

MINIATURE PINSCHER

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 01/01/2026

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

House and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 185]

Miniature Pinschers were kept in large numbers around the turn of the century, and the Stud Book for 1925 records no less than 1,300 entries. As with the German Pinscher, from the numerous colour variations, only the colours black with lighter markings and solid red to red-brown were thoroughbred.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced, sturdy, compact, elegant, short-coupled, smooth-coated Toy dog. Naturally well-groomed, proud, vigorous and alert.

CHARACTERISTICS

Precise hackney gait; fearless animation; complete self-possession, and spirited presence.

TEMPERAMENT

Fearless and alert.

HEAD

More elongated than short and round. Narrow, without conspicuous cheek formation. In proportion to body. Skull flat when viewed from front. Muzzle rather strong and proportionate to skull. Nostrils well-formed. Nose black with the exception of chocolate and blue, in which it may be self-coloured.

Eyes:

Oval, giving an alert and keen expression. Neither prominent nor deep set. Black to dark brown according to coat colour. Eye-rims black in black or red dogs and correspondingly lighter in chocolate or blue dogs. Round, prominent or light eyes undesirable in any coat colour.

Ears:

Set on high, as small as possible, erect or dropped.

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

Strong yet graceful, slightly arched. Well-fitted into shoulders. Free from throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS

Forechest well-developed and full, moderately broad; shoulders clean, sloping with moderate angulation. Legs straight, medium bone, elbows close to body.

BODY

Square, backline straight, sloping towards rear. Belly moderately tucked-up. Ribs well-sprung, deep rather than barrelled. Viewed from top slightly wedge-shaped.

HINDQUARTERS

Parallel and wide enough apart to fit in with a properly built body. Hindquarters well-developed, muscular with good sweep of stifle, and hocks turning neither in nor out. Legs straight, medium bone.

FEET

Cat-like; nails dark.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Short. Continuation of topline. Carried a little high.

Undocked: Continuation of topline. Set and carried a little high. Length to give an overall balanced appearance.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Co-ordinated to permit a true hackneyed action.

COAT

Smooth, hard and short. Straight and lustrous. Closely adhering to and uniformly covering body. Hair forming ridge on any part of head, body or legs undesirable.

COLOUR

- Black, blue, or chocolate, with sharply defined tan markings on cheeks, lips, lower jaw, throat, twin spots above eyes, and chest, lower half of forelegs, inside of hind legs and vent region, lower portion of hocks and feet.
- * All above colours have black pencilling on toes without thumb marks except chocolates, which have brown pencilling.
- Solid red of various shades.
- * Slight white on chest permissible but undesirable.
- * Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

25cm – 30cm (approx. 10" – 12").

***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.*

***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.**

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.

©Copyright Kennel Club, London 09/2007 – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.



When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 185: ZWERGPINSCHER (MINIATURE PINSCHER)

FCI Classification: Group 2. – Pinscher and Schnauzer; Molossian breeds; Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs

Section 1.1. Pinscher and Schnauzer type
Without working trial.