

DALMATIAN

GROUP: Non-Sporting

SIZE:

Both males and females: Between 19 and 23 inches at the withers. **Faults: Undersize or oversize. Very serious fault: Height over 24 inches.** Weight in proportion to height with good substance and strong and sturdy in bone.

COAT:

Short, dense, fine and close fitting; neither wooly nor silky; sleek, glossy and healthy in appearance.

COLOR & MARKINGS:

Color and markings and their overall appearance are very important points to be evaluated. The ground color is pure white. In black-spotted dogs, the spots are dense black; in liver-spotted dogs, liver brown. **Spots** should be round and well-defined, the more distinct the better; vary from the size of a dime to the size of a half-dollar; pleasingly and evenly distributed, the less intermingling the better. Spots are usually smaller on the head, legs, and tail than on the body. Ears are preferably spotted. **Tri-color** occurs rarely in this breed and is a disqualification. It consists of tan markings found on the head, neck, chest, leg or tail of a black- or liver-spotted dog. **Note:** Bronzing of black spots, and fading or darkening of liver spots due to environmental conditions or normal processes of coat change are not tri-coloration. **Patches** are a disqualification. A patch is a solid mass of black or liver hair containing no white hair. It is significantly larger than a normal sized spot. Patches are a dense, brilliant color with sharply defined, smooth edges. Patches are present at birth. Large color masses formed by intermingled or overlapping spots are not patches. Such masses should indicate individual spots by uneven edges and/or white hairs scattered throughout the mass. **Serious faults: Spots lighter than the desired colors should be faulted according to the extent of deviation from the ideal. Disqualifications: Lemon-colored spots; any color markings other than black or liver; tri-color; patches; albinism.**

HEAD:

Head is in proportion to the size of the dog, of fair length, and is free of loose skin; appears pear-shaped when viewed from above; viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are parallel to one another and joined by a moderate stop.

Skull: Almost flat, with slight center groove running from the occiput down through the stop and extending down the top of the muzzle; nearly as broad as it is long; bony arches over the eyes should be well developed. **Serious fault: Flat or slight stop.**

Eyes: Medium sized, somewhat rounded, set moderately well apart, and set well into skull. Eye color is brown or blue, or any combination thereof; darker eyes preferred. **Serious faults: Functional abnormality of eyelids or eyelashes; incomplete pigmentation of eye rims.**

Ears: Ears of drop, of moderate size, proportionately wide at the base and gradually tapering to a rounded tip; set rather high; carried close to the head, and are thin and fine in texture. When alert, the Dalmatian carries the top of the ear level with the stop of the skull, and the tip of the ear reaches to the bottom line of the cheek.

Muzzle: Top of muzzle is level and parallel to the top of the skull; cheeks blend smoothly into a powerful muzzle that is about equal in length to the skull; lips are clean and close-fitting.

Nose: Completely pigmented on the leather, black in black-spotted dogs and brown in liver-spotted dogs. Fault: Snipey muzzle. **Serious fault: Incomplete nose pigmentation.**

Bite: Complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite. **Disqualifications: Overshot or undershot bite.**

NECK:

Fairly long, nicely arched, blending smoothly into the shoulders, entirely free of throatiness.

BODY:

The Dalmatian is about as long, measured from posternum to point of buttocks, as tall, measured from the withers to the ground. Topline should be smooth.

Chest: Deep, capacious and of moderate width, having good spring of rib without being barrel shaped; brisket reaches to the elbow; underline of the rib cage curves gradually into a moderate tuck-up.

Back: Inclines very slightly downward from the withers and then becomes level and strong.

Loin: Short, muscular, slightly arched; flanks narrow through the loin.

Croup: Nearly level with the back.

FOREQUARTERS:

Smoothly muscled and well laid back shoulders; upper arm is approximately equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an angle sufficient to insure that the foot falls under the center of the shoulder blade; elbows close to body; straight, strong, and sturdy in bone legs; straight, strong forelegs with short, slightly sloping pasterns.

HINDQUARTERS:

Powerful with smooth, well-defined muscles; well-bent stifles; hocks well let down and perpendicular to the ground; hocks are parallel when viewed from rear. ***Serious fault: Cow hocks.***

Feet: Feet are very important; both front and rear are round and compact with thick, elastic pads, and well-arched toes; toenails black and/or white in black spotted dogs, brown and/or white in liver-spotted dogs; dewclaws should be removed, but is not a serious fault.

Tail: The tail is a natural extension of the topline, thicker at the base and tapering to the tip; carried with slight upward curve, but should never curl over the back; tail of correct length reaches to hock; never docked. ***Faults: Tail set well below topline; ring tail; vertical tail.***

MOVEMENT:

In light of the Dalmatian's historical use as a coach dog, correct movement and endurance are essential. Powerful drive from the rear combined with extended reach in front results in a steady effortless trot; elbows, hocks and feet turn neither in nor out; topline remains level when gaiting; tends to single track as trot speed increases. ***Fault: Poor movement that reduces the Dalmatian's ability to perform the task for which it was bred.***

TEMPERAMENT:

Stable and outgoing, yet dignified. ***Serious fault: 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.

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Overshot bite or undershot bite.

Any color markings other than black or liver.

Lemon-colored spots.

Tri-color.

Patches.

Albinism.

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