



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

AUSTRALIAN STUMPY TAIL CATTLE DOG

RECOGNIZED: 2006

Effective: January 2007

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.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Shall be that of a well-proportioned working dog, rather square in profile with a hard-bitten, rugged appearance, and sufficient substance to convey the impression of the ability to endure long periods of arduous work under whatsoever conditions may prevail.

TEMPERAMENT

The “Stumpy” possesses a natural aptitude in the working and control of cattle, and a loyal, courageous and devoted disposition. It is ever alert, watchful and obedient, though suspicious of strangers. At all times it must be amenable to handling in the show ring.

SIZE

Height at the withers: Dogs, 46 to 51 cm (18 to 20 in); bitches: 43 to 48 cm (17 to 19 in)

Dogs or bitches over or under these specified sizes are undesirable.

COAT

The outer coat is moderately short, straight, dense and of medium harsh texture. The undercoat is short, dense and soft. The coat around the neck is longer forming mild ruff. The hair on the head, legs and feet, is short.

COLOUR

Blue: The dog should be blue or blue mottled, whole coloured. The head may have black markings. Black markings on the body are permissible.

Red speckle: The colour should be a good even red speckle aft over, including the undercoat (not white or cream), with or without darker, red markings on the head. Red patches on the body are permissible.

HEAD

Skull: The skull is broad between the ears and flat, narrowing slightly to the eyes with a slight but definite stop. **Cheeks** are muscular without coarseness. The foreface is of moderate length, well filled up under the eye, the deep powerful jaws tapering to a blunt strong muzzle. **Nose:** Black, irrespective of the colour of the dog. **Eyes:** The eyes should be oval in shape, of moderate size, neither full nor prominent, with alert and intelligent yet suspicious expression, and of dark brown colour. **Ears:** The ears are moderately small, pricked and almost pointed. Set on high yet well apart. Leather moderately thick. Inside the ear should be well furnished with hair. **Mouth:** The teeth are strong, sound and regularly spaced. The lower incisors close behind and just touching the upper. Not to be undershot or overshot.

NECK

The neck is of exceptional strength, sinuous, muscular and of medium length, broadening to blend into the body, free from throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS

The **shoulders** are clean, muscular and sloping with elbows parallel to the body. The **forelegs** are well-boned and muscular. Viewed from any angle they are perfectly straight.

BODY

The length of the body from the point of the breastbone to the buttocks should be equal to the height of the withers. The **back** is level, broad and strong with deep and muscular loins, the well sprung ribs tapering, to a deep moderately broad.

HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters are broad, powerful and muscular, with well developed thighs, **stifles** moderately turned. **Hocks** are strong, moderately let down with sufficient bend. When viewed from behind the hind legs from hock to feet are straight, and placed neither close not too wide apart. The **feet** should be round, strong, deep in pads with well-arched toes, closely knit. Nails strong and of dark colour.

TAIL

The tail is undocked, of a natural length not exceeding 10 cm (4 in), set on high but not carried much above the level of the back.

GAIT

Soundness is of paramount importance. The action is true, free, supple and tireless, the movement of the shoulders and forelegs in unison with the powerful thrust of the hindquarters. Capability of quick and sudden movement is essential. Stiltiness, cow or bow hocks, loaded or slack shoulders or straight shoulder placement, weakness at elbows, pasterns or feet, must be regarded as serious faults.

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 traditional purpose.

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