



A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that 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:

Moderately long in proportion to height, with no exaggeration. Compact, well-muscled body, with enough ground clearance, not less than one quarter of the height at the withers to allow free movement. Height at the withers should be half the length of the body, measured from breastbone to rear thigh. Bold, defiant carriage of head and intelligent expression.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Intelligent, lively, courageous to the point of rashness, obedient. Especially suited to going to ground because of low build, very strong forequarters and forelegs. Long, strong jaw, and immense power of bite and hold. Excellent nose, persevering hunter and tracker. Essential that functional build, size and proportions ensure working ability.

TEMPERAMENT:

Faithful, versatile and good tempered.

HEAD AND SKULL:

Long, appearing conical when seen from above; viewed from the side, tapering uniformly to tip of nose. Skull only slightly arched. Neither too broad nor too narrow, sloping gradually without prominent stop into slightly arched muzzle. Length from tip of nose to eyes equal to length from eyes to occiput. In Wire Haired, particularly, ridges over eyes strongly prominent, giving appearance of slightly broader skull. Lips closely fitting, neatly covering lower jaw.

EYES:

Medium size, almond shaped, set obliquely. Dark except in chocolates where they can be lighter. In dapples one or both 'wall' eyes permissible.

EARS:

Set high and not too far forward. Broad, of moderate length and well rounded (not pointed or folded). Forward edge touching cheek. Mobile, and when at attention, back of ear directed forward and outward.

MOUTH:

Teeth strongly developed, powerful canine teeth fitting closely. Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Complete dentition important.

NECK:

Long, muscular, clean with no dewlap, slightly arched, running in graceful lines into shoulders, carried proudly forward.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulder blades long, broad and placed firmly and obliquely (45 degrees to the horizontal) upon very robust rib cage. Upper arm the same length as shoulder blade, set at 90 degrees to it, very strong and covered with hard, supple muscles. Upper arm lies close to ribs but able to move freely. Forearm short and strong in bone, inclining slightly inwards; forming a slight crook which fits neatly around the chest, when seen in profile forearm moderately straight, must not bend forward or knuckle over, which indicates unsoundness. Correctly placed foreleg should cover the lowest point of the keel, with ground clearance never less than one quarter of the height of the withers.

BODY:

Moderately long and full muscled. Sloping shoulders, back reasonably level, blending harmoniously between withers and slightly arched loin. Withers and quarters of approximately the same height. Loin short and strong. Breast bone strong and so prominent that a depression appears on either side of it in front. When viewed from front, thorax full and oval; when viewed from side or above, full volumed so allowing, by its ample capacity, complete development of heart and lungs. Ribs extending well back with good length of sternum. Underline gradually merging into line of abdomen. Body sufficiently clear of ground to allow free movement.

HINDQUARTERS:

Rump full, broad and strong, pliant muscles. Croup long, full, robustly muscled, only slightly sloping towards tail. Pelvis strong, set obliquely and not too short. Upper thigh set at right angles to pelvis, strong and of good length. Lower thigh short, set at right angles to upper thigh and well-muscled. Viewed from the rear, hind legs straight and parallel, never close nor wide apart.

FEET:

Front feet full, broad, deep, close knit, straight or very slightly turned out. Hind feet smaller and narrower. Toes close together with a decided arch to each toe, strong regularly placed nails, thick and firm pads. Dogs must stand true i.e. equally on all parts of the foot.

TAIL:

Continues line of spine, but slightly curved, without kinks or twists, not carried above the topline or touching ground when at rest.

GAIT/MOVEMENT:

Should be free and flowing. Stride should be long with the drive coming from the hindquarters when viewed from the side. Viewed from in front or behind, the legs and feet should move parallel to each other with the distance apart being the width of the shoulder and hip joints respectively.

COAT:

Smooth-Haired: Dense, short and smooth. Hair on underside of tail coarse in texture. Skin loose and supple but fitting closely all over without dewlap and little or no wrinkle.

COLOUR:

All colours permitted but no white permissible, save for a small patch on chest which is permitted but not desirable. The dapple pattern is expressed as lighter coloured areas contrasting with the darker base. Neither the light nor the dark colour should predominate. Double dapple (where varying amounts of white occur all over the body in addition to the dapple pattern) is unacceptable. Pied, tricolour and the dilute colours Isabella and blue are highly undesirable. Nose and nails black in all colours except chocolate/tan and chocolate dapple where they are brown.

SIZE:

Ideal weight: 9 - 12 kgs (20 - 26 lbs).

Miniature ideal weight: 4.5 kgs (10 lbs). Desired maximum weight 5 kgs (11 lbs). Exhibits which appear thin and undernourished should be severely penalised.

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 the health and welfare of the dog as well as its ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE:

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Only clinically and functionally healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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