

SHETLAND SHEEPDOG

GROUP: Herding

SIZE:

13-16 in. Weight should be from 14 to 16 pounds in proportion to height.

COAT:

Long, dense, and harsh outer coat with soft short and dense undercoat; heavier in males than in females. The neck has a heavy mane, frill, and apron. Forelegs are well feathered, as are the hind legs above the hock joint, smooth below the hock. Tail is profuse. Hair on face, tips of ears, feet, and hocks is smooth; trimming of these areas is allowed. ***Faults:*** Short or flat coat, lack of undercoat; wavy, curly, soft or silky texture. ***Disqualifications:*** Smooth-coated.

COLOR:

Acceptable colors include the following: black, blue merle, sable, sable merle, and predominately white. The black, blue merle, sable, and sable merle are marked with varying amounts of white, tan, or white and tan trim. Sable ranges from golden through mahogany. The predominantly white has a sable, black, blue merle, or sable merle head, with or without tan trim, and the body has small amounts of like-colored markings. White should never predominate on the head and should never surround the eyes. The ears should also be predominately colored. When evaluating the relative merit of dogs, faults, and merits of color and markings are always secondary to those of physical soundness and gait, except that a dog with the serious color faults described below should never be considered for awards in conformation competition. ***Faults:*** Rustiness in a black or blue merle coat; washed-out colors, such as pale sable or faded blue; self-colored blue or sable merle with no merling or mottling. ***Serious Faults:*** Predominately white head. ***Disqualifications:*** Albinism; brindle; white surrounding one or both eyes; one or both ears predominately white.

HEAD:

Refined, blunt, wedge shaped. Top of skull is flat.

Eyes: Correct eye color, shape and placement is essential to proper 'sheltie expression,' which is alert, intelligent, and gentle. Eyes are medium in size, almond shaped, and set somewhat obliquely. The inner corner of the eye marks the central point of the stop. Eye color is dark brown, except that blue merles, sable (red) merles, and predominately whites with merle coloration on the head may have one or both eyes blue or flecked with blue. Eye rims are black. Haw should not be visible. ***Faults:*** Eyes too light, too large, too small, too round; visible haw; blue or blue-flecked eyes with any coat color other than merle or predominately white with merle.

Ears: Small, set moderately wide and high (but not so as to give a terrier-like appearance), carried three-fourths erect, tips breaking forward. ***Faults:*** Set too low, too high, or too close; erect, drop, bat, or twisted ears; ear leather too thick or too thin.

Muzzle: Medium size and well proportioned to head; jaws are clean and powerful, with a well-developed underjaw extending to base of nostril; tight, black lips; skull and muzzle should be of equal length. ***Faults:*** Domed skull; prominent cheekbones; snipy muzzle; short, receding or shallow underjaw.

Nose: Black and projects somewhat over the mouth. ***Faults:*** Light coloring; flat nose.

Bite: Scissor or even, with scissor preferred; evenly spaced teeth. ***Faults:*** Overshot or undershot bite; missing or crooked teeth; teeth visible when mouth is closed.

BODY:

Moderately long, symmetrical; slightly longer than tall, measured from prosternum to point of buttocks; ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from spine, then curving down and inward to form a deep body; The brisket extends to the elbow. Viewed from front, the chest is well filled and of moderate width. ***Faults:*** Back too long or too short, swayed or roached back; barrel ribs or slab sided; narrow or shallow chest; croup too steep or too flat or higher than withers.

Topline: Level. ***Faults:*** arched, sway-backed.

Chest: Deep. **Faults: Narrow and/or too shallow.**

NECK:

Muscular and arched. **Faults: Too short and thick**

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Straight, muscular, strong bone. **Faults: Crooked legs; light bone; loose shoulders; elbows turning in or out; short angulation between shoulder and upper arm.**

Feet: Oval and compact, thick pads, toes well arched. **Faults: turning in or out; splay feet; hare or cat feet.**

Tail: Long, set low, forming a natural extension of the topline; thicker at the base and tapering to the tip, extending at least to the hock. **Faults:** Tail curved forward over back or higher than the line of the back; too short; twisted at end.

MOVEMENT:

The Shetland Sheepdog is a herding dog that requires an easy, almost floating movement, agility, and endurance. The correct shoulder assembly and well-fitted elbows allow a long, free stride in front. The forelegs should reach well forward without too much lift. Viewed from the front, the legs move in nearly parallel planes, inclining slightly more inward as speed increases. Hind legs should drive well under the body and move on a line with forelegs, with hocks turning neither in nor out. Feet should have no tendency to swing out, cross over, or interfere with each other. Short, choppy movement; rolling or high-stepping gait; or overly close or overly wide movement are incorrect and should be penalized to degree of the fault.

TEMPERAMENT:

High-spirited, yet very lovable.

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