

REVISED BREED STANDARD OF THE TIBETAN SPANIEL **(Reproduced by kind permission of the Kennel Club)**

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance 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. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, active and alert. Well balanced in general outline, slightly longer in body than height at withers.

CHARACTERISTICS

Gay and assertive, highly intelligent, aloof with strangers.

TEMPERAMENT

Alert, loyal but independent.

HEAD & SKULL

Small in proportion to body, carried proudly. Masculine in dogs but free from coarseness. Skull slightly domed, moderate width and length. Stop slight but defined. Medium length of muzzle, blunt with cushioning, free from wrinkle. Chin showing some depth and width. Nose: black preferred.

EYES

Dark brown, oval, bright and expressive, medium size. Set fairly well apart but forward looking. Rims black.

EARs

Medium size, pendant, well feathered in adults, set fairly high. Slight lift from skull desirable but must not fly. Large, heavy low set ears un-typical.

MOUTH

Slightly undershot. Teeth evenly placed and the lower jaw wide between the canine teeth. Full dentition desirable. Teeth and tongue not showing when mouth closed.

NECK

Moderate short, strong and well set on. Covered with a mane or "shawl" of longer hair, more pronounced in dogs than bitches.

FOREQUARTERS

Moderate bone. Forelegs slightly bowed but firm at shoulder. Shoulder well laid.

BODY

Slightly longer from withers to root of tail than the height at withers, good spring of rib, level back.

HINDQUARTERS

Well made and strong, hocks well let down, straight when viewed from behind. Moderate turn of stifle.

FEET

Harefoot. Small and neat with feathering between toes often extending beyond the feet. Round cat-feet undesirable.

TAIL

Set high, richly plumed and carried in a gay curl over back when moving. (Not to be penalised for dropping tail when standing).

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Quick moving, straight, free, positive.

COAT

Top coat, silky in texture, smooth on face and front of legs, of moderate length on body, but lying rather flat. Undercoat fine and dense. Ears and back of forelegs nicely feathered, tail and buttocks well furnished with longer hair. Not over coated, bitches tend to carry less coat and mane than dogs.

COLOUR

All colours and mixture of colours permissible.

WEIGHT & SIZE

Ideal 4.1 to 6.8 kgs (9 – 15 lbs). Height about 25.4 cm (10 ins).

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.

NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.