

BORDER COLLIE

GROUP: Herding

SIZE:

Males from 19 to 22 inches; Females 18-21 inches. The body from point of sternum to point of buttocks is slightly longer than the height at the withers. Length to height ratio should be approximately 10:9, with strong, medium bone being correct, but lighter bone is to be preferred over heavy. Overall balance for a working dog is more crucial than any individual measurement. Dogs must be presented in hard, working condition. Excess body weight must be faulted if it is not muscle or substance. **Any single feature of size which appears out of proportion is to be considered a fault.**

COAT:

Two varieties: *Rough Coat* and *Smooth Coat* with both varieties having dense, weather resistant double coats. Top coat should be either straight or wavy and coarser in texture than the undercoat. The *Rough Coat* is medium in length without being excessive. Forelegs, haunches, chest, and underside are feathered, and the coat on face, ears, feet, front of legs is short and smooth. The *Smooth Coat* has short hair over the entire body that is usually coarser than in the rough variety and may have slight feathering on forelegs, haunches, chest, and ruff. Both coats are equally acceptable. Seasonal shedding is normal and should not be penalized. The Border Collie's purpose as an actively working herding dog should be clearly evident in its presentation.

COLOR:

Color is immaterial, except that white should not be the predominant color. Color and markings are always secondary to physical evaluation and gait.

HEAD:

The expression of a Border Collie should be intelligent, alert, eager, and full of interest.

Eyes: Set well apart, are moderate in size, and oval. The color can be any of the wide range of brown, with dogs other than black having noticeably lighter eyes. Blue eyes (with one, both, or part of one or both eyes being blue) are expected in merles and are acceptable but not preferred in other colors. Eye rims should be fully colored. **Fault: Lack of eye rim pigment to be faulted to degree of lack of color.**

Ears: Medium in size and set well apart. One or both of them should be carried erect or semi-erect (varying from ¼ to ¾ erect). When semi-erect, the tips may fall forward or outward to the side. They are very sensitive and mobile.

Skull Relatively flat and moderate in width. The skull and muzzle are approximately equal in length. In profile, the top of the skull is parallel with the top of the muzzle, and the *stop* is moderate but distinct. The *muzzle* is strong, tapering slightly to the nose. The underjaw should be strong and well-developed. **Fault: Domed, blocky or very narrow skull is to be faulted to the degree of the deviation from correct structure; snipey muzzle.**

Nose: Color matches the primary body color. Nostrils should be well-developed. **Fault: Lack of nose pigmentation should be faulted according to degree of deviation from standard.**

Bite: Teeth and jaws should be strong and meet in a scissors bite. There should be a complete set of teeth. **Serious Fault: Missing molars or premolars; undershot or overshot bite.**

NECK:

Neck should be of proportional length to the body, strong and muscular. It should be slightly arched and blend smoothly into the shoulders.

BODY:

Athletic in appearance with a deep, moderately broad chest reaching no further than the point of the elbow. The rib cage is moderately long with well sprung ribs. Loins are moderately deep and short, muscular, slightly arched, with a slight but distinct tuck up.

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Topline: Back is level from behind the withers to the slightly arched, muscular loins, falling to a gently sloping croup.

Tail: Set on low and is moderately long, with the bone reaching at least to the hock. Ideal tail carriage is low when the dog is concentrating on a task. It may have a slight upward swirl at the end like a shepherd's crook. In excitement, it may be raised and waved like a banner. **Fault: Tail curved over the back**

FOREQUARTERS:

Forelegs are parallel when viewed from the front, pasterns slightly sloping when viewed from the side. Because sufficient length of leg is crucial for the type of work the breed is required to do, the distance from the withers to the elbows is slightly less than from the elbow to the ground. **Serious Fault: Legs that are too short in proportion to the rest of the body.** Shoulder blades are long, well-laid back and well-angulated to the upper arm. Shoulder blades and upper arms are equal in length. There should be sufficient width between the tops of the shoulder blades to allow for the characteristic crouch when approaching and moving stock. Elbows are neither in nor out. Feet are compact, oval, with deep and strong pads. Toes are moderately arched and close together with strong nails.

HINDQUARTERS:

Broad and muscular, sloping to the low tail set. The thighs are long, broad, deep, and muscular. Stifles are well turned with strong hocks that may be either parallel or very slightly turned in. Dewclaws should be removed. Feet are smaller than in front, but otherwise the same as the front feet.

MOVEMENT:

The Border Collie is an extremely agile dog, able to change speed and direction quickly while maintaining balance and grace. Endurance is an essential quality of this breed. The Border Collie's most habitual gaits are the gallop and a moving crouch which convert to a balanced and free trot when the feet are lifted a minimal amount. The head is carried level with or slightly below the withers. The Border Collie should move on a loose lead at moderate speed, never at a race around the ring. Viewed from the side, the trot is not long striding, but covers the ground well, exhibiting ease of movement rather than a hard driving action. The topline is firm in movement. Viewed from the front, the action is forward and true without wasted motion. Viewed from the rear, hindquarters drive with thrust and flexibility, with hocks turning neither in nor out, moving close together but never touching. All the legs tend to converge toward a center line as speed increases. **Fault: Exaggerated reach and drive at the trot; Any deficiency that detracts from efficient movement.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Should be energetic, intelligent, keen, alert, and responsive. An intense worker of great tractability, it is affectionate towards friends but may be reserved toward strangers. When approached, the Border Collie should stand its ground. It should be alert and interested, **never** showing fear, dullness, or resentment. **Very Serious Faults: Any tendencies toward viciousness, nervousness, or shyness**

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