

GERMAN PINSCHER

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 have an effective date of 01/02/2017

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Watchdog and companion.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The smooth-haired Pinscher represents a very old breed that has been mentioned in the German Stud Book since 1880. He has the same ancestors as the Schnauzer, which was also called the rough-coated Pinscher. From the beginning, the smooth-haired Pinschers differed from the rough-haired specimens in their colour and their short coat. They were mostly black with light brown markings, self-coloured in various shades of brown to red, pepper and salt, or simply blue-grey to black.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The German Pinscher is smooth-haired, medium in size, with proud carriage, flowing outlines, elegant, and squarely built. He is strong like the Schnauzer. Due to his short smooth coat, his well-developed muscles are clearly visible especially when he moves.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- In relation to length to height, his build should be as square as possible.
- The length of the head (measured from the tip of the nose to the occiput) corresponds to half the length of the topline (measured from the withers to the set-on of the tail).

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

His lively, spirited, self-assured, and evenly tempered nature combined with intelligence and endurance makes him an agreeable family, watchdog, and companion.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Strong, elongated, without markedly protruding occiput. The forehead is flat and runs parallel to the bridge of nose.

Stop: Slight, yet clearly defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Nose leather well-developed and always black.

Muzzle: Ending in a blunt wedge. Bridge of nose straight.

Lips: Black, smooth, and tight-fitting to the jaws; corners of mouth closed.

Jaws and teeth: Strong upper and lower jaw. The complete scissor bite (42 pure white teeth according to the dentition formula) is strong and firmly closing. The chewing muscles are strongly developed without pronounced cheeks interfering with the smooth outline.

Eyes:

Dark, oval, with black-pigmented, close-fitting eyelids.

Ears:

Drop ears, set high, V-shaped, with inner edges lying close to the cheeks, turned forward towards temples. Folds parallel, should not be above the top of the skull.

NECK

Nobly curved, not too short. Blending smoothly into the withers without any marked set-on. Dry, without dewlap or throatiness. Throat skin tight-fitting without folds.

BODY

Topline: Slightly sloping from withers towards rear.

Withers: Forming the highest point in topline.

Back: Strong, short, and taut.

Loin: Short, strong, and deep. The distance from last rib to hip is short to make the dog appear compact.

Croup: Slightly rounded, imperceptibly blending into tail set-on.

Chest: Moderately broad, oval in diameter, reaching to the elbows. The forechest is distinctly marked by the point of the sternum.

Underline and belly: Flanks not too tucked-up, forming a nicely curved line with the underside of the ribcage.

TAIL

[ed. Previously customarily docked.]

Natural; a sabre or sickle carriage is sought after.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Seen from the front, the front legs are strong, straight, and not close together; seen from the side, the forearms are straight.

Shoulder: The shoulder blade lies close against the rib cage and is well-muscled on both sides of the shoulder bone, protruding over the points of the thoracic vertebrae. As sloping as possible and well laid back, forming an angle of approximately 50° to the horizontal.

Upper arm: Lying close to the body, strong, and well-muscled, forming an angle of 95° to 100° to the shoulder blade.

Elbow: Correctly fitting, turning neither in nor out.

Forearm: Strongly developed and well-muscled. Completely straight seen from the front and the side.

Metacarpus (pastern): Strong and slightly springy. Seen from the front, vertical; seen from the side, slightly sloping towards the ground

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Standing obliquely when seen from the side, standing parallel, but not close together, when seen from the rear.

Upper thigh: Moderately long, broad, strongly muscled.

Stifle (knee): Turning neither in nor out.

Lower thigh: Long and strong, sinewy, running into a strong hock.

Hock joint: Markedly angulated, strong, firm, turning neither in nor out.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Vertical to the ground.

FEET

Forefeet:

Short and round, toes well-knit and arched (cat feet), pads resistant, nails short, black, and strong.

Hind feet:

Somewhat longer than the forefeet. Toes well-knit and arched. Nails short and black.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

The German Pinscher is a trotter. His back remains firm and rather steady in movement. The movement is harmonious, sure, powerful, and uninhibited, with good length of stride. Typical of the trot is a ground-covering, relaxed, fluent movement with strong drive and free front extension.

SKIN

Tight-fitting over the whole body.

COAT

Hair short and dense, smooth, close, and shiny without bald patches.

COLOUR

- **Self-coloured:** deer red, reddish brown to dark red brown.
- **Black and tan:** lacquer black with red or brown markings. The aim is for markings to be as dark, as rich, and as clearly defined as possible. The markings are distributed as follows: above the eyes, at the underside of the throat, on the pastern, on the feet, at the inside of the hind legs, and under the root of the tail. Two even, clearly separated triangles on the chest.

SIZE

Height at withers:

45cm – 50cm (approx. 17½" – 19½").

Weight:

14kg – 20kg

***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.*

* Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural with the exception of the World Dog Show (WDS) and FCI Section Shows, the latter restriction applying to all dogs born after 1 January 2025. At shows where this restriction does not apply, i.e. shows other than the WDS or FCI Section Shows, 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.

Note: Cropped ears – KUSA Schedule 2 Regulation 7:

"Any dog with cropped ears born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA, imported into it and cropped within it, shall not be registered or recorded by the Kennel Union, and if any such dog is registered or recorded in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration or recording shall be cancelled.

7.1. Any dog with ears cropped before importation into the KUSA area of jurisdiction is not eligible for competition at any Kennel Union event."

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 on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- Clumsy or light in build. Too low or too high on leg.
- Heavy or round skull. Wrinkles on forehead. Short, pointed, or narrow muzzle. Strongly protruding cheekbones (cheekiness).
- Pincer bite.
- Light, too small, or too large eyes.
- Ears set low or very long, unevenly carried.
- Throatiness.
- Too long, tucked up or soft back. Roach back. Croup falling away.
- Long feet.
- Pacing movement. Hackney gait.
- Thin coat. Black trace on the back, dark saddle, lightened or pale coat.
- Over- or undersize up to 1cm.

Severe faults:

- Lack of sexual type (i.e. doggy bitch). Light appearance
- Apple head. Lines of head not parallel.
- Elbows turning out.
- Straight or open-hocked hind legs. Hocks turning out.
- Over- or undersize by more than 1cm but less than 3cm.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Malformation of any kind.
- Definitely inverse sexual type.
- Faults in mouth, such as over- or undershot or wry mouth.
- Severe faults in individual parts, such as faults in structure, coat or colour.
- Over- or undersize by more than 3 cm.

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FCI Standard No 184: DEUTSCHER PINSCHER

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoid type dogs, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs

Section 1. Pinscher and Schnauzer type

Without Working Trial