

PULI

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

Hungary.

UTILISATION

Herding dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Puli is a Hungarian herding breed of Asiatic origin. His original ancestors most probably came to the Carpathian Basin with the migrating ancient Magyars, who lived as nomads on stock-breeding.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Dog of medium size with strong constitution, square build and fine, but bones not too light. The somewhat lean body is well-muscled all over. The construction of the individual body parts is difficult to judge, as the whole body is covered with a strongly developed coat, tending to form curls and cords. It is therefore useful to touch the dog when judging. The coat on the head is so profuse that the head appears round and the eyes are almost covered. The profusely coated tail, curled forward over the back, gives the appearance of the topline rising slightly towards the rear.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The body length is equal to the height at the withers.
- The depth of the brisket is slightly less than half of the height at the withers.
- The length of the muzzle is one-third of the total length of the head.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Of lively temperament, extremely able to learn. Loves children and is an excellent watchdog. His present shape has adapted him to sporting use.

HEAD

Seen from the front, round; seen from the side appears to be elliptic.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Small and fine. Superciliary ridges strongly developed.

Stop: Barely developed.

Facial Region:

Nose: Rather small, black.

Muzzle: Not pointed; bridge of nose straight.

Lips: Taut, with dark pigmentation.

Jaws and teeth: Complete scissor bite according to the dentition formula (42 teeth).

Eyes:

Of medium size, dark brown, set in slightly oblique and medium wide apart. The expression is lively and intelligent. Rims of lids close-fitting to the eyeball and well-pigmented.

Ears:

Set on at medium height with broad base. The pendant leathers V-shaped with rounded tips.

NECK

Of medium length, taut, well-muscled. Forms an angle of about 45° to the horizontal and is covered by dense coat.

BODY

- Topline:** Straight. Gives the impression of rising slightly towards the rear because of the tail carriage.
Withers: Only slightly projecting from the topline.
Back: Of medium length, straight, dry, and muscular.
Loin: Very strongly muscled, short.
Croup: Short, slightly sloping.
Chest: Deep, long with well-arched ribs.
Underline and belly: Gradually rising towards rear.

TAIL

Set on at medium height and carried in a flat curl over the croup. Well-covered by dense coat. When stretched out, it reaches to the hocks.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

- Shoulder:** Shoulder blade sloping, tightly fitting to the brisket. A vertical line from the withers touches the front part of the chest at its deepest point. The angle between shoulder blade and upper arm is 100° to 110°.
Upper arm: Medium long, well-muscled.
Elbow: Lying closely to the brisket. Angle between upper arm and forearm: 120° to 130°.
Forearm: Long, straight, with dry muscles.

Hindquarters:

- General appearance:** The legs are medium wide apart and parallel. The angle between pelvis and upper thigh is about 100° to 110°.
Upper thigh: Long and well-muscled.
Stifle (knee): Angulation of stifle joint 100° to 110°.
Lower thigh: Long and well-muscled.
Hock joint: Dry, clean-cut.
Metatarsus (rear pastern): Short.

FEET

- Forefeet:** Short, rounded, tight, with well-knit toes. Nails black or dark slate grey. Pads dark in colour and springy. Feet parallel, pointing forward and medium wide apart.
Hind feet: Not as tight and well-knit as front feet, otherwise similar.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Very lively and spirited. Steps short. The gait is often typically mincing and jumping. The dog has a tendency to spin round himself.

SKIN

Without wrinkles, tight, with strong pigment. The bare skin is black or slate grey in all coat colours.

COAT

The puppy coat is dense, wavy, or curly. Later, there are tufts of hair developing to tassels and cords. The coat consists of a coarser topcoat and a finer undercoat. The relation between these two types of hair determines the character of the coat. If the topcoat highly predominates the undercoat, the coat structure is atypical and the coat sticks slightly out. If the undercoat is too highly predominant – which is undesirable – this results in a matted coat of too-soft texture, difficult to groom. The correct proportion between the two types of hair, which is genetically fixed, produces the aesthetical tassels or cords that are easy to groom. The cords on the loin and the croup and at the back of the upper thighs are longest (20cm – 30cm). They are shortest on the head and at the limbs (10cm – 12cm). Coat on head is ideal when the hair forms a strong structure of cords covering the facial region. Both a combed-out and a neglected, tousled coat are undesirable.

COLOUR

- Black. Black with few rusty-coloured or grey shadings.
- Fawn (fakó) with a distinct black mask.
- Grey in any shade.
- Pearl white coat, without any russet gold (semmelblond).

* A white patch at the forechest, not exceeding 3cm in diameter, is permitted.

* White between the toes is not regarded as a fault.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 39cm – 45cm (approx. 15½" – 17½").
Ideal height: 41cm – 43cm (approx. 16" – 17").

Females: 36cm – 42cm (approx. 14" – 16½").
Ideal height: 38cm – 40cm (approx. 15" – 15½").

Weight:

Males: 13kg – 15kg.
Females: 10kg – 13kg.

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.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- One or more missing teeth (incisors, canines, premolars 2-4, molars 1-2. More than two missing PM1. The M3 are disregarded).
- Over- or undershot bite; wry mouth.
- Tail carried in sickle-shape or horizontally.
- Short or smooth coat, separately growing hairs.
- Faults in colour. Undesired markings and patches.
- Size deviating from the limits mentioned in the standard.

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FCI Standard No 55: PULI

FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

Section 1. Sheepdogs
Without Working Trial