

Dutch Sheepdog

Origin & Purpose

At the turn of the century, the Nederlandse Schapendoes was well known in the Netherlands particularly in the northern province of Drenthe where he worked large flocks of sheep. The shepherds valued him for the tireless pleasure he took in his work and for his intelligence. He belongs to the wide-ranging group of longhaired herding breeds which have densely coated heads. He is related to the Bearded Collie, the Puli, the Owczarek Nizinny, the Bobtail, the Briard, the Bergamasker and the German Schafspudel. The canine authority, P.M.C. Toepoel, was responsible for preserving this breed. After the savages of the Second World War, he used the few remaining Schapendoes to resurrect the breed. The Breed Club for Nederlandse Schapendoes was founded in the year 1947 and in 1952 the breed was provisionally recognized by the Raad van Beheer. In 1954 the standard was set up and a Stud Book started. Definite recognition followed in the year 1971.

The Nederlandse Schapendoes is a herding dog which was used for herding flocks of sheep and is still used in the same capacity today. As pasture for sheep is situated mainly in quiet, lonely areas of the country, it is necessary for the Schapendoes to be equipped with great endurance, mobility and speed.

General Appearance

The Nederlandse Schapendoes is a lightly built, long coated dog with a height at withers of 16 to 20 inches (40 to 50 cm). His movement is effortless and springy. He is remarkable jumper.

Temperament

The Schapendoes is a normally and harmonically constructed herding dog with an attentive and courageous character. He is intelligent, watchful, jolly, lively, friendly and high spirited. Towards people familiar to him, he develops great affection and loyalty.

Size

Height at withers for dogs: 17 to 20 inches (43 to 50 cm) and for bitches: 16 to 18 inches (40 to 47 cm).

Coat & Colour

Coat: The Schapendoes has a thick coat with sufficient undercoat. The coat is long, a good 2.7 inches (7 cm) or more in the region of the hindquarters. It is not smooth, but lightly waved. Definitely curly, frizzy hair is not permitted. The hairs grow very densely together; they are fine and dry, but above all, never silky. The coat, where it is long, is inclined to stand off in tufts, giving the Schapendoes a large girth, especially at the rear. The Schapendoes has a tremendous top knot, moustache and beard.

Colour: All colours are permitted. Preference is given to blue-grey to black.

Head

The abundant growth of hair gives the head the appearance of looking bigger and, in particular, broader. **Skull:** almost flat with a moderate frontal furrow and strongly defined superciliary arches. It is fairly broad in proportion to its length, the width is slightly greater than the distance between the stop and the occiput. **Stop:** clearly defined but not steep. **Nose:** the bridge of the nose is placed a little lower than the line of the skull. **Muzzle:** is shorter than the distance between the stop and the occiput. The foreface tapers hardly, remains deep and ends broadly, being only slightly rounded at its end. Seen from the side, with jaw closed, the lower jaw must be clearly visible. **Teeth:** normally developed scissor bite. **Cheeks:** the zygomatic arches are strongly prominent. **Eyes:** the eyes are fairly large, round and set into the socket in a normal position. They are placed more to the front than the side of the head. Their colour is brown; they should not give the impression of being black. The white of the eye should only be visible when the dog looks hard to one side. The expression is open minded, honest and lively. Shape, colour and expression are very characteristic for the breed. **Ears:** these are set on fairly high and are neither large nor fleshy. They hang free, but not close to the head. They are amply feathered and mobile, but should not protrude beyond the outline of the skull.

Neck

The head is carried high on a strong, clean neck.

Forequarters

The front legs are straight and lightly boned. Good angulation of the front legs should emphasize the fore-chest. Pasterns: Springy.

Body

The Schapendoes is slightly longer than high. The skeleton is fine boned, pliable and elastic. Topline: curved over a strong muscular loin. Chest: deep. Ribs: are moderately to well sprung; they reach far back. Lower loin and belly: not too tucked up.

Hindquarters

Pelvis: in a well slanted position. Hocks: moderately angulated, well muscled. Metatarsus: short. Feet: the feet are fairly large and elastic, broad and oval in shape. The toes are tightly bunched. The pads are thick and springy, with plentiful hair between them. Dewclaws are permitted.

Tail

The tail is long, well coated and feathered. The manner and way in which the dog carries his tail is characteristic of the breed. In repose it hangs downwards. When trotting, the tail is carried fairly high and swings slightly curved from one side to the other. When galloping, it is stretched out straight. When jumping, the tail definitely serves as a rudder. When the dog is alert, the tail may sometimes be raised high. It should, however, never be carried stiffly over the back.

Gait

In his work, the Schapendoes gallops rather than trots, so his movement must be light footed and springy without excessive use of energy. He must be able to jump well and turn swiftly.

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.

Disqualification

No Schapendoes which behaves nervously and/or aggressively in the ring will be placed or classified.

Note:

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