

AFGHAN HOUND

GROUP: Hound

SIZE:

Males, Ideally 27 inches; females, 25 inches; with either allowing plus or minus one inch. Males, about 60 pounds; females, about 50 pounds.

COAT:

Hindquarters, flanks, ribs, forequarters, and legs well covered with thick, silky hair, very fine in texture; ears and all four feet well feathered; hair is short and close, forming a smooth back in mature dogs, from in front of shoulders and backwards from shoulders along the saddle from the flanks and the ribs upwards; coat is not clipped or trimmed, and the dog should be shown in its natural state; head is surmounted with a topknot of long, silky hair; showing of short hair on cuffs on either back or front legs in permissible. **Fault: Lack of shorthaired saddle in mature dogs.**

COLOR & MARKINGS:

All colors are permissible, so long as color or color combinations are pleasing. **Fault: White markings, especially on the head are not desirable and should be faulted to the degree of variance.**

HEAD:

Long and refined, but not too narrow, with prominent occiput and a barely perceptible stop; distance from occiput to stop is equal to distance from stop to end of the nose; slight median furrow running from mid-muzzle to between the eyes; head is finely molded and well chiseled with tight, fine skin.

Skull: Longer than wide; tapers slightly toward the stop when viewed from above; very prominent occipital bone; long and silky hair on skull, forming the characteristic topknot. **Faults: Skull too coarse or too narrow; extreme falling away of backskull; absence of prominent occiput; absence of topknot or receding topknot.**

Muzzle: Long and tapering evenly from the stop to the nose when viewed from above; slight prominence of the nasal bone structure causing a slightly aquiline appearance viewed in profile; slight falling-away under the eyes ensuring clear, unimpaired vision; long powerful, and deep jaws; bones and surface blood vessels are clearly visible through the skin of a well-chiseled muzzle; tight lips with no hint of flews; muzzle and foreface hair of a mature Afghan Hound is short, but puppies carry heavy facial hair known as “monkey whiskers” until about one year of age; some adults have a refined beard, called a “mandarin,” on the lower jaw, adding to the oriental expression. **Faults: Weak or receding underjaw, snipy muzzle; exaggerated Roman nose.**

Eyes: Dark brown in color, but lighter shades of brown are permissible in light-colored dogs; almond shaped (almost triangular), never full or bulgy; black eye rims.

Ears: Pendant and set on a level with the outside corners of eyes; heavily feathered and long enough to reach the corner of the mouth.

Nose: Black and of good size; large nostrils; nose projects somewhat over the mouth so that a line drawn from the tip of the nose to the end of the lower jaw slopes downward and backward. **Faults: Exaggerated Roman nose; any color other than black.**

Teeth & bite: Full complement of large, evenly spaced, white teeth; scissor or level bite. **Faults: Undershot or overshot; missing teeth; incisors crowded as a result of a too-narrow jaw; wry bite. Disqualification: Seriously overshot or undershot.**

NECK:

Good length, strong and arched, running in a curve to the shoulders which are long and sloping and well laid back. **Faults: Neck too short or too thick; ewe neck; goose neck; lacking substance; carried too high, forming a 90-degree angle with the topline.**

BODY:

Strong and powerful loin and slightly arched, falling away toward the stern, with the hipbones very prominent; well ribbed and tucked up in flanks; height of shoulders equals distance from chest to buttocks; well-let-down brisket of medium width. **Faults: Roach back; swayback; goose rump; slack loin; lack of prominence of hipbones; too much width of brisket, causing interference with elbows; lack of prominent pelvis bones; more than three prominent dorsal vertebrae.**

Topline: Practically level from shoulders to loin.

Chest: Deep, extending nearly to the elbows, moderately wide, in balance with the width of hindquarters. **Faults: Narrow or shallow chest.**

FOREQUARTERS:

Particular structure of the forequarters and hindquarters are designed for hunting in rough terrain, requiring both power and agility, and must be considered when evaluating the structure of the breed. The shoulder blade and upper arm are extremely long, of apparent equal length; shoulder blade is laid back at an angle of 55 to 65 degrees, forming an angle of about 110 to 130 degrees with upper arm; properly angulated, the elbow will be in a direct vertical line below the uppermost tip of the shoulder blade; forelegs are long, straight, and strong; long, slightly sloping, strong, and flexible pasterns; elbows close to body. **Faults: Short legs, short, weak, or knuckled-over pasterns; upright shoulder blades; short or upright upper arm.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Powerful and well muscled; long upper and lower thighs of approximately equal length; well-let-down hocks; hindquarter angulation in balance with forequarter angulation; stifle angulation appears exaggerated because of profuse leg hair hanging from the upper and lower thigh; viewed from rear, correctly muscled hindquarters appear to be slightly curved from the crotch to the hock, but there is no curvature of the bone; straight hocks, parallel to one another; viewed from side, rear legs are set so that a line dropped from the point of the buttocks will just touch the front of the rear toes, and hocks are perpendicular to ground when viewed from side or rear. **Faults: Over angulated stifles; too long a second thigh; narrow rear; straight stifles; long hocks.**

Feet: Afghan Hound feet are perfectly designed for agility in rocky terrain; therefore, correct feet are essential to the breed. Forefeet are very large with arched toes, thick-padded, and well down on the ground; rear feet are as long but not quite as broad as the front feet; all feet point straight forward and are covered with long, fine-textured hair. All dewclaws should be removed. **Faults: Small feet; absence of hair on feet; feet turned inward or outward; thin pads.**

Tail: Long, and set low, about two-thirds of the way between the top of the pelvis bone and the point of buttock; curved upward, forming a ring or curve at the end; carried high but not curled over back when dog is moving; short topside tail hair with long, silky, and sparse underside hair. A correct tail is essential to the breed. **Faults: High-set tail; straight tail; tail curled too far over the back.**

MOVEMENT:

Movement is smooth, effortless, and powerful with great freedom of action. On a loose lead, the Afghan can trot as a fast pace; stepping along, it has the appearance of placing the hind feet directly in the front footprints, both thrown straight ahead; head should be carried proudly when trotting, rather than bringing the head down almost level with the back. **Faults: Head carried too high or too low when moving. Serious fault: Hackney gait.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Aloof and dignified, yet cheerful and merry.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Seriously overshot bite or undershot bite.

Albinism