



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG

RECOGNIZED: 1903

Effective: July 2020

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

A strong, compact-looking dog of great symmetry, practically the same in measurement from shoulder to stern as in height, absolutely free from legginess or weaseliness, very elastic in his gallop, but in walking or trotting he has a characteristic ambling or pacing movement, and his bark should be loud, with a peculiar “potcasse” ring in it. Taking him all round, he is a profusely, but not excessively coated, thick-set, muscular, able-bodied dog with a most intelligent expression, free from all Poodle or Deerhound character. Soundness should be considered of greatest importance.

SIZE

Height: Dog, 56 cm (22 in) and upwards; bitches, slightly less

Type, character, and symmetry are of the greatest importance and are on no account to be sacrificed to size alone.

COAT

Coat profuse, but not so excessive as to give the impression of the dog being over fat, and of a good hard texture; not straight, but shaggy and free from curl. Quality and texture of coat to be considered above mere profuseness. Softness or flatness of coat to be considered a fault. The undercoat should be a waterproof pile, when not removed by grooming or season.

COLOUR

Colour any shade of grey, grizzle, blue or blue merled with or without white markings or in reverse. Any shade of brown or fawn to be considered distinctly objectionable and not to be encouraged.

HEAD

Skull: Capacious and rather squarely formed, giving plenty of room for brain power. The parts over the eyes should be well arched and the whole well covered with hair. **Muzzle:** Fairly long, strong, square and truncated. The stop should be well defined to avoid a Deerhound face. (The attention of judges is particularly called to the above properties, as a long, narrow head is a deformity.) **Nose:** Always black, large and capacious. **Mouth:** Teeth strong and large, evenly placed and level in opposition. **Eyes** vary according to the colour of the dog. Very dark preferred, but in the glaucous or blue dogs a pearl, walleye, or china eye is considered typical. (A light eye is most objectionable.) **Ears:** Medium-sized, and carried flat to side of head, coated moderately.

NECK

The neck should be fairly long, arched gracefully and well coated with hair.

FOREQUARTERS

The **shoulders** sloping and narrow at the points. The **forelegs** should be dead straight, with plenty of bone, removing the body a medium height from the ground, without approaching legginess, and well coated all around.

BODY

The dog stands lower at the shoulder than at the loin. Rather short and very compact, ribs well sprung and brisket deep and capacious. Slab-sidedness highly undesirable. The loin should be very stout and gently arched.

HINDQUARTERS

Should be round and muscular with well-let-down hocks, and the hams densely coated with a thick, long jacket in excess of any other part. Feet small, round, toes well arched, and pads thick and hard.

TAIL

Traditionally known as the Bob Tail, the tail may be docked close to the body. If undocked, the tail is well coated with hair the same texture as the body coat. It is set low following the well-rounded croup, and it is carried low. When excited or happy the tail will rise but should not curl over the back.

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.

- Softness or flatness of coat to be considered a fault.
- Any shade of brown or fawn to be considered distinctly objectionable and not to be encouraged.
- A long, narrow head is a deformity.
- A light eye is most objectionable.
- Slab-sidedness highly undesirable

SCALE OF POINTS

Skull	5
Eyes.....	5
Ears	5
Teeth.....	5
Nose.....	5
Jaw	5
Foreface.....	5
Neck and shoulders.....	5
Body and loins.....	10
Hindquarters.....	10
Legs.....	10
Coat (texture, quality and condition)	15
General appearance and movement.....	15
TOTAL	100