

LEONBERGER

GROUP: Working

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Large, strong, muscular, yet elegant; distinguished by balanced body type and confident calmness; yet lively temperament.

SIZE:

Males, minimum of 28 ½ inches; maximum of 31 ½ inches, with 30 inches preferred. Females, minimum of 25 ½ inches; maximum of 29 ½ inches, with 27 ½ inches preferred. Height at withers to length of body: 9 to 10; depth of chest nearly 50% of height at withers.

COAT:

Medium-soft to rough texture of rather long hair, lying close to body; not too wavy although waviness is allowed, but never curly; good undercoat should follow outline of body; always sleek; neck and breast has beautiful mane which develops between two and three years of age.

COLOR & MARKINGS:

Lion colored, golden-yellow to red-brown with black or dark mask; dark to black hair tips allowed, as well as sand-colored hairs with darker tips; lack of mask is allowed, but not desired; small white patch on breast and white or light toe tips acceptable; tail color is same as basic color of body coat, but slightly badger-colored tails allowable; mane and feathering on forequarters and hind legs and underside of tail may be lighter but should blend well with main color.

HEAD:

Deeper than long and elongated rather than stocky; proportion of muzzle to skull region about 1 to 1; close-fitting skin all over with no wrinkles.

Skull: Slightly domed; seen from front, in profile, slightly arched; balanced with body and limbs and strong, but not heavy; lean cheekbones; must be deeper than wide.

Muzzle: Fairly deep, rather long, never running to a point; tight jowls and absolutely no flews, so that the dog does not drool; point of muzzle is jet black with full black lip pigmentation.

Eyes: Light to dark brown, with dark brown preferred; intelligent, friendly appearance; eyelids close tightly; conjunctiva (white area) of eyeball is white, not reddened. ***Faults:*** **Falcon-like eyes; small eyes; protruding eyes.**

Ears: Medium-sized, well-rounded, drop ears, set high and close to head.

Nose: Nasal bridge of even breadth, never dipped, rather slightly arched (roman nose); moderate stop. ***Faults:*** **Snippy nose; dish-faced.**

Teeth & bite: Forty-two strong, white teeth in strong jaws; scissors bite.

NECK:

Long, not stocky, lacking throatiness or dewlap, flowing without break to withers in a slight curve.

BODY:

Strong and straight back, slightly longer than height at withers; slightly higher at shoulders than at hips; powerful loin; Topline straight, firm, broad; Chest deep, but not too barrel shaped.

FOREQUARTERS:

Well-angulated, sloping shoulders; well-feathered, straight legs; elbows lie close to and are slightly above breast line; dewclaws should be removed.

HINDQUARTERS:

Well-muscled, strong thighs, more bent than straight; muscular hind legs, with good bone; legs should not be too high; parallel when viewed from rear; hocks turned neither in nor out; dewclaws must be removed.

Faults: Cow hocks; barrel-shaped hind legs.

Feet: Moderately round and tight; toes usually webbed, making the dog an excellent swimmer; black pads of feet. **Fault: Hare feet.**

Tail: Well-furnished, feathered and bushy; while dog is standing, tail hangs straight down; during movement, tail is only slightly curved and preferably should be carried above the prolongation of topline.

Faults: Tail rolled over the back or carried too high.

MOVEMENT:

Even movement, ground covering in all gaits; extending well in front, and good drive from hindquarters; seen from front and behind limbs move in a straight line when walking or trotting.

TEMPERAMENT:

Agreeable dog who can be taken anywhere without difficulty; marked friendliness towards children; neither shy nor aggressive; obedient and fearless in all situations; not sensitive to noise.

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.

Severe anatomical faults, i.e., pronounced cow hocks, pronounced roach back, very hollow back, extreme turning out of front feet; totally insufficient angulation of shoulder, elbow, stifle, or hock.

Distinct ring tail or tail forming too high a ring.

Cords or strong curls on coat.

Faulty colors: Brown with brown nose and brown pads; black and tan; silver; wild-coat color.

Complete lack of mask.

Open corner of mouth.

Lips any color other than black.

Brown nose leather; brown pads.

Very strong lack of pigment in lips; eyes without any brown.

Too much white (reaching from toes to pastern, white on chest larger than palm of hand, white in other places).

Entropion, Ectopion.

Albinism