



GROUP VI: NON-SPORTING DOGS

GERMAN PINSCHER

RECOGNIZED: 1999

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

Germany

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Pinscher is smooth-coated, of medium size, with elegant and flowing outlines, well balanced, yet strongly built, with well distributed muscle development and of square construction, like the Schnauzer; compared with the latter, the Pinscher with his smooth, short coat appears more elegant and light. The trot is done in diagonal sequence.

TEMPERAMENT

Alert temperament, attentiveness, good-natured, inclined to play, devoted to its master, unbribable watchfulness, yet without being a constant barker. Its short coat makes it easy to keep the dog in the house. Its highly developed sense-organs, intelligence, learning ability, fearless attitude, endurance and resistance to sickness give the Pinscher the pre-requisites to be an excellent watch and companion dog.

SIZE

Height at the withers: 45 to 50 cm (17.75 to 19.75 in)

COLOUR

Solid coloured: brown in various shades to stag red. Bicoloured: black with red or brown (tan) markings. Red/tan markings desired as dark and as rich as possible; they must be sharply marked. These markings are distributed as follows: above the eyes, at the throat, on the forechest as two triangles distinctly separated from each other, on the pasterns (metacarpal bone), on the feet, at the inner side of the hindquarters and at the anus. No other colours accepted.

HEAD

Strong and elongated, without distinctly pronounced occipital bone. Its total length (from the tip of the nose to the occiput) compared with the length of the back (from the withers to the tail-set) results in a ratio of approximately 1:2. The nasal bridge (topline of the muzzle) runs parallel to the extended line of the unwrinkled, flat forehead. The **stop** is slightly, but distinctly marked. Cheek muscles are strong, but never causing any disturbing "cheekiness." The deep muzzle ends in a blunt wedge. The **nose** is full, black, in corresponding shades in red and brown coloured dogs. The **lips** are well-fitting and darkly pigmented. **Dentition:** Complete scissors bite, **jaws** fitting correctly; teeth strong and very white. **Ears:** Cropped ears set on high, symmetrically shaped, carried erect. Uncropped ear set on high, forming a "V" with a folding pleat; or small, evenly erect ear. **Eyes:** Dark, medium-sized, oval-shaped and directed forward. Eye rims well fitting, therefore no haw (conjunctiva) visible.

NECK

Elegantly arched, with strong set-on to the body; nape well arched, neither too short nor too stout. The skin of the throat is tight without any folds or dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder blades well laid back and slanting, well angulated with the upper arm; with flat, yet strong muscles. **Forelegs** are straight viewed from all sides, supporting the body well. The **elbows** are close-fitting to the chest.

BODY

Chest moderately wide, flat-ribbed and oval in cross-section; **brisket** reaching beyond the level of elbows; the **forechest** is very pronounced by the sternum (prosternum) protruding beyond the point of the shoulder (joint of shoulder blade with upper arm), by the point of shoulder itself and by the upper arm. The lower part of the chest rises slightly backwards merging with the moderate tuck-up of the belly. The distance between the last rib and the haunch is short, thereby giving the Pinscher a compact short-coupled appearance. The total length of the trunk corresponds approximately to the height at the withers. The **back** is short and slightly sloping. The **topline** is not totally straight, but shows a very slight, gently flowing line caused by the strong first vertebra of the withers, the back and the slightly rounded rump (croup) to the set-on of the tail.

HINDQUARTERS

The **upper thighs** are slanted and strongly muscled. **Hocks** (metatarsal joint) distinctly angulated. **Feet**: Short, round, compact, with tightly bunched and well-knuckled toes (cat-feet). Dark nails. Hard, resistant pads.

TAIL

Set on high and carried upright. Docked or undocked. If docked, to approximately three joints (caudal vertebrae).

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.

- Too heavy or too light in substance
- Too low or too high on the legs
- Heavy, rounded skull
- Small Doberman-like head
- Wrinkles on the forehead
- Low set or badly cropped ears
- Light eyes, too small or too large
- Strongly protruding cheek bones
- Loose skin at throat
- Pincer bite, undershot or overshot mouth
- Short, snipey or narrow muzzle
- Back too long and weak; distinct roach (wheel) back or hollow back
- Elbows turned out
- Cow hocks
- Steep or bow-legged hindquarters
- Trace (black line extending from nape to tail), dark saddle and all pale colour shadings

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