness or aggressiveness.

HEAD & SKULL

Head properties of great importance, must be considered in proportion to size of dog. Viewed from front or side, head resembles a well-blunted, clean wedge, being smooth in outline. A mid-point between inside corners of eyes (which is centre of a correctly placed stop) is centre of balance in length of head.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Flat. Sides taper gradually and smoothly from ears to end of nose. Depth of skull from brow to underpart of jaw never excessive (deep through).

Stop: Slight, but perceptible. The mid-point between inside corner of eyes is centre of a correctly placed stop or break.

Facial Region:

Nose: Always black.

Muzzle: End of smooth, well rounded muzzle blunt, never square. Muzzle not pinched.

Jaws/teeth: Teeth of good size. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Underjaw strong, clean cut.

Cheek: Cheek bones not prominent.

Eyes:

Very important feature, giving sweet expression. Medium size (never very small), set somewhat obliquely, of almond-shape and dark brown colour, except in case of Blue Merles, when eyes are frequently (one or both, or part of one or both) blue or blue-flecked. Expression full of intelligence, with quick, alert look when listening.

Ears:

Moderately large, wider at base, and placed not too close together nor too much on side of head. When in repose carried thrown back, but on alert brought forward and carried semi-erect, that is, with approximately two-thirds of ear standing erect, top third tipping forward naturally, below horizontal.

NECK

Muscular, powerful, of fair length; well-arched.

BODY

Back: Level and firm.

Loins: with slight rise.

Chest: Deep and fairly broad behind shoulders. Ribs well sprung.

TAIL

Long with bone reaching at least to hock joint. To be carried low when quiet but with a slight upward swirl at tip. May be carried gaily when excited, but never over back.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs straight and muscular, with a moderate amount of bone.

Shoulder: Sloping shoulders, well laid back. Good return of upper arm placing elbow below withers.

Elbow: Turning neither in nor out.

Foreleg: Straight and muscular. Moderate bone.

Forearm: Somewhat fleshy.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Showing flexibility without weakness.

Hindquarters:

Thighs: Muscular. Hindlegs clean and sinewy below thighs.

Stifle: Well bent.

Metatarsus (Rear pasterns): Well let down and powerful.

FEET

Oval soles well padded. Toes arched and close together. Hindfeet slightly less arched.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Distinctly characteristic of this breed. A sound dog is never out at elbow, yet moves with front feet comparatively close together. Plaiting, crossing or rolling are highly undesirable. Hindlegs, from hock joint to ground, when viewed from rear, parallel. Hindlegs powerful and full of drive. Viewed from side, action is smooth. A reasonably long stride is desirable and should be light and appear quite effortless.

COAT

Hair:

Short, flat, top coat of harsh texture, with very dense undercoat. Not trimmed or clipped.

Colour:

Three recognized colours: Sable and white, Tricolour and Blue Merle.

- **Sable:** any shade from light gold to rich mahogany or shaded sable. Light straw or cream colour is highly undesirable.
- **Tricolour:** predominantly black with rich tan markings about the legs and head. A rusty tinge in top coat is highly undesirable.
- **Blue Merle:** predominantly clear, silvery blue, splashed and marbled with black. Rich tan markings preferable but absence should not be penalised. Large black markings, slate colour or rusty tinge top or undercoat are highly undesirable.

* All colours above may carry typical white Collie markings to a greater or lesser degree.

- * Following markings are favourable: white collar, full or part; white front, legs and feet; white tail tip.
- * A blaze may be carried on muzzle or skull.
- * White markings not to extend behind withers or above the hock.
- * All white or predominantly white is most undesirable.

COLOUR SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 56cm – 61cm (approx. 22" – 24").

Females: 51cm – 56cm (approx. 20" – 22")

Weight:

Males: 20,5-29,5 kg.

Females: 18,0-25,0 kg

***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.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.



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FCI Standard No 296: COLLIE (SMOOTH)

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

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial.