

Shih Tzu - Effective 01.01.2017



Official Breed Standard

Shih Tzu (Utility 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.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Sturdy, abundantly **but not excessively** coated dog with distinctly arrogant carriage and chrysanthemum-like face.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Intelligent, active and alert.

TEMPERAMENT:

Friendly and independent

HEAD & SKULL:

Head broad, round, wide between eyes. Shock-headed with good beard and whiskers hair growing upwards on the muzzle giving a distinctly 'chrysanthemum-like effect. Not affecting the dog's ability to see. Muzzle of ample width, square, short, not wrinkled; flat and hairy. Nose black but dark liver in liver or liver marked dogs and about one inch from tip to definite stop. Nose level or slightly tip tilted. Top of nose leather should be on a line with or slightly below lower eye rim. Wide-open nostrils. Down pointed nose highly undesirable, as are pinched nostrils. Pigmentation of muzzle as unbroken as possible.

EYES:

Large, dark, round placed well apart but not prominent. Warm expression. In liver or liver marked dogs, lighter eye colour permissible. No white of eye showing.

EARS:

Large, with long leathers, carried drooping. Set slightly below crown of skull, so heavily coated they appear to blend into hair of neck.

MOUTH:

Wide, slightly undershot or level. Lips level.

NECK:

Well proportioned, nicely arched. Sufficient length to carry head proudly.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders well laid back. Legs short and muscular with ample bone, as straight as possible, consistent with broad

chest being well let down.

BODY:

Longer between withers and root of tail than height of withers, well coupled and sturdy, chest broad and deep, shoulders firm, back level.

HINDQUARTERS:

Legs short and muscular with ample bone. Straight when viewed from the rear. Thighs well rounded and muscular.

FEET:

Rounded, firm and well padded. Well covered with hair

TAIL:

Heavily plumed, carried gaily well over back. Set on high. Height approximately level with that of skull to give a balanced outline.

GAIT/MOVEMENT:

Arrogant, smooth flowing, front legs reaching well forward, strong rear action and showing full pad.

COAT:

Outer coat long, dense, not curly, with **good moderate** undercoat, not **woolly**. Slight wave permitted. Hair not affecting the dog's ability to see. Length of coat should not restrict movement. **It is strongly recommended that the hair on head is tied up without adornment.**

COLOUR:

All colours permissible, white blaze on forehead and white tip to tail highly desirable in parti colours.

SIZE:

Height at withers not more than 27 cm (10½ ins), type and breed characteristics of the utmost importance and on no account to be sacrificed to size alone. Weight: 4.5 – 8 kg (10 – 18lbs). Ideal weight: 4.5 – 7.5 kg (10 – 17lbs).

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 on health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

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Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01.01.2017