

CHIHUAHUA (LONG COAT / SMOOTH COAT)

The two varieties of this breed are judged separately and may each be awarded Challenge Certificates and/or FCI-C.A.C.I.B.s® (Certificate d'Aptitude au Championnat International).

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 have an effective date of 01/01/2015

ORIGIN

Mexico.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 218]

The Chihuahua is regarded as the smallest pedigree dog in the world and carries the name of the largest state of the Mexican Republic (Chihuahua). One assumes that these dogs used to live in the wild and, at the time of the Toltec civilization, were captured and domesticated by the natives. Representations of a Toy dog called "Techichi", which lived in Tula, were used as decorations on town architecture. These statues are very similar to the present-day Chihuahua.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, dainty, compact.

CHARACTERISTICS

Alert little dog; swift moving with brisk, forceful action, and saucy expression.

TEMPERAMENT

Gay, spirited, and intelligent, neither snappy nor withdrawn.

HEAD

Well-rounded 'apple dome' skull, cheeks and jaws lean, muzzle moderately short, slightly pointed. Definite stop.

Eyes:

Large, round, but not protruding; set well apart; centre of eye is on a plane with lowest point of ear and base of stop; dark or ruby. Light eyes in light colours permissible.

Ears:

Large, flaring, set on at an angle of approximately 45°, giving breadth between ears. Tipped or broken-down ears highly undesirable.

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.

NECK

Slightly arched, medium length.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well-laid; lean, sloping into slightly broadening support above straight forelegs, set well under chest giving freedom of movement without looseness.

BODY

Level back. Body, from point of shoulder to rear point of croup, slightly longer than height at withers. Well-sprung ribs, deep brisket.

HINDQUARTERS

Muscular; hocks well let down, with good turn of stifle, well apart, turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Small and dainty, turning neither in nor out; toes well-divided but not spread, pads cushioned, fine, strong, flexible pasterns. Neither hare- nor cat-like, nails moderately short.

TAIL

Medium length, set high, carried up and over back (sickle tail). When moving, never tucked under or curled below the topline. Furry, flattish in appearance, broadening slightly in centre and tapering to point.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Brisk, forceful action, neither high-stepping nor hackney; good reach without slackness in forequarters, good drive in hindquarters. Viewed from front and behind, legs should move neither too close nor too wide, with no turning in or out of feet or pasterns. Topline should remain firm and level when moving.

COAT

Two varieties:

Long Coat: soft texture (never coarse or harsh to touch) either flat or slightly wavy. Never tight and curly. Feathering on ears, feet, and legs, pants on hindquarters, large ruff on neck desirable. Tail long and full as a plume.

Smooth Coat: smooth, of soft texture, close and glossy, with undercoat and ruff permissible.

COLOUR

- Any colour or mixture of colours

* Never merle (dapple).

SIZE

Weight:

Up to 2.7kg, with 1.8kg – 2.7kg preferred.

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.

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, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 218: CHIHUAHUEÑO (CHIHUAHUA)

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 6.1. Chihuahueno
Without working trial.