

BICHON FRISE

GROUP: Non-sporting.

SIZE:

Both adult males and females should be 9½ to 11½ inches at withers, but may be as short as 9 inches and as tall of 12 in superior specimens. Weight should be in proportion to height.

COAT:

Texture is of utmost importance; soft, dense undercoat with coarser and curlier outercoat, presenting a soft, but substantial feeling similar to plush or velvet, and springs back when patted; stands off from the body when bathed and brushed, giving a powder puff appearance; trimming should be to reveal the natural outline of the body, and rounded off from any direction, but never cut so short as to create an overly trimmed or squared off appearance; furnishings of head, beard, mustache, ears and tail are left longer; longer head hair is trimmed to create an overall rounded impression; topline trimmed to appear level; coat is left long enough to maintain the breed characteristic power puff look. *Fault: **Wiry coat.** Serious faults: **Limp, silky coat; a coat that lies down; lack of undercoat.***

COLOR:

White, but may have shadings of buff, cream or apricot around ears or on body, but an excess of 10% color of entire coat should be penalized; color shadings should not be faulted in puppies.

HEAD:

Slightly rounded skull allowing for a round and forward-looking eye; slightly accented stop; properly balanced head, measured from nose to the stop and from the stop to the occiput, should be three parts muzzle to five parts skull; a nearly equilateral triangle should result when a line is drawn between the outside corner of eyes to the nose; slight degree of chiseling under the eyes, but not so much as to result in a weak or snipy foreface; strong lower jaw.

Eyes: Round, black or dark brown set in skull to look directly forward; eye rims must be black; halos, the black or very dark brown skin surrounding eyes, are necessary to accentuate the eye and enhance expression. *Faults: **Overly large eyes, almond shaped, obliquely set eye; broken pigment, or total absence of pigment on eye rims.** Serious faults: **Any eye color other than black or brown; blank and/or staring expression.***

Ears: Drop ears covered with long flowing hair are set on slightly higher than eye level and rather forward on skull, framing the face when dog is alert; when extended toward the nose, the leathers reach approximately halfway the length of the muzzle.

Nose: Black and prominent.

Lips: Black, fine, and never drooping.

Bite: Scissors bite; crooked or out of line tooth is permissible. *Serious faults: **Undershot or overshot bite.***

NECK:

Long, arched, and carried proudly behind an erect head, blending smoothly into the shoulders; length of neck from occiput to withers is approximately one-third distance from forechest to buttocks.

BODY:

Rib cage is moderately sprung, extending back to a short and muscular loin; well-pronounced forechest protrudes slightly forward of the point of shoulder; underline has moderate tuck-up.

Topline: Level, except for a slight, muscular arch over the loin.

Chest: Well-developed and wide enough to allow free and unrestricted movement of front legs; lowest point of chest extends at least to the elbow.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulder blade (scapula), upper arm (humerus) and forearm (radius) are about equal in length; shoulder layback is approximately of a 45-degree angle; forelegs are medium-boned, straight, and not curved in forearm or wrist; elbows held close to body; pasterns slope slightly; dewclaws should be removed.

HINDQUARTERS:

Medium-boned legs are placed moderately wide; muscular thighs; upper and lower thigh are nearly equal in length and meet as a well-bent stifle joint; leg is perpendicular to ground from hock joint to foot pad. Dewclaws must be removed. *Fault: Rear dewclaws.*

Feet: Tight and round, cat-like, pointing directly forward, turning neither in nor out; black pads; nails kept short.

Tail: Well-plumed tail set on level with topline, curved gracefully over the back so that the tail hair rests on the back; extended toward the head, the tail reaches at least halfway to the withers. *Serious faults: Low set tail carried perpendicularly to the back; tail drooping behind. Very Serious fault: Corkscrew tail*

MOVEMENT:

Free and effortless, yet precise when at a trot; at side gait, the front and hind legs extend equally with easy reach and drive, maintaining a steady topline; in action, the head and neck remain somewhat erect; the dog single tracks slightly as speed increases; hindquarters maintain a moderate width between them while moving, and footpads can be seen; precise and true movement both coming and going.

TEMPERAMENT:

Gentle mannered, sensitive, playful and affectionate with a cheerful attitude is most important.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard. The very nature of the Bichon Frise is one of balance and soundness; any structural faults are to be penalized.

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Overshot or undershot bite.

Albinism.