

BEARDED COLLIE

GROUP: Working

SIZE:

Males 21 to 22 inches; females 20 to 21 inches. Height must be adhered to for purposes of maintaining the medium size of the breed. **Serious fault: Height over or under the standard.** Weight in good working condition, in proportion to size.

COAT:

Doublecoated; outercoat is flat, harsh and shaggy; free from wooliness and curl (slight wave is acceptable); coat parts naturally to either side, but must never be parted artificially; coat length and density provides protection and enhances the shape of the dog but not so profuse as to obscure the natural lines of the body; bridge of nose is sparsely covered with hair, slightly longer on the sides, covering the upper lips, increasing in length on the lower lips, cheek and under the chin, lengthening toward the chest and forming the characteristic beard. **Severe faults: Excessively long, silky coat; curly hair, lack of sufficient undercoat to form a double coat; trimmed or sculptured coat.**

COLOR:

Black, brown, fawn, or blue, with or without white markings allowed only on the foreface as a blaze, on the skull, on the tip of the tail, on the chest, legs and feet, and around the neck; white hair is not permitted on the body behind the shoulder nor on the face surrounding the eyes; tan markings are acceptable on the eyebrows, inside the ears, on the cheeks, under the root of the tail, and on the legs where the white joins the main color.

HEAD:

Proportioned to its body; broad and flat skull; moderate stop; cheeks well filled beneath the eyes.

Muzzle: Strong and full; foreface equal in length to the distance between the stop and occiput. **Serious fault: Snipey muzzle.**

Eyes: Large, but not round eyes set wide apart; expressive, soft and affectionate; eye color generally follows the tone of the coat color with lighter colored eyes characteristic of dogs born blue or fawn (no penalty for light color in these coat colors); eyebrows arched to the sides to frame the eyes are long enough to blend smoothly into the coat on the sides of the head; black eye rims in blacks, blue-gray rims in blues, and brown rims in browns with lighter brown rims in fawns. **Faults: Round eyes; protruding eyes.**

Ears: Medium sized, hanging and covered with long hair; set level with eyes; when dog is alert, the ears have a slight lift which brings the base level with the top of the skull.

Nose: Large and squarish; black nose in blacks, blue-gray nose in blues, and brown nose in browns with lighter brown nose in fawns.

Bite: Scissors bite; strong and white. **Faults: Overshot or undershot.**

NECK:

Strong; slightly arched; blends smoothly into shoulders; in proportion to the length of the body.

BODY:

Longer than height with an approximate ratio of five to four; Topline is level blending smoothly into the curve of the rump; Chest is deep, reaching at least the the elbows; ribs are well sprung from the spine, but flat at the sides. **Serious Faults: Flat or steep croup.**

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Forelegs are straight and vertical with substantial, but not heavy, bone; covered with shaggy hair all around; flexible pasterns without weakness; shoulders well laid back at an angle of approximately forty-

five degrees; top of shoulder blades lie in against, and are separated only by the withers, and slope out sufficiently to accommodate the proper rib spring

Hind legs are powerful and muscular at the thighs with well bent stifles; low hocks; pasterns are perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from behind; covered with shaggy hair all around.

Feet: Oval-shaped with well-padded soles; toes close together and well arched; covered with hair, including area between the pads.

Tail: Set low; reaching at least to the hocks; normally carried low with upward swirl at the tip while the dog is at ease; when the dog is excited or in action, the curve is accentuated and the tail may be raised, but never carried beyond a vertical line; covered with abundant hair.

MOVEMENT:

Free, supple, powerful and ground covering; balanced movement is achieved with good reach in forequarters accompanied by strong drive from the rear; back should remain firm and level; feet lifted only enough to clear the ground, giving the appearance of gliding; lithe and flexible to allow the dog to make sharp turns and sudden stops required when working; viewed from front and rear, front and rear legs travel in the same plane from the shoulder and hip joint to pads at all speeds; legs remain straight, but feet may single track as speed increases.

TEMPERAMENT:

Bright; devoted; inquiring expression; stable and self-confident; lack of shyness or aggression.

Serious Faults:

Snipy muzzle.

Flat croup or steep croup.

Excessively long, silky coat.

Trimmed or sculptured coat.

Height over or under the standard

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.

Tail carried over the back.