

Retriever (Chesapeake Bay)

General Appearance

The Chesapeake dog should show a bright and happy disposition and an intelligent expression, with general outlines impressive and denoting a good worker. The dog should be well proportioned, a dog with a good coat and well balanced in other points being preferable to the dog excelling in some but weak in others.

The texture of the dog's coat is very important, as the dog is used for hunting under all sorts of adverse weather conditions, often working in ice and snow. The oil in the harsh outer coat and woolly undercoat is of extreme value in preventing the cold water from reaching the dog's skin and aids in quick drying. A Chesapeake's coat should resist the water in the same way that a duck's feathers do. When he leaves the water and shakes himself, his coat should not hold the water at all, being merely moist.

Colour and coat are extremely important, as the dog is used for duck hunting. The colour must be as nearly that of his surroundings as possible and with the fact that dogs are exposed to all kinds of adverse weather conditions, often working in ice and snow, the colour of coat and its texture must be given every consideration when judging on the bench or in the ring.

Temperament

Courage, willingness to work, alertness, nose, intelligence, love of water, general quality, and, most of all disposition should be given primary consideration in the selection and breeding of the Chesapeake Bay dog.

Size

Weight: Males, 65-75 lb. (29-34 kg) Females, 55-65 lb. (25-29 kg).

Height: Males, 23-26 in. (58-66 cm) Females, 21-24 in. (53-61 cm).

Coat and colour

Coat should be thick and short, nowhere over 1½ inches (4 cm) long, with a dense fine woolly undercoat. Hair on face and legs should be very short and straight with tendency to wave on the shoulders, neck, back, and loins only. The curly coat or coat with a tendency to curl not permissible. Any colour varying from a dark brown to a faded tan or dead grass. Deadgrass takes in any shade of deadgrass, varying from a tan to a dull straw colour. White spot on breast and toes permissible, but the smaller the spot the better, solid colour being preferred.

Head

Skull broad and round with medium stop, **nose** medium short, muzzle pointed but not sharp. Lips thin, not pendulous. **Eyes** medium large, very clear, of yellowish colour and wide apart. **Ears** small, set well up on head, hanging loosely and of medium leather.

Neck

Of medium length with a strong muscular appearance, tapering to shoulders.

Forequarters

Shoulders sloping and should have full liberty of action with plenty of power without any restrictions of movement. Legs should be medium length and straight, showing good bone and muscle; pasterns slightly bent and of medium length.

Body

Chest strong, deep and wide. Barrel-round and deep. Body of medium length, neither cobby nor roached, but rather approaching hollowness, flanks well tucked up. Back should be short, well coupled and powerful.

Hindquarters

Back quarters should be as high or a trifle higher than the shoulders. They should show fully as much power as the forequarters. There should be no tendency to weakness in either fore or hindquarters. Hindquarters should be especially powerful to supply the driving power for swimming. Good hindquarters are essential. Hocks of medium length, with well-webbed hare feet of good size. The toes well rounded and close. The straighter the legs the better.

Tail

Should be medium length, varying from: males, 12-15 inches (30-38 cm) and females, 11-14 inches (28-36 cm). Medium heavy at base, moderate feathering on stern and tail permissible.

Disqualifications

Black or liver coloured. White on any part of the body, except breast, belly or spots on feet. Feathering on tail or legs over 1-3/4 inches (4.5 cm) long. Dewclaws on hind legs, undershot, overshot or any deformity. Coat curly or tendency to curl all over body. Specimens unworthy or lacking in breed characteristics.

Positive Scale of Points

Head, including lips, ears and eyes.....	16
Neck	4
Shoulders and body.....	12
Back quarters and stifles	12
Elbows, legs and feet.....	12
Colour	4
Stern and tail	10
Coat and texture.....	18
General conformation	12
TOTAL	100

Note

The question of coat and general type of balance takes precedence over any scoring table which could be drawn up.

Approximate Measurements

	Inches	cm
Length head, nose to occiput	9-1/2 - 10	24 - 25
Girth at ears.....	20 - 21	51 - 53
Muzzle below eyes	10 - 10-1/2	25 - 27
Length of ears	4-1/2 - 5	11 - 13
Width between eyes.....	2-1/2 - 2-3/4	6 - 7
Girth neck close to shoulder.....	20 - 22	51 - 56
Girth of chest to elbows.....	35 - 36	89 - 91
Girth at flank.....	24 - 25	61 - 64
Length from occiput to tail base.....	34 - 35	86 - 89
Girth forearms at shoulders.....	10 - 10-1/2	25 - 27
Girth upper thigh	19 - 20	48 - 51
From root to root of ear, over skull	5 - 6	13 - 15
Occiput to top shoulder blades	9 - 9-1/2	23 - 24
From elbow to elbow over the shoulders	25 - 26	64 - 66