

CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER

GROUP: Sporting

SIZE:

The ideal height for males should measure 23-26 inches; females 21-24 inches.

Weight for males should be 65 to 100 pounds; females from 55-90 pounds as long as the dog's overall appearance is in balance and consistent with its essential purpose which is that of an active sporting and hunting dog.

COAT:

Correct waterproof coat is essential in a Chesapeake. The outer coat should be harsh, thick, and short. It should *never* be over 1 ½ inch long, with a dense, fine, woolly undercoat. The woolly undercoat and the oily outer coat, prevent cold water from penetrating to the dog's skin while he is working. A Chesapeake's coat should resist the water as a duck's feathers do. After leaving the water and shaking, the coat should be merely moist, without holding water at all. The hair on the shoulders, neck, back, and loin may be somewhat wavy, but *never* curly. A slight feathering on the tail and back of hindquarters is acceptable provided the hair is no longer than 1 ¾ inch. **Disqualification: A coat that is curly or that has a tendency to curl; feathering on tail or legs longer than 1 ¾ inch**

COLOR:

Without preference, all shades of brown, ranging from light cocoa to dark chocolate; all shades of sedge, ranging from reddish-yellow to red to chestnut; and all shades of deadgrass, ranging from faded tan to a dull straw color, with self-colored dogs being preferred. Dogs with the following are acceptable; masking on skull; slight light and dark striping effect through the body and on the legs; saddle markings; agouti coloring; or tan points. When judging Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, a good quality dog with minor color variations should be given preference over a lesser quality self-colored dog. **Disqualifications: Black color; white on any part of the body except breast, belly, toes or back of feet**

HEAD:

Proportionate to the size of the dog, without exaggeration of any sort. When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are about the same length and joined by a well-defined, but not abrupt, stop. Viewed from above, the head forms a blunt wedge.

Skull: Broad and round with a medium stop, slightly arched laterally and longitudinally; clean without any prominent arches or bones; cheeks are clean.

Eyes: Set into the head, but not too deeply; wide apart; medium large and slightly oval, giving an intelligent expression; yellow or amber, with no preference given to dogs whose eye color matches the shade of their coat; close-fitting eyelids; eye rims match nose pigment.

Ears: Small, drop ears set high on the head; leather of medium thickness; hang loosely.

Muzzle: Tapers slightly (not pointed) from stop to nose; approximately the same length as skull; sufficiently long and powerful to permit the dog to carry waterfowl of all sizes. The bridge of the muzzle is straight. Lips are thin and tight, not pendulous; pigment matches nose.

Nose: Medium short; fully pigmented and liver.

Bite: Scissors preferred—level acceptable. **Disqualification: Overshot or undershot bite.**

NECK:

Medium length; strong and muscular; blends smoothly to well-laid back shoulders; free of throatiness.

BODY:

Properly proportioned, the Chesapeake is only slightly longer (measured from prosternum to point of buttocks) than tall (measured from withers to the ground), and length of the front leg (measured from the point of elbow to the ground) should be close to one-half of the dog's height. Ribs extend well back and

are well rounded, then curve down and inward to form a deep body. Body is of medium length, neither cobby nor roached, but rather looking a little hollow from underneath from the well tucked up flanks. The brisket extends to the elbow.

Topline: The topline of the Chesapeake is unique to this particular retriever. From the slightly elevated withers, the topline drops slightly then curves up and over a strong back and moderately short, slightly arched and muscular loin, then curves downward over a gently sloping croup. It should show the hindquarters to be as high as or a little bit higher than the withers.

Chest: Strong, deep, and wide. Rib cage barrel is round and deep.

FOREQUARTERS:

No tendency to weakness in the forequarters; shoulders smoothly muscled; shoulder blades long and well laid back; upper arm appears equal in length to shoulder blade and joins it at an apparent right angle; elbows are close to the body; forelegs straight, strong, with sturdy, oval-shaped bone and strong, slightly sloping pasterns of medium length. Front legs should appear straight when viewed from front or rear. Dewclaws may be removed. **Well-webbed** hare feet of both front and back should be of good size with toes well-rounded and close.

HINDQUARTERS:

Broad and muscular with fully as much power as forequarters. Both upper and lower thighs are long, resulting in a slight elevation of the hindquarters equal to or slightly above the withers. The angulation of the hindquarters should be in balance with that of the forequarters. Stifles are well-bent. When the dog is standing, the strong, medium-length rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground and, viewed from the rear, parallel to one another. The distance from the hock to the ground should be of medium length. Dewclaws must be removed from the hind legs. **Serious Fault: Rear dewclaws.**

Tail: Natural extension of the topline; thicker at the base with a taper to the tip. Length should be to the hock. In relaxed state, the tail hangs down naturally. When the dog is moving or alert, the tail is carried level with the back or only slightly above level, with a merry action. The tail should *never* curl over the back or be carried between the legs.

MOVEMENT:

Effortless, smooth, and free, giving the impression of great power, showing good but not exaggerated reach in front and drive behind. When moving, the dog's head should move forward so that the head, backline, and tail are nearly even. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. Viewed straight on, there should be no sign of elbows being out. Moving away, the Chesapeake should show no sign of being cow hocked from the rear. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward a center line of balance. It is recommended that dogs be shown on a loose lead and moved at a moderate speed to reflect true gait. Because of the extra length of rear legs and slightly longer hocks, the Chesapeake may crab just slightly when moving. Other than this, poor movement should be penalized to the degree to which it reduces the dog's ability to perform the tasks it was bred to do.

TEMPERAMENT:

Independent thinkers, sometimes stubborn, but they are willing workers. Their disposition is generally bright and happy, with an intelligent expression. They are courageous and alert.

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:

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid

Viciousness or extreme shyness

Specimens lacking in breed characteristics

White on any part except breast, toes, belly, or back of feet

Teeth overshot or undershot

Curly coat or with a tendency to curl all over body

Feathering on the tail or legs over 1 ¼ inches long

Black color-----Albinism