



Official Breed Standard

Coton De Tulear **(Toy Group)**

A Breed Standard is the guideline which 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 which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Introduced to France long before its official recognition in 1970, this newcomer from Madagascar quickly acquired a prominent position amongst the companion dogs of this country; today it is widespread all over the world.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, long-haired, companion dog with a white cotton textured coat, with round, dark eyes and a lively, intelligent expression.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

The height at the withers in relationship to the length of the body is 2 to 3.

The length of the head in relationship to that of the body is 2 to 5.

The length of the skull in relationship to that of the muzzle is 9 to 5.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Of a happy temperament, stable, very sociable with humans and with other dogs; it adapts perfectly to all ways of life. The temperament of the Coton du Tuléar is one of the main characteristics of the breed.

HEAD

Short, seen from above triangular.

CRANIAL REGION

Skull - Seen from the front slightly rounded; rather wide in relation to its length. Superciliary arches only slightly developed. Slight frontal groove. Occipital protuberance and crest only slightly accentuated. Well developed zygomatic arches.

Stop - Slight.

FACIAL REGION

Nose - In the extension of the nasal bridge; black; brown is tolerated; nostrils wide open.

Muzzle - Straight.

Lips - Fine, tight, of the same colour as the nose.

Jaws/Teeth - Teeth well aligned. Scissor bite, pincer bite or inverted bite without losing contact. The absence of the PM1 is not penalised; the M3s are not taken into consideration.

Cheeks - Lean.

Eyes - Rather rounded, dark, lively, wide apart; the rims of the eyelids are well pigmented with black or brown according to the colour of the nose.

Ears - Pendulous, triangular, high set on the skull, fine at the tips; carried close to the cheeks, reaching the corners of the lips. Covered with white hairs or with some traces of light grey (mixture of white and black hairs giving a light grey appearance) or red-roan (mixture of white and fawn hairs giving a red-roan appearance - lemon).

NECK

Well muscled, slightly arched. Neck well set into shoulders. Proportion of neck to body = 1/5. Clean neck with no dewlap.

BODY

Topline - very slightly convex. Dog longer than high.

Withers - Only slightly pronounced.

Back and Loin - Strong back, topline very slightly arched. Loin well muscled.

Croup - Oblique, short and muscled.

Chest - Well developed, well let down to elbow level, long. Ribs well sprung.

Belly - Tucked up but not excessively.

TAIL

Low set, in the axis of the spinal column.

At rest : carried below the hock, the tip being raised.

On the move, carried 'gaily' curved over the back, with the point towards the nape, the withers, the back or the loin. In dogs with abundant coat, the tip may rest on the dorsal-lumbar region.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS

The front legs are upright.

Shoulder and Upper Arm - Oblique shoulder, muscled. Scapulo-humeral angle about 120°. The length of the upper arm corresponds approximately to that of the shoulder blade.

Lower Arm - Humero-radial angle - about 120°. Lower arms vertical and parallel, well muscled, with good bone. The length of the lower arm corresponds approximately to that of the upper arm.

Carpus (Pastern Joint) - A continuation of the line of the lower arm.

Metacarpals (Pastern) - Strong, seen in profile sloping very slightly.

Forefeet - Small, round, toes tight, arched; pads pigmented.

HINDQUARTERS

The hindlegs are upright. Though dewclaws are not sought after, their presence is not penalised.

Upper Thigh - Strongly muscled; coxo-femoral angle about 80°.

Lower Thigh - Oblique, forming with the femur an angle of about 120°.

Hock Joint - Dry, well defined, angle of the hock about 160°.

Metatarsals (Rear Pasterns) - Vertical.

Hind Feet - Similar to forefeet.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Free and flowing, without covering a lot of ground; topline retained on the move. No sign of uneven movement.

SKIN

Fine, stretched tight over all the body; although of pink colour, it can be pigmented.

COAT

Hair

This is one of the main characteristics of the breed from which its very name derives. Very soft and supple, with the texture of cotton, never hard or rough, the coat is dense, profuse and can be very slightly wavy.

Colour

Ground colour : White. A few slight shadings of light grey colour (mixture of white and black hairs) or red-roan (mixture of white and fawn hairs), are permitted on the ears. On the other parts of the body, such shadings can be tolerated, if they do not alter the general appearance of white coat. They are however not sought after.

SIZE AND WEIGHT

Height at Withers : Males : 26-28cm, tolerance of 2cm above and 1cm below

Females : 23-25cm, tolerance of 2cm above and 1cm below

Weight Males : From 4kg to a max. of 6kg.

Females : From 3.5kg to a max. of 5kg.

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.

SERIOUS FAULTS

Skull : Flat or too domed, narrow

Muzzle : Disproportion between skull and muzzle

Eyes : Light, too almond shaped; entropion, ectropion, prominent eyes

Ears : Too short, with insufficient length of hair; ears folding backwards (rose ear)

Neck : Too short, too stuffy in shoulder, too slender

Topline : Too arched, sway backed

Croup : Horizontal, narrow

Shoulder : Straight

Limbs : Turned inwards or outwards; out at elbows; hocks wide set or too close; straight angulations

Hair : Too short, too wavy, curly

Pigmentation : Partially lacking or too light pigmentation of eyelids or lips; discoloured nose, with unpigmented areas

ELIMINATING FAULTS

General Type

Lack of type (insufficient breed characteristics, which means that the animal on the whole does not sufficiently resemble other examples of the breed)

Size and weight outside the requirements and tolerance of the standard

Particular Points

Foreface : Bridge of nose convex

Eyes : Bulging, with signs of dwarfism; too light; wall eyes

Ears : Pricked or semi-pricked

Tail : Not reaching to hock; high set, completely curled (forming a tight ring); carried flat on the back or against the thighs; carried candle like; tailless

Hair : A typical, tightly curled, woolly, silky

Colour : Heavily marked; any marking of a definite black

Pigmentation : Total lack of pigment on eyerims, nose or lips

Anomalies

Overshot or undershot mouth with lack of contact between the incisors; vertical gaping of the incisors

Absence of teeth other than the PM1 or the M3s.

Aggressive or extremely shy specimen

NB Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only clinically and functionally healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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