



A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as highly undesirable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Smart, workmanlike, well balanced and compact.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Gay, fearless demeanour, keen of expression, quick of movement, on the tip-toe of expectation.

TEMPERAMENT:

Bold, friendly and self-confident.

HEAD & SKULL:

Well balanced. Skull flat and refined. Jaws powerful and muzzle broad but not too long. Length of head from stop to tip of nose not exceeding that from occiput to stop. Nose black, except in liver-coated dogs when the nose will be liver.

EYES:

Dark or hazel, moderately small, keen expression. Large, round, protruding or light eyes undesirable.

EARS:

Moderately small, V-shaped and carried alertly. Set neither too high nor too low on head.

MOUTH:

Teeth even with perfect, regular scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK:

Reachy, slightly arched, free from throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders well laid back. Forelegs straight, well boned.

BODY:

Chest reasonably narrow. Back strong, moderately short and well coupled.

HINDQUARTERS:

Strong and muscular. Thighs long and powerful with well-turned stifles. Hocks low to ground and straight.

FEET:

Small, compact, round and well padded.

TAIL:

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Well set on, carried gaily but not over back or curled.

Undocked: Well set on, carried gaily but not over back or curled. In overall balance with the rest of dog.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT:

Fore- and hindlegs carried straight forward and parallel. Elbows move perpendicular to body, working free of sides, stifles turning neither in nor out. Good drive coming from well-flexing hindquarters.

COAT:

Dense, harsh and weather-resisting with good undercoat.

COLOUR:

Black and tan, blue and tan, red, wheaten, red grizzle, liver, blue or black. Small tips of white on feet and chest undesirable but permissible. Mahogany or deep tan not typical.

SIZE:

Height not exceeding 37 cms (14½ ins) at shoulder.

Average weight: Dogs: 8 kgs (17 lbs); Bitches: 7 kgs (15 lbs).

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 & 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

***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. 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.**

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Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/05/2023