KUSA

Kennel Union of Southern Africa

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 unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/02/2021

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Sheepdog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Border Collie]:
The Border Collie is descended from landrace Collies *[ed. natural breed]* , a type found widely in the British Isles. The name for the breed came from its probable place of origin along the Anglo-Scottish border. The word "Collie" has its origin in the Scots language. It is also thought that the word comes from the old Celtic word for 'useful'. Many of the best Border Collies today can be traced back to a dog known as "Old Hemp". In 1915, James Reid, Secretary of the International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS) in the United Kingdom first used the term "Border Collie" to distinguish those dogs registered by the ISDS from the Kennel Club's Collie (including the Rough Collie and Smooth Collie), which originally came from the same working stock, but had developed a different, standardised appearance, following introduction to the show ring in 1860 and mixture with different breeds.

Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-proportioned, smooth outline showing quality, gracefulness, and perfect balance, combined with sufficient substance to give impression of endurance. Any tendency to coarseness or weediness undesirable.

CHARACTERISTICS

Tenacious, hard-working sheep dog, of great tractability.

TEMPERAMENT

Keen, alert, responsive, and intelligent. Neither nervous nor aggressive.

HEAD & SKULL

Skull fairly broad, occiput not pronounced. Cheeks not full or rounded. Muzzle, tapering to nose, moderately short and strong. Skull and foreface approximately equal in length. Stop very distinct. Nose black, except in brown or chocolate colour, when it may be brown. In blues, nose should be slate colour. Nostrils well-developed.

Eyes:

Set wide apart, oval-shaped, of moderate size, brown in colour except in merles where one or both or part of one or both may be blue. Expression mild, keen, alert, and intelligent.

Ears:

Medium size and texture, set well apart. Carried erect or semi-erect and sensitive in use.

Mouth:

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

NECK

Of good length, strong and muscular, slightly arched and broadening to shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS
Front legs parallel when viewed from front, pasterns slightly sloping when viewed from side. Bone strong but not heavy. Shoulders well laid back, elbows close to body.

BODY
Athletic in appearance, ribs well-sprung, chest deep and rather broad, loins deep and muscular, but not tucked-up. Body slightly longer than height at shoulder.

HINDQUARTERS
Broad, muscular, in profile sloping gracefully to set-on of tail. Thighs long, deep and muscular with well-turned stifles and strong well let down hocks. From hock to ground, hind legs well-boned and parallel when viewed from rear.

FEET
Oval, pads deep, strong and sound, toes arched and close together. Nails short and strong.

TAIL
Moderately long, the bone reaching at least to hock, set on low, well-furnished and with an upward swirl towards the end, completing graceful contour and balance of dog. Tail may be raised in excitement, never carried over back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT
Free, smooth and tireless, with minimum lift of feet, conveying impression of ability to move with great stealth and speed.

COAT
Two varieties:

- Moderately long
- Smooth

In both, topcoat dense and medium-textured, undercoat soft and dense giving good weather resistance. In moderately long-coated variety, abundant coat forms mane, breeching, and brush. On face, ears, forelegs (except for feather), hind legs from hock to ground, hair should be short and smooth.

COLOUR
- Variety of colours permissible.

* White should never predominate.

SIZE
Height at withers:

Males: 53cm (21”)
Females: slightly less

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 and welfare of the dog.

N.B. *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No 297: BORDER COLLIE

FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattledogs (except Swiss Cattledogs)
Section 1. Sheepdogs
Without Working Trial.