

# KUSA



Official Breed Standard

## Polish Lowland Sheepdog (Herding 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

Medium size, cobby, strong, muscular, fairly long, thick coat.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Lively but self-controlled, watchful, bright, clever, perceptive with excellent memory. Easy to train, works as a herding and watch dog.

### TEMPERAMENT

Alert, equable.

### HEAD AND SKULL

Medium size, proportionate to body, not too heavy, carried moderately low. Profuse hair on forehead, cheeks and chin make head appear larger than it is. Proportions of occiput to stop and stop to nose approximately equal, but muzzle may be fractionally shorter. Skull moderately broad, slightly domed, furrow from stop to occiput apparent when handled. Well defined stop. Nose blunt, wide opened nostrils, colour dark as possible.

### EYES

Medium size, lively, penetrating gaze, oval-shaped. Colour hazel to brown. Eye rims as dark as possible, closely fitting and showing no haw.

### EARS

Medium-size, heart-shaped, large at base and set moderately high, drooping with fore edge close to cheeks.

### MOUTH

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Strong and evenly placed teeth. Lips tightly closed and as dark as possible.

### NECK

Strong, muscular, medium length without dewlap.

## **FOREQUARTERS**

Shoulders well placed with good lay-back, muscular. Legs when viewed from front or side, straight with slightly slanting pastern.

## **BODY**

Rectangular rather than square when viewed from side. Deep brisket with moderate spring of rib, neither flat nor barrel shaped. Withers distinctly marked; back level, muscular, with broad loin. Belly slightly drawn up. Croup short and slightly sloping. Proportions - height to length as 9:10.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Well angulated, with broad and well muscled thigh. From behind, legs straight, turning neither in nor out. Hocks strong and distinctly angled.

## **FEET**

Oval, slightly arched but tightly fitting toes, with hard pads, nails dark. Hind dewclaws should be removed.

## **TAIL**

Previously customarily docked

Docked: Customarily docked if not born tailless.

Undocked: Any length acceptable longer tails well covered with hair. Tail set is a continuation of croup. Carried high and slightly curved over back when alert. Never curled over back. At rest tail hangs low.

**[\*refer note below]**

## **GAIT/MOVEMENT**

Smooth walking or trotting. Inclined to amble.

## **COAT**

Whole body covered with long, dense, shaggy thick coat of harsh texture with soft undercoat, but never impeding the dog's movement/action. Long/profuse hair on head, falling forward over the eyes in a characteristic manner, but not impeding the dog's vision. Slight wave permissible. No loose skin anywhere on body. No evidence of coat trimming to enhance or change the natural outline of the dog.

## **COLOUR**

All colours other than merle acceptable.

## **SIZE**

Height: Dogs: 43 – 50cm (17<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> – 19<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in)

Bitches: 42 - 46cm (16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in).

## **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.

**\*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.** (Fedco 12/2017 Amended DR/Feb 2018)



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FCI Standard No. 251 (Group1)  
Fedco 12/2001, 09/2009 MB/updated 15/02/2011 12/2016  
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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