

## **MALTESE**

GROUP: Toy

### **SIZE:**

8-10 in. Weight 4-7 pounds with 4-6 pounds favored. Overall quality favored over size.

### **COAT:**

Long (8 1/2 inches), silky, and thick; no undercoat. Trimmed hair acceptable if enough left to judge quality and texture.

### **COLOR:**

White; light ivory is acceptable. Champagne or biscuit markings are acceptable.

### **HEAD:**

Medium length, and rounded on top, with short muzzle, all in proportion to size of dog. Skull slightly rounded on top.

**Eyes:** Set not too far apart, very dark and round, but never bulging, black rims

**Ears:** Drop ears, set low, heavily feathered hanging close to head

**Nose:** Black

**Bite:** even, edge to edge bite, or tight scissor bite.

### **NECK:**

Medium length and slightly arched.

### **BODY:**

Back is short and straight, with muscular loins

**Topline:** Level.

**Chest:** Fairly deep, with ribs well sprung.

### **FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:**

Forelegs are straight and strong. Hind legs are muscular, with stifles and hocks well bent.

**Feet:** Small, round and compact, with arched toes.

**Tail:** Carried over back, longhaired plume.

### **MOVEMENT:**

Smooth flowing gait with graceful movements.

### **TEMPERAMENT:**

Alert, fearless, vigorous, and a good family pet.

### **Faults:**

**Colors other than specified above; coarse coat; patchy coat; cowhocks; hind leg toeing in or out; oversize or under size; drooping tail.**

**Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.**