



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

LANCASHIRE HEELER

RECOGNIZED: N/A

Effective: July 2026

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 AND PURPOSE

Works cattle but has terrier instincts when rabbiting and ratting.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, powerful, sturdily built, alert energetic worker.

TEMPERAMENT

Courageous, happy, affectionate to owner.

SIZE

Ideal height at the withers: Dogs, 30 cm (12 in); bitches, 25 cm (10 in)

COAT

Fine undercoat is covered throughout by a weather-resistant, short, thick, hard, flat topcoat. Topcoat slightly longer on neck. Undercoat should not show through nor allow any longer hair at the mane to stand off. Long or excessively wavy coat highly undesirable.

COLOUR

Black and tan or liver tan with pigment to tone with coat colour, with rich tan spots on cheeks and often above eyes. Rich tan on muzzle and chest and from knees downwards, inside hind legs and under tail. A distinct black or liver mark (thumb mark), according to coat colour immediately above front feet is desirable. Richness of tan may fade with age. White to be discouraged. A small white spot on forechest, although permissible is undesirable.

HEAD

Head: In proportion to body. **Skull:** Flat and wide between ears, tapering towards eyes, which are set wide apart. Moderate stop equidistant between nose and occiput. Tapering continues toward nose. Skull and muzzle to be on parallel planes. **Eyes:** Almond-shaped, medium size, dark colour except in liver where they may be lighter to match coat colour. **Ears:** Showing alert lift, or erect. Drop ears showing no lift undesirable. **Mouth:** Lips firm. Scissors bite, jaws strong with a perfect regular and complete scissors bite – i.e., upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Under or overshot to be discouraged.

NECK

Moderate length, well laid into shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Well laid shoulder, elbows firm against ribs. Amply boned. Pasterns allow feet to turn slightly outwards, but not enough to cause weakness or affect freedom of movement.

BODY

Well-sprung ribbing, extending well back with close coupling. Firm, level topline, never dipping at withers or falling at croup. Approximately 2.5 cm (1 in) longer than height at withers (measured from withers to set on of tail).

HINDQUARTERS

Muscular, with well-turned stifles, hocks well let down. From rear should be parallel, when moving or standing. Never bandy or cow-hocked. **Feet:** Small, firm and well padded.

TAIL

Set on high, left natural. Carried over back in a slight curve when alert but not forming a complete ring.

GAIT

Smart and brisk, natural, free movement.

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.