

WELSH CORGI (PEMBROKE)

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 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Herding and companion.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Pembroke Welsh Corgi]:

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi lineage has been traced back as far as AD 1107. It is said that Flemish weavers brought the dogs with them as they travelled to reside in Wales. Some popular stories give Corgis a creation myth connected to fairies. One story states that two children were running through a forest and stumbled upon the funeral of a fairy. The mourning fairies gave the two children two small Corgi puppies and the children took them home, thus giving the breed popularity. At the base of the haunches of Corgis, there is a line of slightly rougher fur called the fairy saddle. Rather than Welsh lore, this may be a modern myth sparked by Corgi breeders of the 1940s. Stories also state that Corgis played the role of war horses for fairies before they became herding dogs for humans.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Low set, strong, sturdily built, alert, and active, giving impression of substance and stamina in small space.

CHARACTERISTICS

Bold in outlook, workmanlike.

TEMPERAMENT

Outgoing and friendly, never nervous or aggressive.

HEAD & SKULL

Head foxy in shape and appearance with alert, intelligent expression, skull fairly wide and flat between ears, moderate amount of stop. Length of foreface in proportion to skull 3 to 5. Muzzle slightly tapering. Nose black.

Eyes:

Well-set, round, medium size, brown, blending with colour of coat.

Ears:

Pricked, medium-sized, slightly rounded. Line drawn from tip of nose through eye should, if extended, pass through, or close to tip of ear.

Mouth:

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

NECK

Fairly long.

FOREQUARTERS

Lower legs short and as straight as possible, forearm moulded round chest. Ample bone, carried right down to feet.

Elbows fitting closely to sides, neither loose nor tied. Shoulders well-laid, and angulated at 90° to the upper arm.

BODY

Medium length, well-sprung ribs, not short coupled, slightly tapering, when viewed from above. Level topline. Chest broad and deep, well let down between forelegs.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong and flexible, well-angulated stifle. Legs short. Ample bone carried right down to feet. Hocks straight when viewed from behind.

FEET

Oval, toes strong, well-arched, and tight, two centre toes slightly advance of two outer, pads strong and well-arched. Nails short.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked short.

Undocked: set in line with the topline.

Natural carriage: may be above or below topline when moving or alert. Natural bobtails may occur, when the tail can be of any length, carried above or below topline when moving or alert.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and active, neither loose nor tied. Forelegs move well forward, without too much lift, in unison with thrusting action of hind legs.

COAT

Medium length, straight with dense undercoat, never soft, wavy, or wiry.

COLOUR

- Self colours in red, sable, fawn, black and tan, with or without white markings on legs, brisket and neck.
- * Some white on head and foreface permissible.
- * Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males & females: approximately 25 – 30cm (approx. 10" – 12")

Weight:

Males: 10kg – 12kg.

Females: 9kg – 11kg.

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.

*Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.

***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 39: WELSH CORGI (PEMBROKE)

FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)
Section 2. Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)
Without Working Trial.

