

GORDON SETTER

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

Pointing.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Gordon Setter]:

The Rev. Pearce in *The Dog*, published in 1872, said, "he is a direct descendant of the Setting Spaniel – an improved Spaniel". Since then, it is concluded that the Setter was primarily derived from the old Land Spaniel, so-called to distinguish it from the Water Spaniel. It is, however, likely that outside crosses with Hounds or Pointers did influence its development. The modern Gordon Setter is a predominantly black dog with rich tan markings on the muzzle, legs, and chest. A little bigger and heavier than either the Irish or English Setter, he is nevertheless descended from the same genetic Setting Spaniels 'mixing pot'. The Kennel Club applied the name 'Gordon Setter' to the breed in 1924. Before that, they were known as Black and Tan Setters, and were found in many kennels including those of the Alexander Gordon, 4th Duke of Gordon (1743–1827).



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Stylish dog, with galloping lines, consistent with its build, which can be compared to a weight-carrying hunter. Symmetrical in conformation throughout.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Intelligent, able and dignified. Bold, outgoing, of kindly, even disposition.

HEAD & SKULL

Head deep rather than broad. Length from occiput to stop slightly longer than from stop to nose. Below and above eyes lean.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Skull slightly rounded, broadest between ears. Broader than muzzle, showing brain room.

Stop: Clearly defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: large, broad, nostrils open and black.

Muzzle: Long with almost parallel lines, neither pointed nor snipey. Muzzle note quite as deep as its length.

Lips: Not pendulous, clearly defined lips.

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

Cheeks: As narrow as leanness of head allows.

Eyes:

Dark brown, bright. Neither deep nor prominent, set sufficiently under brows, showing keen, intelligent expression.

Ears:

Medium size, thin. Set low, lying close to head.

NECK

Long, lean, arched without throatiness.

BODY

Moderate length. Level topline,

Loin: Wide, slightly arched.

Chest: Not too broad. Brisket deep, ribs well sprung. Back ribs deep.

TAIL

Straight or slightly scimitar, not reaching below hocks. Carried horizontally or below line of back. Thick at root, tapering to fine point. Feather or flag starting near root, long, straight, growing shorter to point.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs flat boned, straight, strong.

Shoulder: Shoulder blades long, sloping well back, wide flat bone, close at withers, not loaded.

Elbow: Well let down and close to body.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Upright.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: From hip to hock, the hindlegs are long, broad and muscular. From hock to heel short and strong. Straight from hock joint to ground. Pelvis tending to horizontal.

Stifle: Well bent.

FEET

Oval, close-knit, well-arched toes, plenty of hair between. Well-padded toe, deep heel cushions.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Steady, free-moving, and true, with plenty of drive behind.

COAT

Hair:

On head, front of legs, tips of ears short and fine; moderate length, flat and free from curl or wave on all other parts of body. Feather on upper portion of ears, long and silky; on backs of legs long, fine, flat and straight; fringes on belly may extend to chest and throat. As free as possible from curl or wave.

Colour:

Deep, shining coal black, without rustiness, with markings of chestnut red, i.e. lustrous tan. Black pencilling on toes and black streak under jaw permissible.

Tan markings: Two clear spots over eyes not over 2 cm (3/4 ins.) in diameter. On sides of muzzle, tan not reaching above base of nose, resembling a stripe around clearly defined end of muzzle from one side to other. Also, on throat, two large, clear spots on chest. On inside hindlegs and inside thighs, showing down front of stifle and broadening out to outside of hindlegs from hock to toes. On forelegs, up to elbows behind, and to pastern joints or little above, in front. Around vent.

Very small white spot on chest permissible. No other colour permissible.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 66cm (26").

Females: 62cm (24½").

Weight:

Males: 29.5kg (65 lbs).

Females: 25.5kg (56 lbs).

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 shall be disqualified.

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FCI Standard No. 6: GORDON SETTER

FCI Classification: Group 7 – Pointing Dogs.

Section 2.2 - British and Irish Pointers and Setters, Setter.

With working trial.