



## Doberman Pinscher

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 and Purpose

The Doberman Pinscher originated in Germany around 1890 and takes its name from Louis Dobermann. Originally it was used almost exclusively as a guard dog. In today's society, the properly bred specimen makes a loving and obedient family companion.

### General Appearance

The appearance is that of a dog of good middle size, with a body that is square: the height measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the withers equalling the length, measured horizontally from the forechest to the rear projection of the upper thigh. The Doberman should be elegant in appearance, with proud carriage, reflecting great nobility, and should be compactly built, muscular and powerful for great endurance and speed.

### Temperament

Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal, and obedient.

### Size

Height at withers: males 66–71 cm, ideal 70 cm (26-28 in, ideal 27 ½ in); females 61–71 cm, ideal 65 cm (24-26 in, ideal 25 ½ in). Males, decidedly masculine, without coarseness. Females, decidedly feminine, without over-refinement. Deviation from ideal height to be penalized in proportion to the amount of deviation.

### Coat and Colour

Smooth haired, short, hard, thick and close lying. Invisible grey undercoat on neck permissible. Allowed colours: black, red, blue and fawn. In each colour the more strongly pigmented coat is the more desirable. Markings: rust red, sharply defined, and appearing above each eye, and on muzzle, throat, forechest, on all legs and feet and below tail. White on chest not exceeding 1 cm<sup>2</sup> (½ in<sup>2</sup>) square permissible.

### Head

Long and dry, resembling a blunt wedge, both frontal and profile views. When seen from the front, the head widens gradually towards the base of the ears in a practically unbroken line. Top of **skull** flat, turning with slight stop to bridge of muzzle, with muzzle line extending parallel to the topline of the skull. Length of **muzzle** equal to length of skull. Cheeks flat and muscular. Lips lying close to the jaws, and not drooping. Jaws full and powerful, well filled under the eyes. **Nose** solid black in black dogs, dark brown in reds, dark grey in blues, and dark tan in fawns. **Teeth** strongly developed. Lower incisors upright and touching inside of upper incisors--a true scissors bite. Forty-two teeth (22 in lower jaw and 20 in upper jaw) correctly placed. Distemper teeth not to be penalized. **Eyes** almond shaped, not round, moderately deep set, not prominent, with vigorous, energetic expression. Iris of uniform colour, ranging from medium to darkest brown in black dogs, the darker shade being the more desirable. In reds, blues and fawns, the colour of the iris should blend with that of the markings. **Ears** either cropped or uncropped. The upper attachment of the ear, when alert, should be on a level with the top of the skull. If cropped, the ears should be well trimmed and carried erect. If uncropped, they should be small and neat, and set high on the head.

### Neck

Carried proudly, well muscled and dry. Well arched, and with nape of neck widening gradually toward body. Length of neck proportioned to body and head. Head may be carried slightly lower when moving, for greater reach of the forequarters.

**Forequarters**

Shoulder blade sloping forward and downward at a 45° angle to the ground, and meeting the upper arm at an angle of 90°. Shoulder to be as close to 45° as possible and set well back. Relative length of shoulder and upper arm should be as one to one, excess length of shoulder blade is more a fault than excess length of upper arm. Height from elbow to withers approximately equals height from ground to elbow. Legs seen from the front and side perfectly straight and parallel to each other from elbow to pastern; muscled and sinewy, with round, heavy bone. In a normal position, and when gaiting, the elbow should lie close to the brisket. Pasterns firm, with an almost perpendicular position to the ground. Feet well arched, compact and cat-like, turning neither in nor out. Slight toeing out much less undesirable than toeing in. Dewclaws may be removed.

**Body**

Back short, firm, of sufficient width, and muscular at the loin extending in a straight line from withers to the slightly rounded croup. Withers pronounced and forming the highest point of the body. Brisket full and broad, reaching deep to the elbow. Chest broad, and forechest well defined. Ribs well sprung from the spine, but flattened at lower end to provide elbow clearance. Belly well tucked up, extending in a curved line from chest. Loins well muscled. Hips broad in proportion to body, breadth of hips being approximately equal to breadth of body at rib spring.

**Hindquarters**

In balance with forequarters. Upper shanks long, wide, and well muscled on both sides of thigh, with clearly defined stifles. Hocks while the dog is at rest: hock to heel should be perpendicular to the ground. Upper shanks, lower shanks and hocks parallel to each other, and wide enough apart to fit in with a properly built body. The hip bone should fall away from the spinal column at an angle of about 30°. Upper shank and lower shank are equal in length. The upper shank should be at right angles to the hip bone. Croup well filled out. Cat feet, as on front legs, turning neither in nor out. Dewclaws, if any, may be removed.

**Tail**

Tail docked at approximately the second joint, should appear to be the continuation of the spine, without material drop or left natural and is ideally carried high in a slight curve.

**Gait**

The gait should be free, balanced, and effortless with good reach in the forequarters and good driving power in the hindquarters. When trotting there should be a strong rear action drive. Hocks should fully extend. Each rear leg should move in line with the foreleg on the same side. Rear and front legs should be thrown neither in nor out. Back should remain strong, firm and level. When moving at a fast trot the properly built dog will single track.

**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 purpose

- Feminine dogs,
- masculine bitches.
- Light tan or muddied markings.
- Overly large markings.
- Head out of balance in proportion to body
- Ram's, dish-faced, cheeky or snipey head.
- Any deviation from the correct number or placement of teeth to be penalized in direct proportion to the amount of deviation.
- Slit eyes, glassy eyes, round eyes.
- Weak or knuckled-over pasterns.
- Hare feet, splay feet.
- Overly rounded or flat croup.

**Major Faults**

- Coarseness, fine Greyhound build.
- Loose shoulder, straight shoulder.
- Sway or roach back.
- Straight stifles, cow-hocks, spread hocks and sickle hocks.

**Scale of Points**

General Conformation and Appearance		
Proportions	8	
Bone and substance	8	
Temperament and expression and nobility	8	
Condition	5	29
<b>Head</b>		
Shape	6	
Teeth	5	
Eyes	3	
Ears	1	15
Neck	3	3
<b>Body</b>		
Backline, withers, loins, tail placement	8	
Chest, brisket, rib spring, tuck up	8	
Shape, and proportions	4	20
<b>Forequarters</b>		
Shoulders, upper arms, legs, pasterns	5	
Angulation	4	
Paws	2	11
<b>Hindquarters</b>		
Upper thigh, stifle	5	
Hocks, angulation	4	
Paws	2	11
Gait	6	6
Coat, Colour and Markings	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

**Disqualifications**

- Shyness, viciousness
- Overshot more than 0.5 cm (3/16 in), undershot more than 0.3 cm (1/8 in).
- Four or more missing teeth.
- Dogs not of an allowed color.

**Shyness**

A dog shall be judged fundamentally shy if, refusing to stand for examination, it shrinks away from the judge; if it fears an approach from the rear; if it shies at sudden and unusual noises to a marked degree.

**Viciousness**

A dog that attacks, or attempts to attack either the judge or its handler, is definitely vicious. An aggressive or belligerent attitude towards other dogs shall not be deemed vicious.

Breed Name: Doberman Pinscher  
Year of Recognition: 1912  
Effective Date: January 2004