

CHIHUAHUA

GROUP: Toy

SIZE:

In proportion to weight. Weight must not exceed six pounds.

COAT:

The Chihuahua has two varieties of coat, and each variety may be single or double coated. If an undercoat is present, it is soft, dense, and close fitting.

Smooth Coat: The outer coat is soft, glossy, and close fitting; coat placed well over the body with ruff on neck preferred, and less dense on head and ears; furry hair on tail preferred; if undercoat is absent, the ears, throat, and abdomen have little or no hair, and tail is less furry than in double coat. **Faults: Coat so short that hairs cannot be easily lifted; short hair on tail giving "rat-like" appearance.**

Long Coat: Soft outer coat lying either flat or slightly curly; undercoat preferred. Fringed ears; plumed, full and long tail; feathering on feet and legs, pants on hind legs and large ruff on neck preferred. **Fault: Excessive hair that stands away from the body like a Pomeranian. Disqualification: Too thin coat resembling bareness in long coat varieties.**

COLOR:

Color and markings are immaterial in the Chihuahua.

HEAD:

Rounded, "apple-dome" skull.

Muzzle: Moderately short, slightly pointed muzzle; viewed from the side, the bridge of the muzzle forms a right angle to the line of the forehead.

Eyes: Set wide apart; large and full but not protruding; color varies with coat color, ranging from dark brown to ruby-red with light greenish or lemon-yellow permitted in blond and white-colored dogs.

Ears: Large and erect, held more upright when alert, but flaring to the sides at a 45 degree angle when at rest; longhaired varieties with heavy fringing on the ears may have ears droop slightly as a result of the weight without penalty. **Disqualifications: Drop ears after six months of age; cropped ears.**

Nose: Color varies with coat color; acceptable colors include black, brown, beige, reddish-beige, with pink nose permissible in blond types.

Bite: Level or scissors. **Serious faults: Overshot or undershot bite; any distortion of the bite or jaw.**

NECK:

Medium length, slender, and slightly arched, blending smoothly into the shoulders.

BODY:

Back is level, straight, and as short as possible, but slightly longer than tall. Chest is deep but not barrel shaped. Ribs are well sprung

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Forelegs are straight, fine, and set well under the body; shoulders are flat and well laid back; elbows close to body; upper arm and the scapula from an apparent 90 degree angle, with the upper arm almost as long as the scapula.

Hind legs are positioned well under the body, with bent hocks; muscular, with angulation in balance with that of the forequarters; when standing, the short rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground.

Feet: Small, with soft pads and toes separated, but not spread; neither hare nor cat foot.

Tail: Long, full and plumed, carried upward, low, or curled over back, but never tucked.

MOVEMENT:

Smooth flowing gait, with graceful movements; viewed from the rear, the hocks remain parallel to each other with rear feet following directly behind that of the front. *Faults:* **Short, choppy movement; rolling or high-stepping gait; close or overly wide movement.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Alert, active, with plenty of self-confidence; courageous.

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.

Over six pounds in weight.

Cropped ears; broken down ears.

Drop ears after six months of age.

Bobtail.

Long coats too thin.

Albinism.