

Tibetan Spaniel

Origin and Purpose

The Tibetan Spaniel is a little companion dog related to the Pekingese, the Pug, and the Japanese Spaniel. His origins cannot be traced.

General Appearance

Presentation: In the show ring it is essential that the Tibetan Spaniel be presented in an unaltered condition with the coat lying naturally, with no teasing, parting or stylizing of the hair. Specimens where the coat has been altered by trimming, clipping or by artificial means shall be so severely penalized as to be effectively eliminated from competition. Dogs with such a long coat that there is no rectangle of daylight showing beneath, or so profuse that it obstructs the natural outline, are to be severely penalized. Whiskers are not to be removed. Hair growing between the pads on the underside of the feet may be removed for safety and cleanliness. Dewclaws may be removed.

Temperament

Gay and assertive, highly intelligent, aloof with strangers.

Size

Weight 9-15 lb. (4-7 kg) being ideal. Height about 10 inches (25 cm).

Coat and Colour

Double coat, silky in texture, smooth on face and front of legs, of moderate length on body, but lying rather flat. Ears and back of forelegs nicely feathered, tail and buttocks well furnished with longer hair. Should not be overcoated and bitches tend to carry less coat and mane than dogs. All colours, and mixture of colours allowed.

Head

Small in proportion to body and proudly carried, giving an impression of quality. Masculine in dogs but free from coarseness. **Skull** slightly domed, moderate width and length. Stop slight, but defined. Medium length of **muzzle**, blunt with cushioning, free from wrinkle. The chin should show some depth and width. Black **nose** preferred. Ideally slightly undershot, the upper incisors fitting neatly inside and touching the lower incisors. Teeth should be evenly placed and the lower jaw wide between the canine tusks. Full dentition desired. A level **mouth** is permissible, providing there is sufficient width and depth of chin to preserve the blunt appearance of the muzzle. **Teeth** must not show when

mouth is closed. **Eyes** dark brown in colour, oval in shape, bright and expressive, of medium size set fairly well apart but forward looking, giving an ape-like expression. Eye rims black. **Ears** medium size, pendant, well feathered in the adult and set fairly high. They may have a slight lift from the skull, but should not fly. Large, heavy, low-set ears are not typical.

Neck

Moderately short, strong and well set on. Covered with a mane or “shawl” of longer hair which is more pronounced in dogs than bitches.

Forequarters

Shoulder well placed. The bones of the forelegs slightly bowed but firm at shoulder. Moderate bone.

Body

Level back. Slightly longer from the point of shoulder to root of tail than the height at withers. Well ribbed with good depth.

Hindquarters

Well made and strong, hocks well let down and straight when viewed from behind. Stifle well developed, showing moderate angulation. Hare-footed, small and neat with feathering between toes often extending beyond the feet. White markings allowed.

Tail

Set high, richly plumed and carried in a gay curl over the back when moving. Should not be penalized from dropping tail when standing.

Gait

Quick moving, straight, free, positive.

Faults

Large full eyes; broad flat muzzle; very domed or flat wide skull; accentuated stop; pointed, weak or wrinkled muzzle; overshot mouth; long, plain down face, without stop; very bowed or loose front; straight stifle; cow-hocks; nervousness; cat feet; coarseness of type; mean expression; liver or putty-coloured pigmentation; light eyes; protruding tongue.

Note:

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