



Official Breed Standard

Lowchen (Little Lion Dog) (Toy 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:

Coat clipped in traditional lion clip, tail also clipped, topped with plume, giving the appearance of the little lion. Strongly built, active, well balanced and alert.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Gay, lively and alert little dog.

TEMPERAMENT:

Intelligent, affectionate showing no sign of aggression.

HEAD & SKULL:

Broad, skull relatively flat between the ears. A ratio of one third muzzle/two thirds skull. Strong muzzle with good width allowing for correct dentition. Head carried proud and high, well defined stop. Nose dark: black or brown according to coat colour.

EYES:

Round, dark, relatively large and intelligent with good width between eyes. Unbroken pigmentation of eye rims, pigment to be in accordance with coat colour.

EARS:

Set on level with eye. Pendant, of moderate length and well fringed.

MOUTH:

Jaws strong, with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Dark pigmentation of lips.

NECK:

Good length, proudly arched.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders well laid. Forelegs straight with round bone, not too fine. Good width of fore chest. Elbows held close to chest.

BODY:

Short, strong and well proportioned. Level topline. Ribs well sprung and carried well back. Chest well let down to elbows. Strong short loin with moderate tuck up.

HINDQUARTERS:

Hindlegs well-muscled. Good turn of stifle; straight when viewed from rear.

FEET:

Small, round.

TAIL:

Medium length, set slightly below the level of the topline, clipped with tuft of hair to resemble a plume. Elegant arched over the back, only the plume should touch the back when standing or moving.

GAIT/MOVEMENT:

Free parallel movement fore and aft, no hackneyed action.

COAT:

Fairly long, wavy, never curly. Single coat of silky texture. Coat to be shown in its natural state without scissoring or sculpting, apart from the traditional Lion clip.i.e clipped to the last rib.

COLOUR:

Any colour or combination of colours permissible. Merle is not acceptable.

SIZE:

Height at withers 25-33cm (10 - 13in).

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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