

DANDIE DINMONT TERRIER

GROUP: Terrier.

SIZE:

Males and females, 8 to 11 inches height at top of shoulders; from top of shoulders to root of tail, length is one to two inches less than twice height. Weight preferred 18 to 24 pounds for dog in good working condition.

COAT:

Coat is very important: hair should be about two inches long; body coat a mixture of about 2/3 hardish hair with about 1/3 soft hair, giving a sort of crisp texture; hair not wiry; body coat is shortened by plucking; coat is termed pily or penciled presenting the effect of the natural intermingling of the two types of hair; hair on underpart of body is softer than on top. **Head** is covered with very soft, silky hair, the silkier the better, and should not be confined to a mere topknot, but extends to cover the upper portion of ears, including the fold, and frames eyes; EAR has a thin feather of hair starting about two inches from the tip, nearly same color and texture as topknot, giving the ear the appearance of ending in a distinct point; body of ear covered with short, soft, velvety hair. **Muzzle** hair is of same texture as foreleg feather; hair on top of muzzle is shortened for presentation; hair behind nose is naturally more sparse for about an inch. **Forelegs** have a feather about two inches long with same texture as muzzle hair. **Hind Leg** hair is of same texture as forelegs but with considerably less feather. **Tail** hair on upper side is covered with crisper hair than that on the body; underside of tail has softer feather about two inches long, gradually shorter as it nears the tip, shaped like a scimitar; trimming of tail for presentation is to appear entirely natural; exaggerated styling is objectionable.

COLOR:

Pepper or mustard. **Pepper** ranges from dark bluish black to light silvery gray, with intermediate shades preferred; topknot and ear feather are silvery white, the lighter the color the better; hair on legs and feet should be tan, varying according to body color from rich tan to very pale fawn. **Mustard** varies from a reddish brown to pale fawn; topknot and ear feather are creamy white; hair on legs and feet should be darker shade than topknot. **In both colors** body color comes well down the shoulders and hips, gradually merging into the leg color; hair on underpart of body is lighter in color than on top; hair on muzzle (beard) is a little darker shade than the topknot; ear color harmonizes with body color; upper side of tail is a darker shade than body color, while underside of tail is lighter, as the legs; some white hair on chest is common.

HEAD

Strongly made and large, but in proportion to dog's size; well-developed muscles, especially those covering foreface; **expression** shows great determination, intelligence and dignity.

Skull: Broad between ears, gradually tapering toward eyes, and measures about the same from stop to occiput as it does from ear to ear; forehead (brow) well domed with well-defined stop.

Eyes: Rich, dark hazel color with dark eye rims; ears large, round, bright and full, but not protruding; set wide apart and low, and directly forward.

Ears: Set well back, wide apart and low on skull, hanging close to cheek with very slight projection at fold; broad shaped at base coming almost to a point; from edge comes almost straight down from base to tip; tapering is primarily on back edge; cartilage and skin of ear are rather thin; length of ear is three to four inches.

Muzzle Deep and strong; length proportions are a ratio of three (muzzle) to five (skull); lips and inside mouth are black or dark colored.

Nose: Moderately larger and black or dark colored.

Bite: Tight scissors bite of very strong teeth, especially the canines, and of extraordinary size for a small dog; canine teeth mesh well with each other, giving great holding and punishing power; six incisors in each jaw are evenly spaced.

NECK

Very muscular, well developed and strong, showing great power of resistance; well-set into shoulders and moderate in length.

BODY

Long, strong and flexible with underline reflecting curves of topline; well-sprung ribs and well rounded.

Topline: Rather low at shoulder, having slight downward curve and a corresponding arch over the loins with a very slight gradual drop from top of loins to root of tail; both sides of backbone are well muscled; outline is continuous flow from crest of neck to tip of tail.

Chest: Well developed and well let down between forelegs.

FOREQUARTERS:

Should be sufficient layback of shoulder to allow good reach in front; angulation in balance with hindquarters; upper arms nearly equal in length to shoulder blades, elbows lying close to ribs and capable of moving freely; short forelegs of good muscular development and ample bone, set wide apart; front feet point forward or very slightly outward; pasterns nearly straight when viewed from side. **Faults: Bandy legs and fiddle front.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Little longer than forelegs and set rather wide apart, but not spread out in unnatural manner; upper and lower thighs are rounded and muscular and approximately same length; stifles angulated in balance with forequarters; well let down hocks and rear pasterns perpendicular to ground.

Feet: Round and well cushioned; rear feet are smaller than front feet, and dewclaws, if any, must be removed; dewclaws preferably removed on forelegs; dark and strong nails varying in color according to color of dog; white nails are permissible. **Faults: Flat feet.**

Tail: Eight to ten inches in length, rather thick at the root, getting thicker for about four inches, then tapering off to a point; carried a little above the level of the body in a curve like a scimitar; set-on of tail is continuation of the very slight gradual drop over the croup; when dog is excited, tail tip may be aligned perpendicular to its root.

MOVEMENT

Free and easy stride, reaching forward with front legs and driving with evident force from rear; legs move in straight plane from shoulder to pad and hip to pad. **Faults: stiff, stilted, hopping or weaving gait and lack of drive in rear quarters.**

TEMPERAMENT

Independent, determined, reserved, and intelligent, combining an affectionate and dignified nature with, in a working situation, tenacity and boldness.

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.

Albinism.