



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

BORDER COLLIE

RECOGNIZED: N/A

Effective: January 2015

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

Well proportioned, smooth outline showing quality, gracefulness and perfect balance, combined with sufficient substance to give impression of endurance. Any tendency to coarseness or weediness undesirable. *Characteristic:* Tenacious, hardworking sheepdog, or great tractability.

TEMPERAMENT

Keen, alert, responsive and intelligent. Neither nervous nor aggressive

SIZE

Ideal height: Dogs, 53 cm (21 in); bitches, slightly less

COAT

Two varieties: 1) Moderately long. 2) Smooth. In both, topcoat dense and medium textured, undercoat soft and dense giving good weather-resistance. In moderately long-coated variety, abundant coat forms mane, breeching and brush. On face, ears, forelegs (except for feather), hind legs from hock to ground, hair should be short and smooth.

COLOUR

Variety of colours permissible. White should never predominate.

HEAD

Skull: Fairly broad, occiput not pronounced. **Cheeks:** Not full or rounded. **Muzzle:** Tapering to nose, moderately short and strong. Skull and foreface approximately equal in length. **Stop:** Very distinct. **Nose:** Black, except in brown or chocolate colour when it may be brown. In blues, nose should be slate colour. Nostrils well developed. **Eyes:** Set wide apart, oval-shaped, or moderate size, brown in colour except in merles where one or both or part of one or both may be blue. Expression mild, keen alert and intelligent. **Ears:** Medium-sized and texture, well set apart. Carried erect or semi-erect and sensitive in use. **Mouth:** Teeth and jaws strong with a perfect, regular complete scissors bite – i.e., upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Of good length, strong and muscular, slightly arched and broadening to shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Front legs parallel when viewed from front, pasterns slightly sloping when viewed from side. Bone strong, but not heavy. Shoulders well laid back; elbows close to body.

BODY

Athletic in appearance, ribs well sprung, chest deep and rather broad, loins deep and muscular, but not tucked up. Body slightly longer than height at shoulder.

HINDQUARTERS

Broad, muscular, in profile sloping gracefully to set on of tail. Thighs long, deep and muscular with well turned stifles and string, well let down hocks. From hock to ground, hind legs well boned and parallel when viewed from rear. Feet: oval in shape, pads deep, strong and sound, toes arched and close together. Nails short and strong.

TAIL

Moderately long, the bone reaching at least to hock, set on low, well-furnished and with an upward swirl towards the end, completing graceful contour and balance of dog. Tail may be raised in excitement, never carried over back.

GAIT

Free, smooth and tireless, with minimum lift of feet, conveying impression of ability to move with great stealth and speed.

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.