

## **OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG**

GROUP: Herding

### **SIZE:**

Height measured from top of withers to ground: males, 22 inches and upward; females, 21 inches and upward. Length, measured from point of shoulder to point of posterior, is approximately same as height. Weight should be in proportion to height and frame.

### **COAT:**

Profuse, but not so excessive as to give impression of the dogs being overly fat, and of good, hard texture; not straight, but shaggy and free from curl; quality and texture of coat should be considered above mere profuseness; undercoat of waterproof pile, but may be removed by grooming or season; moderately coated ears; whole skull covered with hair; neck well coated with hair; forelegs coated all around; hams densely coated with thick, long jacket in greater excess than any other part of body. Neither the natural outline nor the natural texture of the coat may be changed by any artificial means except that feet and rear may be trimmed for cleanliness. **Fault: Softness or flatness of coat.**

### **COLOR:**

Any shade of gray, grizzle, blue or blue merle with or without white markings or in reverse. **Faults: Any shade of brown or fawn.**

### **HEAD:**

An intelligent expression; capacious skull rather squarely formed giving plenty of room for brain power; supra-orbital ridges over eyes are well arched; completely covered with hair. **Faults: Long, narrow head; snipey muzzle.** Stop is well defined; jaw is fairly long, strong, square, and truncated.

**Eyes:** Brown, blue, or one of each; if brown, very dark is preferred; if blue, a pearl, china or wall-eye is typical. **Faults: Amber or yellow eyes.**

**Ears:** Medium size, carried flat to side of head.

**Nose:** Always black, large and capacious. **Faults: Any color or shade other than black.**

**Bite:** Large, strong, and evenly placed teeth; scissors or level. **Faults: Undershot or overshot.**

### **NECK:**

Fairly long, gracefully arched.

### **BODY:**

Rather short and very compact, broader at rump than at shoulders, ribs well sprung and brisket deep and capacious; neither slab-sided nor barrel-chested; very stout and gently arched loin.

**Topline:** Stands lower at withers than at the loin with no indication of softness or weakness. Particular attention should be paid to the topline since it is a distinguishing characteristic of the breed.

### **FOREQUARTERS:**

Shoulders well laid back and narrow at points; dead straight forelegs with plenty of bone; measurement from withers to elbow and from elbow to ground are essentially the same.

### **HINDQUARTERS:**

Round and muscular with well let down hocks; when standing, the rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground when viewed from any angle.

**Feet:** Small and round; well-arched toes; thick and hard pads; feet pointing straight ahead; dewclaws should be removed.

**Tail:** Docked close to body when not naturally bob-tailed.

MOVEMENT:

Free and powerful gait when trotting; seemingly effortless, with good reach and drive, and covering maximum ground with minimum steps; very elastic at a gallop; may amble or pace at slower speeds.

TEMPERAMENT:

Adaptable, intelligent, even disposition; no sign of aggression, shyness 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:*

**Viciousness, extreme shyness, or unfriendly manner.**