



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG

RECOGNIZED: 2006

Effective: January 2007

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

The Polish Lowland Sheepdog is a herding dog native to Poland bred from the ancient Puli and long-coated herding dogs of the Huns. Easy to handle, he works like a sheepdog and guard dog. Moved to urban city life, he is very good companion dog.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Polish Lowland sheepdog is a dog of medium size, compact, strong, muscular, with a thick long coat. His well-groomed coat gives an attractive and interesting appearance.

TEMPERAMENT

Of a lively but tempered disposition, vigilant, agile, intelligent, perceptive and gifted with a good memory. Resistant to unfavourable climatic conditions.

SIZE

Height at the withers: Dogs, 45 to 50 cm (17.75 to 19.75 in); bitches, 42 to 47 cm (16.5 to 18.5 in)

The dog must retain the type of a working dog; consequently, his size must not go down below the standard; he must neither be too weak nor delicate.

Important proportions: The proportion of height at withers to length of body is 9:10. The ratio length of muzzle to length of skull is 1:1; yet the muzzle can be a little shorter.

COAT

Skin: Tight-fitting, without any folds. **Hair:** The whole body covered with coarse hair, dense, thick, and profuse; soft undercoat. Straight or slightly wavy hair is acceptable. The hairs falling from the forehead cover the eyes in a characteristic manner.

COLOUR

All colours and patches are acceptable.

HEAD

Medium dimension, proportional, not too heavy. The thick fur on the forehead, the cheeks and the chin give the head a look of being heavier than it really is. **Skull:** Not excessively broad, slightly rounded. Frontal furrow and occipital protuberance noticeable. **Stop:** Well accentuated. **Nose:** As dark as possible in relation to the colour of the coat with large nostrils. **Muzzle:** Strong, blunt. Nasal bridge straight. **Lips:** Fitting well; their edges are of the same colour as the nose. **Jaw/teeth:** Strong jaws. Teeth strong, with scissors or pincer bite. **Eyes:** Medium size, oval, not protruding, hazel colour, with lively and piercing look. The rims of the eyelids are dark. **Ears:** Hanging, set rather high, of medium size, heart-shaped, wide at base; the fore edge is close against the cheeks; very mobile.

NECK

Of medium length, strong, muscled, without dewlap, carried rather horizontally.

FOREQUARTERS

Seen in profile and from the front: Vertical and straight. Stance well balanced due to a strong skeleton (bone structure). **Shoulders:** broad, of medium length, oblique, clean cut, very muscular. **Pastern:** Slightly slanting in relation to the forearm. **Forefeet:** Oval, tight toes, slightly arched pads really hard. Nails short, as dark as possible.

BODY

Outline: Rather rectangular than square. **Withers:** Well accentuated. **Back:** Flat, well muscled. **Loin:** Broad, well fused. **Croup:** Short, slightly truncated. **Chest:** Deep, of medium width; ribs quite well sprung, neither flat nor barrel-shaped. **Underline/belly:** Outlining an elegant curve towards the hindquarters part.

HINDQUARTERS

Seen from behind: Vertical, well angulated. **Thigh:** Broad, well muscled. **Hock:** Well developed. **Hind feet:** Compact, oval shape.

TAIL

Short tail or stumpy tail, very shortly docked tail. Undocked quite long and very hairy tail. At rest the tail is hanging; if the dog is alert, the tail is gaily curved over the back, never curled or lying on the back. Undocked tail of medium length, carried in different manners.

GAIT

Easy and ground covering. Walk or trot smooth (without much vertical displacement). The dog often ambles when he walks slowly.

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.

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