

## TIBETAN TERRIER

*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 01/01/2018

### ORIGIN

Tibet (China). Patronage: Great Britain.

### UTILISATION

Companion dog.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 209]

In spite of the name, the Tibetan Terrier is not a Terrier, but a Herding dog, doubling as a guard for traders as they journeyed to and from China. It succeeded in its job not so much by size, but through the awe in which he was held. This is believed to be the original Holy Dog of Tibet. It is said to be even livelier than the other Tibetan breeds in Group 9, his energy and enthusiasm balancing his ability as a miniature guard dog along the lines of a small Old English Sheepdog.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Sturdy, medium-sized, long-haired, generally square outline. Balanced, without exaggeration.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Lively, good-natured, loyal companion dog with many engaging ways.

### TEMPERAMENT

Outgoing, alert, intelligent, and game; neither fierce nor pugnacious. Sparring of affection to strangers.

### HEAD

Skull of medium length, neither broad nor coarse, narrowing slightly from ear to eye, neither domed nor absolutely flat between ears. Zygomatic arch curved, but not over-developed so as to bulge. Marked stop, but not exaggerated. Muzzle strong; well-developed lower jaw. Length from eye to tip of nose equal to length from eye to occiput. Nose black. Head well-furnished with long hair, falling forward but not affecting the dog's ability to see. Lower jaw carrying small, but not exaggerated amount of beard. In all, giving a resolute expression.

#### Eyes:

Large, round, dark brown, neither prominent nor sunken; set fairly wide apart. Eye-rims black.

#### Ears:

Pendant, carried not too close to head, V-shaped, not too large, set fairly high on the side of the skull, heavily feathered.

#### Mouth:

Scissor or reverse scissor bite. Incisors set in slight curve, evenly spaced and set perpendicular to jaw. Full dentition desirable.

### NECK

Strong, muscular, medium length, allowing head to be carried above level of back and giving overall balanced appearance. Flowing into well-placed shoulders.

### FOREQUARTERS

Heavily furnished. Shoulders well-laid; with good length and slope of upper arm. Legs straight and parallel; pasterns slightly sloping.

## BODY

Well-muscled, compact, and powerful. Length from point of shoulder to root of tail equal to height at withers. Fair spring of rib with depth of brisket to elbow. Ribbed well back. Topline level, loin short, slightly arched; croup level.

## HINDQUARTERS

Heavily furnished, well-muscled. Well-bent stifles and low set hocks giving level topline and drive.

## FEET

Large, round, heavily furnished with hair between toes and pads. Standing well down on pads; no arch in feet.

## TAIL

Medium length, set on fairly high and carried in a gay curl over back. Very well feathered. Kink near tip often occurring and permissible.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smooth; effortless stride with good reach; powerful drive. When walking or trotting hind legs should track neither inside nor outside the front legs.

## COAT

Double coat. Undercoat fine and woolly. Topcoat profuse, fine but neither silky nor woolly; long; either straight or waved, but not curly.

## COLOUR

- White, golden, cream, grey or smoke, black, parti-colour and tricolours.

\* In fact any colour except chocolate, liver or merle permissible.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 36cm – 41cm (approx. 14" – 16").

**Females:** slightly smaller.

## 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. 209: TIBETAN TERRIER**

**FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.**

Section 5.1. Tibetan breeds

Without working trial.