

SHIBA

A Breed Standard is the guideline that 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 that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2020

ORIGIN

Japan.

UTILISATION

Hunting dog for birds and small animals. Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Shiba has been a native breed to Japan since the primitive ages. The word "Shiba" originally refers to something 'small' – a 'small dog'. The Shiba's habitat was in the mountainous area facing the Sea of Japan, and it was used as a hunting dog of small animals and birds. There were slight differences in the breed according to the areas where they were raised. When dogs such as English Setters and English Pointers were imported from England during the period of 1868-1912, hunting became a sport in Japan, and crossbreeding of the Shiba with those English dogs became prevalent. The pure Shiba became rare, so that by 1912-1926 pure Shibas confined to these areas became exceedingly scarce. Hunters and other educated persons became concerned with the preservation of the pure Shibas from around 1928, and the preservation of the limited number of pure strains began seriously. The breed standard was finally unified in 1934. In 1937, the Shiba was designated as a "natural monument", after which the breed was bred and improved to become the breed known today.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small-sized dog, well-balanced, well-boned, with well-developed muscles. Constitution strong. Action quick, free, and beautiful.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

The ratio of height at withers to length of body is 10 : 11.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The temperament is faithful, with keenness in sense and high alertness.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Forehead broad.

Stop: Well-defined with slight furrow.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black. Nasal bridge straight.

Muzzle: Moderately thick.

Lips: Tight.

Cheeks: Well-developed.

Jaws and teeth: Teeth strong with scissor bite.

Eyes:

Triangular, not too small, and dark brown in colour. The outer corners of the eyes are slightly upturned.

Ears:

Relatively small, triangular, slightly inclining forward, and firmly pricked.

NECK

Thick, strong, and well-balanced with the head and the body.

BODY

Back: Straight and strong.

Loin: Broad and muscular.

Chest: Deep, ribs moderately sprung

Underline and belly: Slightly tucked-up.

TAIL

Set on high, thick, carried vigorously curled or curved as a sickle, the tip nearly reaching hocks when let down.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Seen from the front, forelegs straight.

Shoulder: Shoulder blade moderately sloping.

Upper arm: Forming a moderate angle with shoulder blade.

Elbow: Tight.

Metacarpus (pastern): Slightly oblique.

Hindquarters:

Upper thigh: Well-developed.

Lower thigh: Well-developed.

Hock joint: Thick and tough.

FEET

Digits tightly closed and well arched. Pads thick and elastic. Nails hard, and dark in colour desirable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Light and brisk.

COAT

Outer coat harsh and straight, undercoat soft and dense; hair on tail slightly long and standing off.

COLOUR

- Red, black and tan, sesame, black sesame, red sesame.
 - Definition of the colour sesame:
 - **Sesame:** Good mixture of black, red, and white hairs in whole.
 - **Black sesame:** More black than white hairs.
 - **Red sesame:** Ground colour of hair red, mixture with black hairs.

* All the above mentioned colours must have "Urajiro".

- **"Urajiro":** Whitish coat on the sides of the muzzle and on the cheeks, on the underside of the jaw, and neck, on the chest and stomach, and the underside of the tail, and on the inside of the legs.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 39.5cm (approx. 15½").

Females: 36.5cm (approx. 14¼").

There is a tolerance of 1,5cm smaller or taller.

***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.

- Lack of sexual dimorphism.
- Slightly overshot or undershot mouth.
- Numerous teeth missing.
- Shyness.
- Pinto colour.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Extremely overshot or undershot mouth.
- Ears not pricked.
- Hanging tail, short tail.

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FCI Standard No 257: SHIBA

FCI Classification: Group 5: Spitz and Primitive types

Section 5.3. Asian Spitz and related breeds

Without Working Trial