

UKC Standard

HISTORY

The Lhasa Apso originated in Tibet, where documentation on the breed exists from as far back as 800 B.C. They were, and still are, valued as a companion and watch dog. Originally, the dogs were kept as good luck talismans and were never sold but given away as gifts to those who the lamas held in high esteem.

The Lhasa Apso was recognized by the United Kennel Club in 1975.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Lhasa Apso is a small, very hardy breed with a well developed body. A long, dense coat enhances the beauty of the breed. A well-balanced dog is the ideal.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Lhasa Apso is gay and assertive, but cautious of strangers.

HEAD

The narrow skull falls away behind the eyes in a marked degree. It is not flat, but on the other hand is not domed nor apple-shaped. The foreface is straight and of a fair length. The length, measured from the tip of the nose to the eyes, is roughly about one-third of the total length of the head, measured from the nose to the back of the skull. The muzzle is of medium length. The teeth must not show when the mouth is closed.

Fault: Square muzzle.

TEETH

A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in a level or slightly undershot bite.

EYES

The eyes are dark brown in color. They are neither very large and full nor very small and sunken.

NOSE

The nose is black. When viewed from the front, the nose is level with, or very slightly below, the lower eye rims.

EARS

The pendant type ears are heavily feathered.

FOREQUARTERS

The forequarters are well developed.

FORELEGS

The upper arm allows for the desired chest width and depth. The forelegs are not bowed. When viewed from the front, the forelegs are straight and parallel, the elbows are well under the body, and the pasterns are straight and firm. When viewed from the side, there is a slight deviation from the perpendicular. Dewclaws need not be removed from the forelegs.

BODY

The backline is level. The length of the body, measured from the point of the shoulders to the point of the buttocks, is longer than the height, measured from the withers to the ground. The chest is well-ribbed-up. The slightly curved ribs extend well back along the body but do not extend down below the elbows. The

firmly muscled loin is of medium length. The angle of the croup is not more than 30 degrees from the horizontal.

HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters are well-developed and in balance with the forequarters.

HIND LEGS

The thighs are well-developed. When viewed from the rear, the hocks are strong and the rear pasterns are straight and parallel. When viewed from the side, they are perpendicular to the ground and not stretched out beyond the rump. The stifle is moderately bent.

FEET

The round, cat-like feet have good pads and are well feathered. The hair between the pads may be trimmed. The nails are black, but in light- or parti-colored dogs, light paws and nails are permitted.

TAIL

The well-feathered tail is carried over the back in a screw; there may be a kink at the end.

Serious fault: Low tail carriage.

COAT

The heavy, very dense, hard coat is straight and of good length. The head furnishings are very heavy, with a good fall over the eyes, good whiskers and a beard. Legs, forequarters, hindquarters and neck are heavily furnished.

Faults: Woolly coat. Silky coat.

COLOR

All colors are acceptable. Dark tips on the ears and beard may or may not be present.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

Heights are variable, but the desired height is about ten (10) or eleven (11) inches for males, with bitches being slightly smaller. Height is measured at the withers.

GAIT

An easy-moving, free-flowing trot is the normal gait and shows the capacity for movement the best of all gaits. There is a good reach of the forelegs balanced by a strong drive from the rear.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness. Albinism.