

## RETRIEVER (FLAT-COATED)

*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 01/01/2026

### ORIGIN

Great Britain.

### UTILISATION

Gundog.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

*[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Flat-Coated Retriever]:*

Originating in the mid-19th century in England, the Flat-Coated Retriever gained popularity as a gamekeeper's dog. Part of its ancestry is thought to have come from stock imported from North America from the, now extinct, St. John's water dog, but this is unverified. Canadian seafarers are thought to have brought Newfoundlands to British ports, and they factored into the ancestry of the Flat-Coated Retriever. Collie-type dogs may have been added to increase the breed's trainability along with the Newfoundland for strength and Setter blood for enhanced scenting ability. The first examples of the breed were introduced around 1860, but the final type was only established 20 years later.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

A bright, active dog of medium size with an intelligent expression, showing power without lumber, and raciness without weediness.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Generously endowed with natural Gundog ability, optimism, and friendliness demonstrated by enthusiastic tail action.

### TEMPERAMENT

Confident and kindly.

### HEAD & SKULL

Head, long, and nicely moulded. Skull, flat, and moderately broad with a slight stop between eyes, in no way accentuated, avoiding a down or dish-faced appearance. Nose of good size, with open nostrils. Jaws long and strong, capable of carrying a hare or pheasant.

#### Eyes:

Medium size, dark brown or hazel, with a very intelligent expression (a round prominent eye undesirable). Not obliquely placed.

#### Ears:

Small and well set on, close to side of head.

#### 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. Teeth sound and strong.

### NECK

Head well set in neck, the latter reasonably long and free from throatiness, symmetrically set and obliquely placed in shoulders, running well into the back to allow for easy seeking of trail.

## FOREQUARTERS

Chest deep and fairly broad, with well-defined brisket, on which elbows should move cleanly and evenly. Forelegs straight, with bone of good quality throughout.

## BODY

Fore-ribs fairly flat. Body well ribbed up showing a gradual spring and well-arched in centre, but rather lighter towards quarters. Loin short and square. Open couplings undesirable.

## HINDQUARTERS

Muscular. Moderate bend of stifle and hock, latter well let down. Should stand true all round. Cow hocks highly undesirable.

## FEET

Round and strong with toes close and well-arched. Soles thick and strong.

## TAIL

Short, straight, and well set on, gaily carried, but never much above level of back.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and flowing, straight and true as seen from front and rear.

## COAT

Dense, of fine to medium texture and good quality, as flat as possible. Legs and tail well feathered. Full furnishings on maturity complete the elegance of a good dog.

## COLOUR

- Black or liver only.

Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

## SIZE

### Preferred height at withers:

**Males:** 58cm – 61cm (approx. 23" – 24")

**Females:** 56cm – 58cm (approx. 22" – 23")

### Preferred weight in hard condition:

**Males:** 27kg – 36kg

**Females:** 25kg – 32kg

***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.

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**When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:**

**FCI Standard No. 121: FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER**

**FCI Classification: Group 8 – Retrievers, Flushing Dogs, Water Dogs**

Section 1 - Retrievers

With working trial.