



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:

Strong, square-looking dog with great symmetry and overall soundness. Absolutely free from legginess, profusely coated all over. A thick-set muscular, able-bodied dog with a most intelligent expression. The natural outline should not be artificially changed by scissoring or clipping.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Of great stamina, exhibiting a gently rising topline, and a pear-shaped body when viewed from above. The gait has a typical roll when ambling or walking. Bark has a distinctive toned quality.

TEMPERAMENT:

A biddable dog of even disposition. Bold, faithful and trustworthy, with no suggestion of nervousness or unprovoked aggression.

HEAD AND SKULL:

In proportion to the size of the body. Skull capacious, rather square. Well arched above eyes, stop well defined. Muzzle strong, square and truncated, measuring approximately half of the total head length. Nose large and black. Nostrils wide.

EYES:

Set well apart. Dark or wall eyes. Two blue eyes acceptable. Light eyes undesirable. Pigmentation on the eye rim is preferred.

EARS:

Small and carried flat to side of head.

MOUTH:

Teeth strong, large and evenly placed. Scissor bite - jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Pincer tolerated but

undesirable.

NECK:

Fairly long, strong, arched gracefully.

FOREQUARTERS:

Forelegs perfectly straight, with plenty of bone, holding body well from ground. Elbows fitting close to brisket. Shoulders should be well laid back, being narrower at the point of withers than at the point of shoulder. Loaded shoulders undesirable. Dog standing lower at withers than loin.

BODY:

Rather short and compact, with well sprung ribs and deep capacious brisket.

HINDQUARTERS:

Loin very sturdy, broad and gently arched, quarters well covered, round and muscular, the second thigh is long and well developed, the stifle well turned but not exaggerated, and the hocks set low. When viewed from behind, the rear pasterns should be parallel, with the feet turning neither in nor out.

FEET:

Small, round and tight, toes well arched; pads thick and hard.

TAIL:

Previously customarily docked or natural bobtail.

Docked: Customarily completely docked.

Undocked: Natural carriage. Well feathered with abundant, hard-textured coat.

GAIT/MOVEMENT:

When walking, exhibits a bear-like roll from the rear. When trotting, shows effortless extension and strong driving rear action, with legs moving straight along line of travel. Very elastic at the gallop. At slow speeds, some dogs may tend to pace. When moving the head carriage may adopt a naturally lower position.

COAT:

Of good harsh texture, not straight but shaggy and free from curl. Undercoat of waterproof pile. Head and skull well covered with hair, ears moderately coated, neck well coated, forelegs well coated all round, hindquarters more heavily coated than rest of body. Quality texture and profusion to be considered above length and profusion.

COLOUR:

Any shade of grey, grizzle or blue. Body and hindquarters of solid colour, with or without white socks. White patches in the solid area to be discouraged. Head, neck, forequarters and under belly to be white with or without markings. Any shade of brown undesirable.

SIZE:

Height: Dogs: 61 cms (24 ins) and upwards Bitches: 56 cms (22 ins) and upwards.

Type and symmetry of greatest importance and, on no account, to be sacrificed to size alone.

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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FCI Standard No 16 (Grp 1)

08.06.04

Fedco 05-2011/mb/updated 16.08.2011

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01.02.2017

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