Dobermann

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This illustration does not necessarily show the ideal example of the breed

Official Breed Standard of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa

~~**APPLICATION**~~ **UTILIZATION:** Companion, protection and working dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Dobermann is the only German breed which bears the name of its original breeder, Friedrich Louis Dobermann (02.01.1834 - 09.06.1894). He was believed to be a tax collector, offal abattoir manager (knacker) and a part-time dog catcher, legally able to catch all stray dogs. He bred with animals from this reservoir that were particularly sharp. The so-called 'butcher's dogs' which were already considered a relatively pure breed at that time, played a most important role in the origination of the Dobermann breed. These dogs were an early type of Rottweiler, mixed with a type of shepherd which existed in 'Thüringen' as a black dog with rust red markings. ~~Herr~~ Mr Dobermann bred with this mixture of dogs in the Eighteen Seventies. Thus he obtained 'his breed' - not only alert but highly protective working and housedogs. They were often used as guard and police dogs. Their extensive use in police work led to the nickname 'Gendarme dog'. They were used in hunting to control large vermin. In these circumstances it was a matter of course that the Dobermann was recognised officially as a Police Dog by the beginning of the 20th century.

The Dobermann breed requires a medium sized, powerful, muscular dog. Despite his substance, he shall be elegant and noble, which will be evident in his body line. He must be exceptionally suitable as a companion, protection and working dog and also as a family dog.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Dobermann is of medium size, strong and muscularly built. Through the elegant lines of its body, its proud stature, and its expression of determination, it conforms to the ideal picture of a dog.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The body of the Dobermann appears to be almost square, particularly in males. The length of the body measured from the ~~point of the shoulder~~ tip of breast to the point of the buttock shall not be more than 5% longer than the height from the withers to the ground in males and 10% in females.

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT: The disposition of the Dobermann is friendly and calm; very devoted to the family., ~~it loves children~~. Medium temperament and medium sharpness (alertness) is desired. A medium threshold of irritation is required with a good contact to the owner. Easy to train, the Dobermann enjoys working and shall have good working ability, courage and hardness. The particular values of self confidence and intrepidness are required and also adaptability and attention to fit the social environment.

HEAD

Cranial Region: Strong and in proportion to the body. Seen from the top, the head is shaped in the form of a blunt wedge. Viewed from the front the crown line shall be almost level and not dropping off to the ears. The muzzle line extends almost straight to the top line of the skull ~~which~~ that falls, gently rounded,

into the neckline. The superciliary ridge is well developed without protruding. The forehead furrow is still visible. The occiput shall not be conspicuous. Seen from the front and the top, the sides of the head must not bulge. The slight bulge between the rear of the upper jawbone and the cheek bone shall be in harmony with the total length of the head. The head muscles shall be well developed.

Stop: Shall be slight but visibly developed.

FACIAL REGION

Nose: Nostrils well developed, more broad than round, with large openings without overall protrusion. Black - on black dogs; on brown dogs, corresponding lighter shades.

Muzzle: The muzzle must be in the right proportion with the upper head and must be strongly developed. The muzzle shall have depth. The mouth opening shall be wide, reaching to the molars. A good muzzle width must also be present on the upper and lower incisor area.

~~**Flews**~~ **Lips:** They shall be tight and lie close to the jaw which will ensure a tight closure of the mouth. The pigment of the gum to be dark; on brown dogs a corresponding lighter shade.

Jaw~~/Dentition~~/Teeth: Powerful broad upper and under jaw, scissor bite, 42 teeth correctly placed and normal size.

Eyes: Middle sized, oval and dark in colour. Lighter shades are permitted for brown dogs. Close lying eyelids. Eyelids shall be covered with hair. Baldness around the rim of the eye is highly undesirable.

Ears: ~~In a country where cropping is not permitted the uncropped ear is equally recognised. (Medium size preferred and with the front edge lying close to the cheeks).~~The ears,are left natural and of an appropriate size: they are set on either side at the highest point of the skull and are ideally lying close to the cheeks.

NECK: The neck must have a good length and be in proportion to the body and the head. It is dry and muscular. Its outline rises gradually and is softly curved. Its carriage is upright and shows much nobility.

BODY

Withers: Shall be pronounced in height and length, especially in males and thereby determine the slope of the topline ~~rising~~ from the ~~croup to the~~ withers to the croup.

Back: Short and ~~tight~~ firm, of good width and well muscled.

Loin: Of good width and well muscled. The ~~bitch~~ female can be slightly longer in loin because she requires space for suckling offspring.

Croup: It shall fall slightly, hardly perceptible from sacrum to the root of the tail, and appears well rounded, being neither straight nor noticeably sloping, of good width and well muscled.

Chest: Length and depth of chest must be in the right proportion to the body length. The depth, with slightly arched ribs, should be approximately 50% the height of the dog at the withers. The chest has got a good width with ~~an~~ especially well developed forechest.

Underline and Belly: From the bottom of the breastbone to the pelvis the underline is noticeably tucked up.

Tail: ~~It is high set and docked short whereby approximately two tail vertebrae remain visible. In countries where docking is legally not permitted, the tail may remain natural. Customarily docked.~~ The tail is left natural and is ideally carried high in a slight curve. **[*** refer note below]**

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS

General appearance: The front legs as seen from all sides are almost straight, vertical to the ground and strongly developed.

Shoulders: The shoulder-blade lies close against the chest and both sides of the shoulder-blade edge

are well muscled and reach over the top of the Thoracic Vertebra, slanting as much as possible and well set back. The angle to the horizontal is approximately 50%.
Upper Arm: Good length, well muscled. the angle to the shoulderblade is approximately 105o to 110 o.
Elbow: Close in, not turned out.
Lower Arm: Strong and straight. Well muscled. Length in harmony with the whole body.
Carpus (Wrist): Strong.
Metacarpus (Pastern): Bones strong. Straight seen from the front. Seen from the side, only slightly sloping. maximum 10 o.
Front Feet Forefeet: The feet are short and tight. The toes are arched towards the top (cat like). Nails short and black.
HINDQUARTERS
General appearance: Seen from the back the Dobermann looks, because of his well developed pelvic muscles in hips and croup, wide and rounded off. The muscles running from the pelvis towards the upper and lower thigh results in good width development, as well as in the upper thigh area, in the knee joint area and at the lower thigh. The strong hind legs are straight and stand parallel.
Upper Thigh: Good length and width, well muscled. Good angulation to the hip joint. Angulation to the horizontal approximately between 80° o to 85° o.
Stifle (Knee): The knee joint is strong and is formed by the upper and lower thigh as well as the knee cap. The knee angulation is approximately 130 o.
Lower Thigh: Medium length and in harmony with the total length of the hindquarter.
Hock Joint: Medium strength and parallel. The lower thigh bone is joined to the Mmetatarsal at the hock joint. (angle about 140 o).
Metatarsus (Rear Pastern): It is short and stands vertical to the ground.
Hind Foot Feet: Like the front forefeet, the toes of the back hind feet are short, arched and closed. Nails are short and black.
GAIT/MOVEMENT: The gait is of special importance to both the working ability as well as the exterior appearance. The gait is elastic, elegant, agile, free and ground covering. The front forelegs reach out as far as possible. The hindquarter gives far reaching and necessary elastic drive. The front foreleg of one side and back hind leg of the other side move forward at the same time. There should be good stability of the back, the ligaments and the joints.
SKIN: The skin fits closely all over and is of has good pigment.
COAT
Hair: The hair is short, hard and thick dense. It lies tight and smooth and is equally distributed over the whole surface. Undercoat is not allowed.
Colour: The colour is Dobermann is bred in two colour varieties: black or brown, with rust red clearly defined and clean clear markings (tan markings). Tan markings on the muzzle, as a spot on the cheeks and the top of the eyebrow, on the throat, two spots on the forechest; on the metacarpus, metatarsus and feet; on the inside inner side of the back hind thigh, on the forearms and below under the tail.
SIZE AND WEIGHT
Size

Height at the highest point of withers:	Dogs: 68 - 72 cm
	Bitches Females: 63 - 68 cm
	Medium size desirable.

Weight: Dogs: about 40 - 45 kg

~~Bitches~~ Females: about 32 - 35 kg

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 and its ability to perform its traditional work.

~~**General Appearance**~~

~~Reversal~~ Lack of sexual ~~impression~~ dimorphism; little substance; too light; too heavy; too leggy; weak bones.

Head too heavy, too narrow, too short, too long, too much or too little stop; ~~Roman~~ Rams nose; bad slope of the top line of the skull; weak under jaw; round or slit eyes; light eye; cheeks too heavy; loose flews; eyes too open or too deep set; ear set too high or too low; open mouth angle.

~~**Neck**~~

~~Slightly short; too short; loose skin around the throat; dewlap; too long (not in harmony); ewe neck.~~

~~**Body**~~

Back not ~~tight~~ straight; ~~sloping croup~~; sway back; roach back; ~~insufficient or too much spring of rib;~~ insufficient depth or width of chest; back too long overall; too little forechest; tail set too ~~high or too~~ low; sloping croup; too little or too much tuck up.

~~**Limbs**~~

Too little ~~or too much~~ angulation ~~front or hindquarters~~ in forequarters: hindquarters with too little or too much angulation; loose elbow; ~~deviations from the standard position and length of bones and joints;~~ feet too close together or too wide apart; cow hocks; spread hocks; ~~close hocks;~~ open or soft paws, crooked toes; pale nails.

~~**Coat**~~

Tan-markings too light or not sharply defined; smudged markings; mask too dark; big black spot on the legs; chest markings hardly visible or too large; hair long, soft, curly or dull. Thin coat; bald patches~~; large tufts of hair particularly on the body; visible undercoat.~~

Character

~~Inadequate self confidence; temperament too high; sharpness too high; too high or too low a threshold of irritation.~~

~~**Size**~~

Deviation of size up to ~~two centimetres~~ 2cm from the standard should result in a lowering of the quality grading.

Gait ~~Wobbly; restricted or stiff gait; pacing.~~ That is not harmonious, in particular pacing.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

~~**General**~~

~~Pronounced reversal of sexual impressions.~~ Aggressive or overly shy dogs.

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

~~**Eyes**~~

Yellow eyes (bird of prey eye); ~~wall eye.~~ Different coloured eyes.

~~**Dentition**~~

Overshot; level bite; undershot; missing teeth according to the formula.

~~**Coat**~~

White spots. ~~pronounced long and wavy hair; pronounced thin coat or large bald patches~~ Visible undercoat.

~~**Character**~~

~~Fearful, nervous and aggressive animals.~~

~~**Size**~~

Dogs which deviate more than ~~two centimetres~~ 2cm over or under the standard.

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

Only ~~clinically and functionally~~ functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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~~***~~Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked, or natural. Under no circumstances are judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked, or natural, tails and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.