

# Dalmatian

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*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:**

A distinctively spotted dog, balanced, strong, muscular and active. Symmetrical in outline, free from coarseness and lumber.

## **CHARACTERISTICS:**

A carriage dog of good demeanour, capable of great endurance and a fair turn of speed.

## **TEMPERAMENT:**

Outgoing and friendly, not shy or hesitant, free from nervousness and aggression.

## **HEAD & SKULL:**

Of fair length, skull flat, reasonably broad between ears, moderately well defined in front of ears. Entirely free from wrinkle. Moderate amount of stop. Muzzle **long**, powerful, never snipey; Distance from nose to stop equals that from stop to occiput. Lips clean, fitting **jaws** moderately closely. Nose in black spotted variety always black, in liver spotted variety always brown.

## **EYES:**

Set moderately well apart, medium size, oval in shape, bright and sparkling, with intelligent expression. Colour, dark brown in black spotted, amber in liver spotted, with uniformly pigmented irises. Fully pigmented eye rims, black in black spotted, and liver brown in liver spotted.

## **EARS:**

Set on rather high, moderate size, rather wide at base, gradually tapering to rounded point. **Fine in** texture, carried close to head. Marking well broken up, preferably spotted.

## **MOUTH:**

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, e.g. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

## **NECK:**

Fairly long, nicely arched, light and tapering. Entirely free from throatiness.

## **FOREQUARTERS:**

Shoulders well laid back muscular with length of shoulder and upper arm approximately

equal. Elbows **set** close to body. Forelegs perfectly straight with strong round bone down to feet, with slight spring at pastern joint.

**BODY:**

Length from point of shoulder to point of buttock slightly greater than height from withers to ground. Chest not too wide but deep and capacious with plenty of lung and heart room. Ribs well sprung **and carried well back. Well** defined withers, powerful level back. Loin strong, clean, muscular and slightly arched.

**HINDQUARTERS:**

Rounded, muscles clean with well developed second thigh, good turn of stifle, hocks well defined.

**FEET**

Round, compact, with well arched toes, cat-like, round, tough, elastic pads. Nails black or white in black spotted variety, in liver spotted, brown or white.

**TAIL:**

Length reaching approximately to hock. Strong at insertion gradually tapering toward end, never inserted too low or too high, free from coarseness and carried with a slight upward curve, never curled. Preferably spotted.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:**

Great freedom of movement. Smooth, powerful, rhythmic action with long stride. Viewed from fore and aft, the legs should appear straight with a degree of convergence towards the centre line at the trot. The feet should move along straight lines with the rear feet tracking the fore. A short stride and padding action incorrect.

**COAT:**

Short, hard, dense; sleek and glossy in appearance.

**COLOUR:**

Ground colour pure white. Black spotted, dense black spots, and liver spotted, liver brown spots; not running together but round and well defined. In size 2cm-3cm in diameter as well distributed as possible. Spots on extremities smaller than those on body. Tri-colours and spotting other than black or liver unacceptable. Bronzing on spots undesirable in adults. Some patching on ears or head not to be penalized.

**SIZE:**

Overall balance of prime importance.

**Ideal height:** Dogs 58 - 61 cm (23 - 24 in**s**) Bitches 56 - 58 cm (22 - 23 in**s**)

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

**NOTE:**

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

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