

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER

GROUP: SPORTING

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The German Short-haired Pointer is a medium-sized, well-balanced dog with tight skin; clean-cut head; short, thick coat of liver or liver and white color; broad, high-set drop ears; a docked tail carried level with the back when the dog is moving or downward when relaxed. The length of body is only slightly longer than the height at the withers, and the legs are only slightly longer than the depth of body. The overall picture is that of a self-confident, purposeful hunter, capable of speed, agility, and power. The dog is neither overly small nor conspicuously large. It appears medium sized, but is a true hunter--short of back, but covers plenty of ground. Symmetry and field quality are most essential. A dog well balanced in all points is preferable to one with outstanding good qualities and defects. Grace of outline, is essential for the Pointer. A dog in hard and lean field condition is not to be penalized; however, overly fat or poorly muscled dogs are to be penalized. The German Shorthaired Pointer should be evaluated as a working gun dog, and exaggerations or faults should be penalized in proportion to how much they interfere with the dog's ability to work. The key word to describe the German Shorthaired Pointer is versatility. They have been known to hunt upland game and water fowl, track deer and bear, and even tree raccoons. They are willing, enthusiastic workers who thrive in the most rugged country and weather. These Pointers require training to point or to back up any other dog they see pointing. They retrieve equally well on land and water and can locate dead or wounded game in the heaviest cover.

SIZE:

Desired height for males is 23-25 inches and for females, 21-23 inches. A male in good working condition should weigh between 55 and 70 pounds, a female between 45 and 60. ***Serious Fault:* The Shorthair should be proportionally square or slightly longer than he is tall. *Faults:* Thin, fine-boned dogs should be penalized to the degree of variance from what is comfortable for a dog that must be strong and able to work over a large variety of terrains. Main importance is not so much on size of bone, but rather on the bone being in proper proportion to the body. Therefore, too heavy bone is also to be faulted. Tall and leggy dogs, dogs which are ponderous because of excess substance, doggy bitches, and bitchy dogs are to be faulted to the degree of their deviance from the desired.**

COAT:

Double coat Outer coat is short, close-lying, thick, somewhat coarse and slightly oily. The undercoat is dense and short. Short and thick and feels tough to the hand; somewhat longer on the underside of the tail and the back edges of the haunches. Thinner, softer, and shorter on the ears and the head. ***Serious Fault:* Any long hair in the body coat**

COLOR & MARKINGS:

May be solid liver or a combination of solid liver and white such as liver and white ticked, liver patched, and white ticked, or liver roan. ***Severe Fault:* Any area of black, red, orange, lemon, or tan, or a solid white dog**

HEAD:

Proportionate to the size of the dog, clean-cut, and without exaggeration of any sort. When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are approximately equal in length and joined by a gradual stop that appears more abrupt than it is because of the moderately well-defined supraorbital arches over the eyes. ***Serious Fault:* Pronounced stop.**

Skull: Moderately broad and slightly arched laterally and longitudinally. There is a slight median furrow between the eyes at the forehead, and the occipital bone is not conspicuous. Cheeks are clean with well-developed jaw muscles.

Muzzle: In profile, the muzzle is long and deep, with sufficient power to seize and carry game. The bridge of the muzzle rises gradually from nose to stop. This rise is more strongly pronounced in males. Viewed from above, the muzzle is wide with very little taper from stop to nose. Lips are slightly pendent but not overly thick. The top lip should fall naturally over the lower without folds or drooping, so that the

underline of the jaw is straight and roughly parallel to the bridge of the muzzle when viewed from the side. The nose projects somewhat over the mouth so that a line drawn from the tip of the nose to the end of the lower jaw slopes downward and backward. *Faults:* Concave or dished muzzle; snipey muzzle; heavily wrinkled forehead; lips too large or too small.

Nose: large and solid brown with well-opened nostrils. *Fault:* **Spotted nose.** *Disqualification:* **Flesh-colored nose.**

Eyes: Set into the skull, but not too deep, and wide apart. They are medium-sized and almond-shaped; brown with darker brown preferred. Eyelids are close-fitting, and eye rims are brown. *Faults:* **Light yellow (bird of prey) eyes; closely set eyes.** *Serious Faults:* **China or Wall Eye.** *Disqualifications:* **Functional abnormality or eyelids or eyelashes**

Ears: Hanging down, broad and rounded at the tips. They are set on just above eye level and are of medium thickness, hanging close to the head with no pronounced fold. When laid in front without being pulled, the ears should extend to the corner of the mouth. Heavier dogs will have correspondingly longer ears. Some German Shorthaired Pointers will fold their ears when moving, but when alert, the ears should be as described as above. *Faults:* **Ears too long; ears too fleshy or too thin; too small and pointed; ears permanently folded.**

Mouth: Complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite. *Serious Faults:* **Level bite; slightly undershot or overshot.** *Disqualification:* **Extreme undershot or overshot bite.**

NECK:

Moderately long, slightly arched--sloping downward on beautifully curving lines, sufficiently muscled to carry heavy game for some distance. The circumference of the neck widens from the nape to where the neck blends smoothly into well laid back shoulders. The skin of the throat fits closely, but some moderate hound-like throatiness is permitted.

BODY:

Slightly longer (measured from prosternum to point of buttocks) than tall (measured at the withers). The length of the front legs (measured from point of elbow to the ground) is slightly longer than the deepest part of the body. The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body, extending to the elbow. The circumference of the thorax immediately behind the elbows is smaller than that of the thorax about a hand's width behind the elbows so that the upper arm has room for movement. Forechest extends only slightly in front of the point of shoulder. Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is well-filled and is at least as wide as a man's closed hand. The back is short, muscular, and slightly sloping from withers to set-on of tail. The loin is of moderate length, muscular, and slightly arched with moderate tuck-up. The croup is wide and slightly sloping. *Faults:* **Back too long; roached back; swayback; chest too broad; chest too hollow.** *Serious Faults:* **Chest too narrow; pigeon chest**

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders are smoothly muscled; shoulder blades are long and well laid back—upper tips about two fingers width apart at the withers. Upper arms seem to be equal in length to the shoulder blade and join it at an apparent right angle. Elbows are close to the body; forelegs are straight, strong and sturdily but not heavily boned. Pasterns are strong, short, slightly sloping, and with a slight spring. Viewed from the side, the forelegs are set under the withers. *Faults:* **Toeing inward or outward; straight shoulders; short upper arm; knuckling over; down in the pasterns.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Moderately angulated, broad, strong, well-muscled. In profile, the croup is long and slopes slightly; hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground, and parallel to one another when viewed from the rear. *Faults:* **Cow hocks; spread hocks; sickle hocks; over-angulation; short, steep, or flat croup**

Feet: Good feet are essential to a working gun dog. The dog should stand and move with its weight distributed over the whole pad. Feet should be large, webbed, and round to spoon shape, with rather long, well-arched toes and thick hard pads. In the field, toenails help to increase the dog's grip on the terrain, so they must be heavy and should not be cut back so far as to be useless. Dewclaws on forelegs may be removed. **Faults: Splay or hare feet; feet pointing in or out.**

Tail: Set high and usually docked to about 40% of its natural length; thick and muscular at the base, tapering toward the end. When the dog is relaxed, 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, but no higher than 45 degrees above level. When quartering, the tail should wag laterally, but should never curve over the back or be carried between the legs. **Serious Fault: Tail curved over the back toward the head.**

MOVEMENT:

A smooth, lithe, graceful gait is essential. As the gait increases from the walk to a faster speed, the legs converge under the body toward a single track. This is desirable. The forelegs reach well ahead as if to pull in the ground without giving the appearance of a hackney gait. The hindquarters drive the back legs smoothly and with great power. It is recommended that dogs be shown on a loose lead and moved at moderate speed to reflect true gait. **Faults: Poor movement should be penalized to the degree to which it interferes with the German Shorthaired Pointer's ability to perform the tasks it was bred to do.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Friendly, intelligent, and willing to please. First impression is that of a significant enthusiasm for work without indication of nervous or flighty character.

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

Either or both testicles being not present or abnormal in intact males

Extreme undershot or overshot bite

Flesh-colored nose -- Functional abnormality of eyelids or eyelashes