



Coton de Tulear

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 Coton de Tuléar, named for his cottony coat is a Bichon type breed. These ratters gave rise to the cotton de Réunion on the island by that name. Now extinct the breed was modified in Madagascar through crosses with the Maltese. The coton enjoyed the favour of the Madagascar upper class.

General Appearance

Small, long-haired, companion dog with a white cotton textured coat, with round, dark eyes and a lively, intelligent expression.

Temperament

Of a happy temperament, stable, very sociable with humans and with other dogs; it adapts perfectly to all ways of life. The temperament of the Coton de Tuléar is one of the main characteristics of the breed.

Size

Height at withers:

Males: 26-28 cm (10-11 in), tolerance of 2 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) above and 1 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) below.

Females: 23-25 cm (9-10 in), tolerance of 2 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) above and 1 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) below.

Weight

Males: From 4 kg (8.5 lb) to a maximum of 6 kg (13 lb).

Females: From 3.5 kg (7.5 lb) to a maximum of 5 kg (11 lb).

Important Proportions

- The height at the withers in relationship to the length of the body is 2 to 3.
- The length of the head in relationship to that of the body is 2 to 5.
- The length of the skull in relationship to that of the muzzle is 9 to 5.

Coat & Colour

Skin: Fine, stretched tight over all the body; although of pink colour, it can be pigmented.

Coat: This is one of the main characteristics of the breed from which its very name derives. Very soft and supple, with the texture of cotton, never hard or rough, the coat is dense, profuse and can be very slightly wavy.

Colour: Ground colour : White. A few slight shadings of light grey colour (mixture of white and black hairs) or of red-roan (mixture of white and fawn hairs), are permitted on the ears. On the other parts of the body, such shadings can be tolerated, if they do not alter the general appearance of white coat. They are however not sought after.

Head

Short, seen from above triangular. Skull: Seen from the front slightly rounded; rather wide in relation to its length. Superciliary arches only slightly developed. Slight frontal groove.



Occipital protuberance and crest only slightly accentuated. Well developed zygomatic arches. Stop: Slight. Nose: In the extension of the nasal bridge; black; brown is tolerated; nostrils wide open. Muzzle: Straight. Lips: Fine, tight, of the same colour as the nose. Jaws/Teeth: Teeth well aligned. Scissor bite, pincer bite or inverted bite without losing contact. The absence of the PM1 is not penalised; the M3s are not taken into consideration. Cheeks: Lean. Eyes: Rather rounded, dark, lively, wide apart; the rims of the eyelids are well pigmented with black or brown according to the colour of the nose. Ears: Pendulous, triangular, high set on the skull, fine at the tips; carried close to the cheeks, reaching the corners of the lips. Covered with white hairs or with some traces of light grey (mixture of white and black hairs giving a light grey appearance) or red-roan (mixture of white and fawn hairs giving a red-roan appearance - lemon).

Neck

Well muscled, slightly arched. Neck well set into shoulders. Proportion of neck to body = 1/5. Clean neck with no dewlap.

Forequarters

The frontlegs are upright. Shoulder and upper arm: Oblique shoulder, muscled. Scapulothoracic angle about 120°. The length of the upper arm corresponds approximately to that of the shoulder blade. Lower arm: Humero-radial angle about 120°. Lower arms vertical and parallel, well muscled, with good bone. The length of the lower arm corresponds approximately to that of the upper arm. Carpus (Pastern Joint): A continuation of the line of the lower arm. Metacarpals (Pastern) Strong, seen in profile sloping very slightly. Forefeet Small, round, toes tight, arched; pads pigmented.

Body

Topline: very slightly convex. Dog longer than high. Withers Only slightly pronounced.

Back and loin: Strong back, topline very slightly arched. Loin well muscled.

Croup: Oblique, short and muscled.

Chest: Well developed, well let down to elbow level, long. Ribs well sprung.

Belly: Tucked up but not excessively.

Hindquarters

The hindlegs are upright. Though dewclaws are not sought after, their presence is not penalised.

Upper thigh: Strongly muscled; coxo- femoral angle about 80°.

Lower thigh: Oblique, forming with the femur an angle of about 120°.

Hock: joint dry, well defined, angle of the hock about 160°.

Metatarsals (Rear pasterns): Vertical.

Hind feet: Similar to forefeet.

Tail

Low set, in the axis of the spinal column. At rest, carried below the hock, the tip being raised. On the move, carried gaily curved over the back, with the point towards the nape, the withers, the back or the loin. In dogs with abundant coat, the tip may rest on the dorsal-lumbar region.

Gait

Free and flowing, without covering a lot of ground; topline retained on the move. No sign of uneven movement.



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 in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's purpose.

Skull: Flat or too domed, narrow.

Muzzle: Disproportion between skull and muzzle.

Eyes: Light, too almond shaped; entropion, ectropion, prominent eyes.

Ears: Too short, with insufficient length of hair; ears folding back-wards (rose ear).

Neck: Too short, too stuffy in shoulder, too slender.

Topline: Too arched, sway backed.

Croup: Horizontal, narrow.

Shoulder: Straight.

Limbs: Turned inwards or outwards; out at elbows; hocks wide set or too close; straight angulations.

Hair: Too short, too wavy, curly.

Pigmentation: Partially lacking or too light pigmentation of eye-lids or lips; discoloured nose, with unpigmented areas.

Disqualifications

General type

- Lack of type (insufficient breed characteristics which means that the animal on the whole does not sufficiently resemble other examples of the breed).
- Size and weight outside the requirements and tolerance of the standard.

Particular points

- **Foreface:** Bridge of nose convex.
- **Eyes:** Bulging, with signs of dwarfism; too light; wall eyes.
- **Ears:** Pricked or semi-pricked.
- **Tail:** Not reaching to hock; high set, completely curled (forming a tight ring); carried flat on the back or against the thighs; carried candle like; tailless.
- **Hair:** Atypical, rightly curled, woolly, silky.
- **Colour:** Heavily marked; any marking of a definite black.
- **Pigmentation:** Total lack of pigment on eyerims, nose or lips.

Anomalies

- Overshot or undershot mouth with lack of contact between the incisors; vertical gaping of the incisors.
- Absence of teeth other than the PM I or the M3s.
- Aggressive or extremely shy specimen.

Note:

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

Breed Name: Coton du Tulear
Year of Recognition: n/a
Effective Date: January 2007