KUSA
Kennel Union of Southern Africa

BEARDED COLLIE

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

Australia.

UTILISATION

Sheepdog and companion.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 271]:

Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

There is mention of a breed resembling the Bearded Collie in Scottish records dating back to around the 16th century. He has long been known in Scotland and Northern England, where he was bred for herding sheep. Some 500 years ago, dogs that were also said to be the forerunners of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog, were abandoned on the shores of Scotland and these were bred with native herding dogs. A look at the Polish Lowland will show similarities. But the Bearded Collie as we know it today owes most of what we have to G. Olive Willison who, in the 1940s, came into possession of a Beardie puppy called "Jeannie". After searching, she found a mate for Jeannie, a dog called Bailey, and her Bothkennar kennels set the mould for today's Bearded Collies.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Lean, active dog, longer than it is tall in an approximate proportion of 5 : 4, measured from point of chest to point of buttock. Bitches may be slightly longer. Though strongly made, should show plenty of daylight under body *[ed. this does not refer to length of coat, but rather length of leg in the proportion of 5 : 4]* and should not look too heavy. Bright, enquiring expression is a distinctive feature.

CHARACTERISTICS

Alert, lively, self-confident and active.

TEMPERAMENT

Steady, intelligent working dog, with no signs of nervousness or aggression.

HEAD & SKULL

Head in proportion to size. Skull broad, flat, and square, distance between stop and occiput being equal to width between orifices of ears. Muzzle strong and equal in length to distance between stop and occiput. Whole effect being that of a dog with strength of muzzle and plenty of brain room. Moderate stop. Nose large and square, generally black but normally following coat colour in blues and browns. Nose and lips of solid colour without spots or patches. Pigmentation of lips and eye-rims follows nose colour.

Eyes:

Toning with coat colour, set widely apart and large, soft and affectionate, not protruding. Eyebrows arched up and forward *[ed. to create a "tunnel"]* but not so long as to obscure eyes.

Ears:

Of medium size and drooping. When alert, ears lift at base, level with, but not above, top of skull, increasing apparent breadth of skull.

Mouth:

Teeth large and white. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite preferred, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Level bite tolerated but undesirable.

NECK
Moderate length, muscular and slightly arched.

FOREQUARTERS
Shoulders sloping well back. Legs straight and vertical with good bone, covered with shaggy hair all round. Pasterns flexible without weakness.

BODY
Length of back comes from length of ribcage and not that of loin. Back level and ribs well-sprung but not barrelled. Loin strong and chest deep, giving plenty of heart and lung room.

HINDQUARTERS
Well-muscled with good second thighs, well-bent stifles and low hocks. Lower leg falls at right angle to ground and, in normal stance, is just behind a line vertically below point of buttocks.

FEET
Oval with soles well-padded. Toes arched and close together, well-covered with hair, including between pads.

TAIL
Set low, without kink or twist, and long enough for end of bone to reach at least point of hock. Carried low with an upward swirl at tip whilst standing or walking, may be extended at speed. Never carried over back. Covered with abundant hair.

GAIT / MOVEMENT
Supple, smooth, and long-reaching, covering ground with minimum of effort.

COAT
Double with soft, furry, and close undercoat. Outer coat flat, harsh, strong and shaggy, free from woolliness and curl, though slight wave permissible. Length and density of hair sufficient to provide a protective coat and to enhance shape of dog, but not enough to obscure natural lines of body. Coat must not be trimmed in any way. Bridge of nose sparsely covered with hair slightly longer on side just to cover lips. From cheeks, lower lips and under chin, coat increases in length towards chest, forming typical beard.

COLOUR
- Slate grey, reddish-fawn, black, blue, all shades of grey, brown and sandy with or without white markings.

* Never merle/dapple.
* When white occurs it appears on foreface, as a blaze on skull, on tip of tail, on chest, legs and feet and, if round the collar, roots of white hair should not extend behind shoulder. * White should not appear above hocks on outside of hind legs.
* Slight tan markings are acceptable on eyebrows, inside ears, on cheeks, under root of tail and on legs where white joins main colour.

SIZE
Height at withers:

Males: 53cm – 56cm (approx. 21” – 22”)
Females: 51cm – 53cm (approx. 20” – 21”)

Overall quality and proportions should be considered before size but excessive variations from the ideal height should be discouraged.

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.

©Copyright Kennel Club, London 09/2007 – Reprinted with permission
The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No 271: BEARDED COLLIE

FCI Classification: Group 1 – **Sheepdogs & Cattledogs (except Swiss Cattledogs)**
Section 1. Sheepdogs
Without Working Trial.