



GROUP III: WORKING DOGS

HOVAWART

RECOGNIZED: 2005

Effective: January 2015

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

ORIGIN & PURPOSE

This old breed's name is derived from the German Hova = Hof (= yard, farm) and wart = Wächter (watchman), meaning estate dog. The dog is of German origin and is an effective herder, home and stock guardian. In 1992 the breed was resurrected by crossing German Shepherd, Newfoundland and others. As a result of these measures, the original working type was attained.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Hovawart is a powerful, medium-sized, slightly elongated, long-haired working dog. Difference between sexes is clearly recognizable, especially in shape of head and build of body. His balanced body proportions and special devotion to his family make him an outstanding companion, watch, guard, tracking and rescue dog.

TEMPERAMENT

Recognized working dog with versatile usage. Kind and even disposition. Instincts include protective, fighting self-confidence and ability to take stress, of medium temperament, combined with a very good nose.

SIZE

Height at the withers: Dogs, 63 to 70 cm (24.75 to 27.5 in); bitches, 58 to 65 cm (22.75 to 25.5 in)

Important proportions: Length of body comprises at least 110% to 115% of height at withers.

COAT

Skin: Tightly fitting all over. With a bluish sheen in black/gold and black dogs, with a mostly pink sheen in blond dogs. **Coat:** The strong long-haired coat is lightly waved and lying close, with only little undercoat. It is longer on chest, belly, rear side of forelegs, rear side of thighs and tail. It is short on head and at the front side of the forelegs and hindlegs. The coat is dense.

COLOUR

There are three colour varieties: black/gold, black, blond.

Black/Gold: The coat is black and shiny, the colour of the markings medium blond. On the head the markings begin below the nasal bridge and extend round the corners of the mouth into the marking of the throat. The point-shaped markings above the eyes are clearly visible. The chest markings consist of two adjacent patches, which may be connected. On the forelegs, the marking, seen from the side, extends from the toes to about the pastern and tapers off on the rear side at about elbow level. On the hind legs, seen from the side, the marking below the hock is seen as a broad stripe, above the hock only as a narrow stripe that extends on the front side of the hind leg up to the level of the belly. A marking is also present beneath the set on of the tail. The markings are distinct in outline everywhere. Single small white spots on the chest as well as some single white hairs on toes and tip of tail are permissible. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips and pads.

Black: The coat is black and shiny. Some single white spots on the chest as well as some single white hairs on toes and tip of tail are permissible. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips and pads.

Blond: The coat is medium blond, shiny and becomes lighter towards legs and belly. Single small white spots on the chest as well as some single white hairs on toes and tip of tail are permissible. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips and pads.

HEAD

The nasal bridge is straight and parallel to the skull. Muzzle and skull are of about the same length. The skin of the head fits tightly. **Skull:** The powerful head has a broad, rounded forehead. Stop: Well visible. **Nose:** Nostrils well developed. In black/gold and black dogs, pigmentation is black; in blond dogs it is black; snow nose (temporary loss of pigmentation) accepted. **Muzzle:** Strong, tapering only slightly when seen from above and in profile. **Lips:** Fit tightly. **Jaws/teeth:** Strong complete scissors bite with 42 teeth according to tooth formula. Teeth set square to the jaws. Pincer bite accepted. **Eyes:** Oval, neither protruding nor deep set. Colour: Dark to medium brown. Eyelids fit tightly. **Ears:** The loosely fitting triangular drop ears are set on high and wide apart, thus giving the optical illusion of broadening the skull. They reach in length to the corners of the mouth. Their tip is slightly rounded. When the dog is at ease, they are kept hanging flat; when alert, they may be carried directed slightly forward. Their front edge lies approximately halfway between eye and occiput.

NECK

Strong, of medium length. Skin tightly fitting.

FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs: Strong, straight and vertical, seen from the front and side. **Shoulders:** Very well muscled. Shoulder blade long and well laid back. **Upper arm:** Long, closely fitting to body. Elbows: Fitting well to chest. **Pastern joint:** Strong. **Pastern:** Moderately sloping.

BODY

Back: Straight and firm. **Loin:** Strong, slightly longer than rump. **Croup:** Medium long and slightly sloping. **Chest:** Broad, deep and strong.

HINDQUARTERS

Hind legs: Strong and vertical when seen from behind. Hindquarters are well angulated. **Upper and lower thigh:** Very well muscled. Hock joint strong, well letdown. **Feet:** Roundish, strong and compact. Toes arched and tight. Dewclaws may be removed. Nails with black pigmentation in black/gold and black dogs; in blond dogs there may be less pigmentation.

TAIL

Bushy, reaching to below the hocks, but not to the ground. According to the dog's mood it is carried high and curved over the back or hanging down.

GAIT

In all gaits the movement of the Hovawart is on a straight line and covering the ground well. The trot is very extended, with powerful drive from the hindquarters.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Dogs that do not conform to the impression of original breed type.
- Distinctly “doggy” bitches
- Distinctly “bitchy” dogs
- Distinctly differing body proportions than those quoted in the standard
- Aggressive, anxious, gun-shy or lethargic dogs
- Lacking stop
- Blue eye or walleye
- Erect, tipped ears, rose ear, offstanding ears
- Undershot, overshot or wry mouth
- Absence of more than 2 of the 4 PM 1 or the 2 M3, or absence of any other tooth
- Distinct dewlap or very throaty
- Pronounced sway or roach back
- Narrow or barrel-shaped chest
- Abnormal tail, tail much too short, pronounced ring tailen
- Much too high in hindquarters (overbuilt)
- Predominantly curly coat (ring curls)
- Undersize. Oversize by more than 2.5 cm (1 in)

Colours

- All colours not conforming to the standard – e.g., blue grey, deer colour, brown, white, patched, blond with smutty touch or predominantly banded hair
- White patches. Single white hairs on the inside of the upper thighs are not a disqualifying fault.

Black/Gold Dogs

- Grey or brown patches other than the correct markings
- Undercoat predominantly of another colour than black
- Predominantly grey or whitish markings

Black Dogs

- Grey or brown patches
- Undercoat predominantly of another colour than black

Blond Dogs

- Some single white hairs on the nasal bridge are not a disqualifying fault
- Red-blond colour throughout without getting lighter
- Whitish-blond colour, also on ears
- Distinctly white markings
- Dark patches or dark mask

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

