

DOBERMAN PINSCHER

GROUP: Working

SIZE:

Males, 26 to 28 inches with 27 ½ inches ideal; females 24 to 26 inches with 25 ½ inches ideal. **Very serious faults: Heights over or under the tolerated limits.** Weight in proportion to height.

COAT:

Smooth, short-haired, hard, thick, close lying; almost invisible gray undercoat on neck area is permissible.

COLOR & MARKINGS:

Acceptable colors are black, red, blue, and fawn (Isabella); sharply defined, rust-colored markings located over the eyes, on muzzle, throat forechest, on all four feet, and below the tail; white patch permitted on chest if not exceeding one-half inch square.

Serious Fault: Any color(s) other than the four listed.

HEAD:

Head is in proportion to the body; wedge-shaped viewed from front or side; viewed from front, head gradually widens in an uninterrupted line toward base of ears; slight stop.

Eyes: Almond shaped eyes, moderately deep-set with vigorous, energetic expression; colors range from medium to dark brown in black dogs, iris color blending with that of the markings in blue, red, or fawn dogs; darker shades preferred in all colors. **Fault: light eyes in black dogs.**

Ears: May be cropped or natural; carried erect if cropped; when held erect, upper attachment of the ear is on a level with the top of the skull. Natural ears are never penalized.

Muzzle: Parallel to the top of the skull, both of which are flat; flat and muscular cheeks; clean lips lying close to the powerful, well-defined jaws.

Nose: Always solid colored; black in black dogs, dark brown in red dogs, dark gray in blue dogs, and dark tan in fawns.

Teeth & Bite: Strongly developed white teeth; true scissors bite with lower incisors upright and touching inside upper incisors; 42 correctly placed teeth, 22 in the lower, 20 in the upper jaw; distemper teeth are not penalized. **Disqualifications:** Overshot bite more than 3/16 inch; undershot more than 1/8 of inch.

NECK:

Fairly long and lean, carried proudly, well muscled and dry; well arched with nap of neck widening gradually toward body; length in proportion to body and head; free of dewlap.

BODY:

Square, the height at withers equal to distance from point of forechest to rear of upper thigh; belly well tucked-up; brisket reaching deep to the elbow; hips broad and in proportion to body, breadth of hips being approximately equal to breadth of body at rib cage and shoulders.

Topline: Sloping slightly from the withers to the slightly rounded croup; firm and short of sufficient width; female may be slightly longer in the loin.

Chest: Broad, well defined forechest; well sprung ribs from the spine, but flattened in lower end permitting elbow clearance.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulder blade should slope forward and downward at a 45 degree angle to the ground and meet upper arm at an approximate 90 degree angle; shoulder blade and upper arm length are equal; height from elbow to withers equals approximately height from ground to elbow; seen from the side, legs are perfectly straight and parallel to each other from elbow to pastern and are muscled and sinewy with heavy bone; elbows lie close to the brisket in normal pose and when gaiting; pasterns firm and almost perpendicular to the ground; dewclaws are not penalized, but are preferred to be removed.

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HINDQUARTERS:

Well-developed and muscular; angulation of hindquarters balances that of the forequarters; hip bone should fall away from the spinal column at an approximate 30 degree angle, producing slightly rounded, well filled-out croup; upper shanks are at right angles to the hip bones and are long, wide, and well muscled on both sides of thigh with clearly defined, long, bent stifle; hock to heel is perpendicular to the ground when dog is at rest; legs are straight and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear, and are wide enough apart to fit in with a properly defined body; dewclaws should be removed; cat feet turning neither in nor out.

Feet: Feet, front and rear, are well arched, compact and catlike, turning neither in nor out.

Tail: Tail is docked at approximately the second joint, appearing to be a continuation of the spine, and is carried slightly above the horizontal backline when the dog is alert.

MOVEMENT:

The gait is free, balanced and vigorous, with good reach in the forequarters and driving power in the hindquarters; tracks straight, but as speed increases, the dog single tracks; strong rear-action drive when trotting; rear legs move in line with the forelegs on the same side; rear and front legs are thrown neither in nor out; back remains strong and firm.

TEMPERAMENT:

Intelligent, alert, brave, watchful, energetic, loyal, and obedient.

Faults:

Any fault that deviates from the ideal of the Doberman Pinscher should be penalized according to the degree of deviation.

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.

A dog that attacks or attempts to attack either the judge or its handler is definitely vicious; but an aggressive or belligerent attitude toward other dogs shall not be deemed viciousness, if controlled.

A dog shall be deemed fundamentally shy if, refusing to stand for examination, it shrinks away from the judge; if it fears an approach from the rear; if it shies at sudden or unusual noises to a marked degree.

Overshot bite of more than 3/16 inch.

Undershot bite of more than 1/8 inch.

Albinism.

Note: Hip dysplasia and the blood disorder, Von Willebrand's Disease, are known in the breed. Dogs exhibiting these disorders are not be used for breeding.