

GOLDEN RETRIEVER

GROUP: Sporting

SIZE:

Preferred height for males at withers is 23 to 24 inches; females 21½ to 22½. **Faults: Heights up to one inch above or below standard. Heights one inch or greater above below standard are a more serious fault, but in all cases, dog should be balanced and in proportion.** Weight for males should be 65 to 75 pounds; females 55 to 65 pounds.

COAT:

Dense and water-repellent double coat; outer coat lies close to body and may be straight or wavy, firm and resilient, neither coarse nor silky; untrimmed coat forms natural ruff around the neck, blending into front of the neck and chest; moderate feathering on back of forelegs and on underbody; heavier feathering on front of chest, back of thighs, and underside of tail; Coat on head, lower part of ears, paws, and front of legs is short and even; feet may be trimmed and stray hairs neatened, but neither the natural appearance of the coat nor the outline of the dog should be altered by trimming. **Fault: Trimming other than as described above. Serious faults: Excessively long coat; open coat; soft coat.**

COLOR:

Any shade of golden, but must be rich and lustrous; cream or red body color is undesirable, but some latitude may be given a lighter-colored puppy whose coat shows promise of darkening with age; feathering may be lighter than rest of coat, and lighter shadings extending upward from underbody are typical and acceptable, but must not be confused with white markings; graying or whitening of face or body, except due to age, are faults and must be penalized in proportion to extent. **Serious fault: Any noticeable area of black or other off-color hair.**

HEAD:

Proportionate to size of dog without exaggeration of any sort; viewed from side, skull and muzzle are roughly parallel to one another and joined by a well-defined, but not abrupt, stop; foreface deep and wide, nearly as long as skull.

Skull: Broad and slightly arched laterally and longitudinally; clean without prominence of orbital arches or occipital bones; clean cheeks.

Eyes: Friendly, intelligent expression, medium large with dark, close-fitting rims, set well apart and reasonably deep in sockets; somewhat triangular in appearance, but not so much as to give a hard expression; dark brown preferred, but medium brown acceptable if it does not detract from the desired friendly expression; eye rims are dark with close-fitting eyelids. **Faults: slant eyes, and narrow, triangular eyes; visible white or haw when looking straight ahead. Disqualifications: Evidence of functional abnormality of eyelids or eyelashes such as, but not limited to, trichiasis, entropion, ectropion, and distichiasis.**

Ears: Drop and rather short with front edges attached well behind and just above the eyes; pulled forward, the tip of the ear should just cover the eye; pliable ear leather; lower part of ear should be well furred with short, soft hair, slightly longer where the ear attaches to the skull. **Fault: Low, hound-like ear set.**

Muzzle: Straight in profile, blending smoothly and strongly into skull; viewed in profile, muzzle is deep and, measured from nose to stop, slightly shorter than skull, measured from stop to occiput; bridge of muzzle is straight; viewed from top or side, muzzle is slightly deeper and wider at the stop than at the tip; close-fitting lips with dark pigment; removal of whiskers is permitted but not preferred.

Nose: Black or brownish black, though fading to lighter shade in cold weather is not serious; large and open nostrils. **Serious fault: Pink nose or one seriously lacking in pigmentation.**

Teeth and Bite: Evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite; full dentition. **Faults: Misaligned teeth; level bite. Serious fault: Missing teeth leaving obvious gaps. Disqualification: Overshot or undershot bite.**

NECK:

Medium length, blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders, giving a sturdy, muscular appearance; no throatiness. **Fault: Long, upright neck, short, stuffy neck. Serious fault: Ewe neck.**

BODY:

Well-balanced, slightly longer (measured from prosternum to point of buttocks) than tall (measured from the withers to the ground); line of back is strong and level from withers to the slightly sloping croup whether dog is standing or moving; moderately short, muscular and deep loin, with very little tuck-up; ribs well sprung out from the spine, extending well back, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body; brisket extends to elbow; viewed from front.

Topline: Strong and level from withers to slightly sloping croup, whether standing or moving. **Faults: Sloping backline, roach or sway back, flat or steep croup.**

Chest: Well-developed forechest; viewed from front, the width between forelegs should be at least as wide as a man's closed hand.

FOREQUARTERS:

Smoothly muscled shoulders, well coordinated with hindquarters and capable of free movement; long and well laid back shoulder blades with upper tips fairly close together at withers; upper arms appear about same length as the blades; length of front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) should approximately equal one-half the dog's height; viewed from front, legs are straight with good bone, but not to the point of coarseness; short, strong pasterns, sloping slightly with no hint of weakness; dewclaws not faulted, but removal preferred.

HINDQUARTERS:

Broad and muscular; croup slopes slightly in profile; pelvic bone slopes at slightly greater angle (approximately 30 degrees from horizontal); femur joins pelvis at approximately 90-degree angle in a natural stance; stifles well bent; hocks well let down with short, strong rear pasterns; balanced angulation of hindquarters and forequarters; legs straight when viewed from rear; dew claws, if any, should be removed. **Faults:** Cow-hocks, spread hocks, sickle hocks.

Feet: All feet are medium size, round, compact, well-arched toes, with thick pads; excess hair may be trimmed to show natural size and contour. **Faults: Splayed or hare feet.**

Tail: Thick and muscular at base and tapers to tip, forming a natural extension of the topline; tail bones extend to, but not below the point of hock; carried level with the back or only slightly above level with a carefree action when the dog is moving or alert. **Faults: Tail curled over the back or carried between the legs.**

MOVEMENT:

When trotting, gait is free, smooth, powerful, and well coordinated, showing good but not exaggerated reach in front and drive behind. When moving, the dog's head moves forward so head, backline, and tail are nearly even; backline remains level with only slight flexing to indicate suppleness; viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, not do feet cross or interfere with each other; with increased speed, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance. It is recommended that dogs be shown on a loose lead and moved at a moderate speed to reflect true gait.

TEMPERAMENT:

Friendly temperament reflected in a kindly expression; reliable, trustworthy, calm, compliant and compatible with people and other dogs. **Faults: Quarrelsomeness or hostility towards other dogs or people in normal situations, or an unwarranted show of timidity or nervousness.**

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: overshot or undershot; albinism; viciousness or extreme shyness